

† 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST †
September 27, 2026

Service of Holy Communion 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.
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PRELUDE

Jesus ist kommen

Sam Eatherton

OPENING HYMN (*Congregation rising*)

LSB Hymn 533

Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us first confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

¶ KYRIE and GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

(LSB Page 204)

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth;
goodwill from God in heaven proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing –
our thanks for Your great glory, Lord, God our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, the Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; receive our heartfelt cry,
where You in pow'r are seated at God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit alone are Lord Most High,
in God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray (*pause for reflection*): Almighty God,

**C You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority.
Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit, that confessing Jesus as
Lord we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ
our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die... ²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

(from Psalm 25)

L To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

C O my God, in You I trust.

L Make me to know Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths.

C Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all day long.

L Be mindful of Your mercy, O Lord, and of Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

- C Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!**
- L** Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
- C He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble His way.**

EPISTLE

Philippians 2:1-13

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(9:00) **CHANCEL CHOIR** I Will Always Give Thanks Robert King
*I will always give thanks unto the Lord; His praise shall ever be in my mouth.
 My soul shall make her boast in the Lord;
 the humble shall hear thereof and be glad.
 Praise the Lord with me, and let us magnify His name together.*

JALLELUIA VERSE (Congregation rising)

(LSB Page 205)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what

authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?'" ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(9:00) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

HYMN OF THE DAY Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing **LSB Hymn 528**

SERMON

Rev. Peter Deebrach

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Congregation rising*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY Schmücke dich, O meine Seele **Wayne Wold**

† HOLY COMMUNION †

PREFACE (*Congregation rising*)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who out of love for His fallen creation humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

♪SANCTUS (*Sung to "The Church's One Foundation"*)

Sing "Holy, holy, holy," Lord God of pow'r and might!

Your mercy and Your glory fill heav'n and earth with light.

How blest is our Redeemer, who comes to set us free;

Hosanna in the highest to the great One in Three.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and SIGN OF PEACE

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

♪AGNUS DEI

(LSB Page 210, adapted)

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, and grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Behold the Lamb of God. Behold Him who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are they who are invited to the Supper of the Lamb.
- C Lord, I am not worthy to receive You, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness LSB **Hymn 636**

As you come forward, you will receive the bread in your hand (please ask for "gluten-free" if desired); then take the wine in the individual cup from the tray. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. After drinking, place empty cups in the second tray.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(Congregation rising)*

- A O God the Father, fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

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 From All that Dwell Below the Skies LSB **Hymn 816**

DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace to serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Lasst uns erfreuen Kevin Hildebrand

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COMMUNION STATEMENT

Village Lutheran Church welcomes to Holy Communion those baptized Christians who: †Know Jesus Christ as their Savior (*John 20:31*); †Recognize that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine (*1 Cor. 11:29*); †Are able to examine themselves and repent of their sins (*1 Cor. 11:28*); and †Look to God's Holy Spirit for help in living the Christian life (*Col. 1:10*). Persons not receiving Communion may come forward to receive a blessing.

Participants in the Service:

Rev. Peter Deebrah, Vacancy Pastor
Deborah Reiss, Minister of Music

Lector	9:00 Janet George	10:45 Jane McGowan
Assisting Minister	Janet George	Larry Cosentino
Communion Asst.	Volunteer	Jane McGowan
Altar Care	Janet George	
Usher Team	Richard Graham Joe Wilkinson	Ralph Schoene
Sexton	Esther Linn	
Refreshments	Perotto Family	

News and Notes:

Fall Voter's Meeting – Please join today for our fall Voter's Meeting in the MultiPurpose Room immediately following the 10:45 service.

Worship Assistants – All worshipers are invited to prayerfully consider ways to become involved in worship. We are especially in need of lectors and communion assistants. There is a scheduling worksheet for October through January inserted into today's bulletin and more copies by the Jesus Fountain. If you are available to serve, **please fill out the form today** to let us know your schedule. You can also contact the church office by email to Krapillo@VLC-NY.org.

Coffee Hour Hosts – Each week we have a chance to say hello, enjoy a quick bite, and connect with each other informally. We are in need of volunteers to host this fall, whether individually or in a small group. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the MPR or speak to Warren Wong. Thank you!

Prayer Conference Call – All are welcome to join a brief service of evening prayer by phone on the last Tuesday of the month. To participate, simply dial (1) 732-434-3982. The next service is **Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 6:00 p.m.**

The Chosen – Season 3 – We are ready to begin a new season this week and continue on Wednesday evenings, **September 30 through November 18**, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Watch one episode each week and reflect on the Gospel dramatization while sharing in a light supper. Invite a friend! The viewing is open to the public and available at no cost. To help us prepare, **please RSVP** in advance through the church office. Call 914-337-0207, x1003, email

Krapillo@VLC-NY.org, or make a note on the pew card. For more information, contact Deacon Janet George.

Wednesday Bible Study – We have begun a new study on the book of Esther. Refreshments are available at 10:45 and the class starts at 11:00. On September 30 we will continue with chapter 1.

Music Ministry – If you love music, please consider joining one of our ensembles and using your gifts to enrich our worship life:

- ❖ **Youth Choir** (Grade 3-8) meets Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and will be directed by Ms. Reiss this year. Next rehearsal is **October 1**.
- ❖ **Chancel Choir** (High School and Adult) meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; next rehearsal is **October 1**.
- ❖ **Village Bells** (High School and Adult) meets Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. and will start on **September 30**.
- ❖ **Hands On Handbells!** For any high school youth or adults interested in ringing, we will have the handbells available between services today, **Sunday, September 27**. This is a chance to try out the bells, see how the music works, and ask questions about ringing. Check it out!

If you are interested in being a part, or if you have any questions, please contact Minister of Music Deb Reiss at 914-337-0207, x1018 or Dreiss@VLC-NY.org

Youth News: Voyagers (Grades 3-6) meet Thursday, Oct. 1, at 6:00 p.m.; Lifers (Grades 7-8) Confirmation Class on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 6:00 p.m. in the Science Lab.

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: Barbara Accocella, John Accocella, Bill Blume, Joshua Davenport & Family, Wayne & Dana Davenport, Elaine Davis, Susan DeAndis, Linda DeJong, Joan Eiler, Mary Fielder, Pastor Bill Flammann, Dwayne Gitter, Kenneth Held, Kaden Howard, Katie Koster, Kathryn Lierseemann, Michelle Liscoe, Bob Maguire & Family, Tommy Marks, Cathy Martin, Elaine Podszus, Morena Rodriguez, Valerie Tutson

Bereavement Prayer Line: We pray for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

- † **Rev. Charles “Chip” Froehlich**, a pastor in the Atlantic District for many years, passed away on September 15, 2026

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School
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