

Round-the-Table Carol Sing



“The Christmas Rose”

*Music and readings in honor of
the birth of our Savior*

*Sunday, December 7, 2025
10:45 a.m.*

Notes on the Service:

In medieval England it was customary for the Lord of the Manor to give a Christmas dinner for all of his servants and serfs. After the dinner, the local priest, the knights, and all of the assembly joined to worship the Christ Child by the singing of Christmas carols.

With this tradition in mind, the VLC's Round-the-Table Carol Sing was initiated in 1950 under the leadership of Doris Voester, who served as organist and Minister of Music for many years. The Carol Sing has continued as a special tradition in our church's Christmas-tide worship.

Our theme for this year reflects on the rose as a symbol for Jesus, the promised Messiah. In many cultures the rose is connected to Mary, but German Lutherans developed the idea of a rose (the word *Ros* ' in German) from the prophetic image of a shoot (the word *Reis* in German) growing out of the stump of Jesse. This word play is part of our opening hymn "Lo, How a Rose" and is further represented in our altar trees. The tree of darkness has red apples, symbolizing the sin of Adam and Eve which has infected all people. The tree of light has red roses, symbolizing Jesus' incarnation as the promised Messiah, the beautiful bloom born without sin, who would overcome sin and death, and restore us to life.

In our readings and music today, we hear once again God's great promise to provide a Savior and the wonder of how it was all fulfilled in Jesus. May the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ dwell in your hearts this season and always.

OPENING HYMN (*Congregation rising*)

(LSB Hymn 359)

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as prophets long have sung,
it came a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness evewhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us and lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray to the bright courts of heaven, and to the endless day.
16th century German Hymn

INVOCATION and INTROIT (from Psalm 72)

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Endow the king with Your justice, O God, the royal Son with Your righteousness.

C He will judge Your people in righteousness, Your afflicted ones with justice.

P He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy.

C He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

P All kings will bow down to Him and all nations will serve Him.

C All nations will be blessed through Him, and they will call Him blessed.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,
that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through
the same Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P As we light our Advent wreath, we remember the One who comes – Jesus, the light of the world.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

(The first and second candles are lit)

CHANCEL CHOIR

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Elliott Goodwin

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, the Lord's anointed, come; all hail to Thee, Thou David's son.

Thy kingdom here on earth to bring, eternal praise to Thee we sing...

O come, Thou Sun of righteousness, and here on earth Thy people bless.

Thy kingdom come from shore to shore; rule Thou our hearts forevermore...

13th century plainsong

READING *(God's promise given to Abraham)*

Genesis 12:1-5

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

VILLAGE BELLS

Savior of the Nations, Come

Cathy Moglebust

READING *(God's promise given to David)*

2 Samuel 7:8-16

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHANCEL CHOIR

Gesù Bambino

Pietro Yon

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night
was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.*

*The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced;
and at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced:*

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

*Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night
that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light.*

*Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell;
from Paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell...*

English text by Fredrick Martens

READING (*God's promise given to Bethlehem*)

Micah 5:2-5

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VILLAGE BELLS

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

Cathy Moglebust

READING (*God's promise given to Mary*)

Luke 1:26-37

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

YOUTH/HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR Oh, Who's That Yonder

John Wilson

O who's that yonder?

Looks like the shepherds kneeling by a manger.

Looks like Joseph standing by a manger.

Looks like Mary sitting by a manger.

Looks like my Lord lying in a manger.

Traditional Spiritual

READING (*God's promise given to Zechariah*)

Luke 1:68-79

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

(LSB Hymn 384, v. 1-3)

**Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore**

**Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face
evermore and evermore.**

**This is He whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.**

13th century plainsong

READING (*God's promise given to Joseph*)

Matthew 1:18-24

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHANCEL CHOIR

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Carl Schalk

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,

I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;

but there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find Him as they said:

Sweet, newborn Babe, how frail, and in a manger bed.

A still, small Voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,

his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare:

A Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned its way into my heart:

Unasked, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me.

Text by Jaroslav Vajda ©1987

OneLicense No. A-709636

READING (*God's promise given to the shepherds*)

Luke 2:8-15

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

COMBINED CHOIRS

He is Born!

