

† THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD †

Christmas Day

December 25, 2009

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

- *The order of worship for the service is printed out in the bulletin. Hymns are found in “Lutheran Service Book,” located in the pew racks in front of you.*
- *We extend a special welcome to all visitors and are so glad that you have come to worship at the Village Lutheran Church. If you are here for the first time, please take a welcome kit located in the church entrance as an introduction to our church and a reminder of your visit.*
- *To provide visitor information, member updates, or submit comments/requests to the pastors and church office, please fill out the sign-up sheet in the bulletin. Church offerings and sign-ups will be collected during the offering time or may be left in the wicker basket by the Jesus Fountain after the service.*
- *Our regular weekend worship services are Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Please come back and worship with us!*

COMMUNION STATEMENT

- *The congregation of 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.*
- *Non-Alcoholic Fruit of the Vine: Persons who are sensitive to alcohol are welcome to receive the blood of Christ in the sacrament using non-alcoholic grape juice. The juice is located in the center circle of each individual tray and is lighter in color. Wine is always available with the Common Cup or Individual Cups.*
- *Gluten-free consecrated hosts (the bread of Holy Communion) are available for all those with allergies or intolerance to gluten. Simply say “Gluten-Free” to the minister or bring your bulletin forward and point to the Gluten-Free symbol prior to receiving the bread.*
- *Communion may be brought to those with limited mobility. Please alert a Pastor or usher if you wish to commune in this way.*



TO KNOW LIVE AND SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST

- *Under the blessing of God, the mission of Village Lutheran Church is a ministry of the Word and Sacraments. This ministry gives opportunities for mission, witness, nurture, fellowship, stewardship, and service. It focuses on the specific needs of individuals and groups within the congregation and extends to the church-at-large, the community, and the world.*
- *The Chapel School is an integral part of the congregation’s ministry directed specifically to children. It provides a distinctive Christian education enabling children to evidence a Christian lifestyle and to achieve academic success.*

TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY

FESTIVAL EUCHARIST - 10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Carol Medley

James Rockhill, piano

INVOCATION and VERSICLES (Congregation rising)

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music.

C: **Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

P: The Lord has made His salvation known. He has revealed His righteousness to the nations. He has remembered His love and His faithfulness. *(from Psalm 98)*

C: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

Joy to the World

LSB Hymn #387

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: God of grace and truth, in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in the darkness.

C: **We confess that we have not welcomed the light, and have not trusted the good news of great joy. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the fullness of your love, trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: The angel said, "You shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins." With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB Hymn #386

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, You have made Yourself known in Your Son, Jesus, Redeemer of the world. We pray that His birth as a human child will set us free from the old slavery of our sin; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 62:6-12

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Titus 3:4-7

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE HYMN (Congregation rising)

(LSB Hymn #379, v. 1, 4)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him born the King of angels.

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.

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

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB Hymn #358

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (v. 1-5 and 8)

SERMON

“The Best Christmas Drink”

Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

CREED *(sung to the hymn “Away in a Manger”)*

In God we believe: the Creator whose pow’r
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.
He graciously grants us our years and our days
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.

In Jesus, The Savior, our hope is secured.
True God and true man once the cross He endured
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin.
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.

God’s Spirit at work in our lives we confess;
With power and truth the church now He does bless.
As saints, God’s forgiven, one day we shall then
Be living in glory forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: We pray:

C: **Glory and praise to You, O living God.**

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

Vom Himmel hoch

- Walter Pelz

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY HYMN

(LSB Hymn #361, v. 3)

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; but, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

+THE EUCHARIST+

PREFACE

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: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD and SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Once in Royal David's City

LSB Hymn #374

LSB Hymn #376

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Radiant God, heavenly Father, with our eyes we have seen Your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on Your grace. May Your Word take flesh in us, that we may be Your holy people, revealing Your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL HYMN Go Tell It On the Mountain LSB **Hymn #388**

SILENT MEDITATION (*Congregation seated*)

POSTLUDE Glory to God in the Highest - Giovanni Pergolesi

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VLC NEWS AND NOTES

POINSETTIAS ON THE ALTAR:

In loving memory of the Blanck & Bevers Families.

In loving memory of Gary John Bevers.

In loving memory of Grace (Evjen) Wnuck.

In loving memory of Carol (Wnuck) Heyde.

In loving memory of John Spring from Deborah Reiss.