John Ricketts

Il est né le divin enfant; jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes.

Il est né le divin enfant; chantons tous son avènement.

Through long ages of the past, prophets have foretold His coming;

through long ages of the past, now the time has come at last!

He is born, the divine Christ Child; play on the oboe and bagpipes merrily!

He is born, the divine Christ Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.

Oh, how lovely; oh, how pure is this perfect child of heaven.

Oh, how lovely; oh, how pure, gracious gift to humankind!

Traditional French Carol

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (*Congregation rising*)

P God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING/HANDBELL VOLUNTARY

The Holly and the Ivy

Barbara Kinyon

CLOSING VERSICLES (*Congregation rising*)

P Jesus is the Word made flesh.

C May His incarnation fill our hearts with joy and peace.

P Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary.

C May His birth among us renew our hope.

P Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

C May the gift of His presence lead us to rejoice with thanksgiving.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

(LSB Hymn 377, v. 1 & 3-4)

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring, (*repeat*) news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before His grace, then life and health come in its place; (*repeat*) angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All of out darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: (*repeat*) "Glory to God and peace to men now and forevermore. Amen."

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Sussex Carol

Jeffrey Blersch

News and Notes:

Flowers in the Chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Florence Halter, whose artwork and artistic eye helped to shape our worship space, and in loving memory of Rev. Dr. Thomas Sluberski on his birthday, December 7.

Youth Holiday Tag Sale – There is still time to pick up holiday items and support our youth! Check out part two of our holiday tag sale **in the Friendship Room on December 6-7.**

Voter's Meeting – Please join us for our next Voter's Meeting on **Sunday, December 7,** at noon (following our Round-the-Table Carol Sing). Pizza will be provided before the meeting begins.

Poinsettias and Wreaths for Christmas – Another way to help decorate is to order a poinsettia plant for the sanctuary or a wreath for the exterior doors. These will be added by the weekend before Christmas (December 20-21) and poinsettias may be taken home after Christmas Eve. The donation is \$30 per plant or wreath and may be made in honor or memory of a loved one. **Please place your orders no later than Sunday, December 7.** Make checks payable to Village Lutheran Church. Use the pew card or pew envelope, or contact the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003 or KRapillo@VLC-NY.org

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser – Bring your gifts and let us wrap them beautifully for the holidays! Hosted by Trustee Davey Chandler on **Saturday, December 13, from 3:00-5:00 p.m.** Suggested donation is \$20 in support of our church and school.

Winter Worship – We will have our regular Saturday evening service at 5:30 p.m. on December 6 and 20. December 13 is the German Christmas service, and the weekend of December 27-28 has one combined service on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. The winter schedule begins in January with services on Sundays at 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

German Christmas will be held on **Saturday, December 13, at 5:30 p.m.** We welcome back from Germany Pastor Klaus Gress to offer a message “auf Deutsch” as we hear readings in German and sing traditional German hymns. **Volunteers are needed** to bring desserts for the reception afterwards. Additional German lectors are also welcome. If you would like to assist, please fill out the pew card or contact Minister of Music Deb Reiss by **December 8** at 914-337-0207, x1018 or Dreiss@VLC-NY.org

Sunday School Pageant – The children and youth of our congregation lead worship and tell the Christmas story on **Sunday, December 14, at 9:00 a.m.** We will have a regular Advent communion service at 10:45.

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS are needed for December through the spring. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the MPR.

SOUP KITCHEN – Prepare food in aluminum trays (available at the Reception desk) and drop-off in the parking lot from 12:00-1:00. Please go to our church web site to sign up and indicate what food you will prepare. The next date is **Wednesday, December 17.** Contact Katie Bukofzer at etakwhit@aol.com.

Service of 9 Lessons & Carols – You are cordially invited to this traditional church and school service led by choirs of The Chapel School on **Wednesday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m.** Hear the promise of salvation from Genesis to John, with musical reflections on each reading and the theme “You are the Light of the World.”

Christmas Eve Eucharist – We would like to introduce a new worship opportunity with Holy Communion for Christmas. A brief spoken communion liturgy will begin after the 8:00 p.m. service, **at 9:20 p.m.** If you would like to partake, please gather in the front pews and join us for quiet reflection and the sacrament.

“Strengthening God’s House” Capital Campaign Pledges – There is still time to make an impact! Every pledge is meaningful as we join together to keep our church and school in good working order. Please prayerfully consider what you might give and pledge today. Thank you for helping to sustain our ministry.

Wednesday Bible Study – On December 10 we will continue with Jesus’ “I am” statements in John chapter 10.

Music Ministry: Rehearsals this week will be as follows:

- ❖ High School Choir – Sunday, Dec. 14, at 10:15 a.m.
- ❖ Village Bells – OFF Wed., Dec. 10; rehearse Dec. 17 at 5:00 p.m.
- ❖ Youth Choir – Thurs., Dec. 11, at 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 14, at 8:30 a.m.
- ❖ Chancel Choir – OFF Thurs., Dec. 11, and Sunday, Dec. 14

Youth News: Voyagers (Grades 3-6) meet on Thursday, Dec. 11 at 6:00 p.m.; Lifers (Grades 7-8) Confirmation class on Sunday, Dec. 7

❖ **Gift Wrapping** – On December 11, Voyagers are invited to bring gifts for children at risk and wrap them.

❖ **Christmas Parties** – On December 18, Voyagers will hold a gift exchange. Please bring a pair of wrapped Christmas socks, mittens, hat or scarf, and a dessert to share. Lifers will also have a Christmas party.

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty:

Adele Acosta, Giovana Boniello, Dave Condon, Davenport Family (William, Jordan, Joshua, Sonya, Wayne), Amani Fahr, Michelle Ghiorsi, Anita Gould, Brandi Grissmeyer, Logan Grissmeyer, Anita Kebschull, Sue Kobylack, Ilse Koerper, Michaela Kroppel, Christy Krum, Freddie Lando, Michelle Liscoe, Robert & Susan & Rosalind Magilton, Douglas Miller, Rome Martello, Cole Martello, Aaliyah Pedrosa, Elizabeth Pedrosa, Jose Pedrosa, Paola Pedrosa, Torrey Pietarinen, Elaine Podszus, John Scaramuzzo, Joanne Stellmaszyk

SUMMARY OF CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

The September 2025 congregational survey provided a clear picture of Village Lutheran Church's character, challenges, and hopes for the future. Respondents described VLC as a long-established yet dynamic community rooted in Scripture, worship, and music, with a welcoming and family-like spirit. Members seek to strengthen youth and family engagement, expand the church's community presence, and deepen ties with The Chapel School. Financial sustainability and clear communication are also key goals. The congregation envisions a compassionate, grounded pastor—an inspiring communicator and thoughtful leader—able to connect across generations, guide growth, and foster unity in faith and purpose.

Stewardship Reflection

(Fiscal Year July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)

Offering received last week: \$3,462

Offering needed weekly to meet budget: \$5,770

Offering received to date: \$113,937

Offering needed to date: \$121,170

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School

172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708

914-337-0207 + www.VLC-NY.ORG

Connect Card – Scan QR code to contact us via digital link



Thank you to all of our choirs and instrumentalists!

GUEST MUSICIANS

Yangsun Kim, violin
Suzanne Wagor, violin
Joseph Dermody, viola
Evelyn Wadkins, cello

CHANCEL CHOIR

Chuck Bottos, Betty Geiling, Joshua Geiling, Chris Gleason, George Heath, Lorelei Heath, Beverley Lorie, Kate Marino, Kristin Pimentel, Jennifer Podoll, Matthew Silver, Diane Snyder, Daryl Story

YOUTH CHOIR

Natalie Giordano, Annette Marino, Gianna Miro, Natalia Perotto, Noelle Perotto, Clara Renz, Allison Wade

HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

Kaitlyn Clark, Mara Collins, Esther Linn, Violet Linn, Julia Passi

VILLAGE BELLS

Jackie Bunn, Evelyn Cea, Ruth DeRosa, Betty-Ann Gotte, Marcia Kollmann, Anne Losee, Eileen Mahoney, Susan Millette, Diane Snyder

MUSIC DIRECTORS

Deborah Reiss – Organ, Chancel Choir, Village Bells
George Heath – Youth Choir, High School Choir