To the Glory of God & in thankfulness for the congregation from the Hartwell family.

In loving memory of our loved ones from the Gotte Family.

In loving memory of William G. Podszus from Louise, Elaine, Edward, William & Sue.

In loving memory of William G. Podszus from Warren, Marla, Rebecca, Ryan & Brendan.

From the Albano Family.

In loving memory of our loved ones from Rev. Deric, Julie & Bradly Taylor.

In loving memory of our loved ones from Robert & Lynette Taylor.

In loving memory of Ruth Reichelt from Carolyn Driessnack.

In loving memory of our dear mother, Ruth Reichelt, from her family.

In loving memory of our loved ones from the Rockhill family.

From the Horvath Family - Claire, Ann & Chuck.

In loving memory of all our loved ones, from Betty & Bob Roberts & family.

In loving memory of William Messner's 10th Anniversary in Heaven, from daughters Kathy Coffey & Mary Messner Martin.

THE BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS WREATHS ON THE GREAT PORCH:

In loving memory of Hans Hover from his wife Mickie.

In loving memory of John Britz from his wife Helen.

In loving memory of Gary John Bevers from his family.

PRAYER LINE: Please remember those members or friends who are hospitalized or recovering from an illness especially Dawn Galloway, Sheila Giglio, Carroll Hanson, Lyn Hartwell, Adrienne Hiddleston, Scott James, David Just, Madison Klein, Irene Krolides, Gene Lunog, Janet Lunog, Warren Podszus, Sylvia Puig, John Rapillo, Julio Sanchez. Also keep our shut-in/ homebound members & friends in your prayers.

Names are listed for 3 weeks.

PASTORAL VISITS TO THE SICK: HIPAA legislation prohibits hospitals from sharing names of those receiving care, even to clergy. If you are hospitalized or learn of a fellow VLC member who is hospitalized, please call the church office at 914-337-0207 x 1003, so a visit can be made.

BEREAVEMENT PRAYER LINE: We include in our prayers all those in our community that have recently lost a loved one, especially: The family of Herbert Stapf, cousin of Charlotte Vogt, who passed away on December 6, 2009. Please share the information on the tear-off sheet in the bulletin or call the church office 337-0207 x1003

Let us continue to pray for the soldiers, Marines, airmen, sailors and special forces who put their lives in harm's way, especially Joshua Alvarado AFSOS, Maj. Daniel Cahill, Sgt. Marco Cerbone, Chris Finocchio, Andrew Flink AFSOS, Bill Kavanagh, Chris Lena, Nick Lion, Olivia Lion, Dan Miller, Maj. Bradley Rakov, LCDR Christopher Rakov, Brent Smith.

CHURCH NEWS

VLC MUSIC MINISTRY: Updated scheduling information for Round-the-Table Carol Sing!! Chancel Choir will rehearse with the strings at **6:15pm on Wednesday, Jan. 6**; there will be no rehearsal on Thursday, Jan. 7, but we will sing at 9:00am on Sunday, January 10; **Youth Choir** will rehearse at 7:00pm on Wednesday, Jan. 6 and Thursday, Jan. 7; **High School Choir** will resume on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 10:15am; **Village Brass** will play for the rescheduled Round-the-Table Carol Sing on Jan. 6 at 7:30pm; **Village Bells** will rehearse at **7:00pm on Wednesday, Jan. 6**; **FaithWalk** will look for a service date in January or February; watch for further updates.

PRAYER SERVICES are held regularly on the last Saturday of the month. Beginning at 6:30 p.m. (following the regular Saturday service), these brief moments for meditation & prayer offer personal prayers at the altar and the ancient tradition of anointing with oil. **The next service is Saturday, December 26, at 6:30 p.m.**

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY OBSERVANCE - December 26 is St. Stephen's Day, when the church honors Stephen, a deacon and martyr for Christ. Our VLC deacons and deacon graduates will be honored on the **weekend of December 26-27** and Deacon Graduate Morris Mayer will be the preacher. We pray that God would continue to bless this special form of ministry.

Wednesday morning Bible Study will not meet on December 30; the next session will be on **January 6** at 10:45 a.m., when we will complete Isaiah 40.

EPIPHANY ROUND-THE-TABLE CAROL SING - Our annual choir service had to be postponed because of the snowstorm on December 20. We will now offer this service of lessons and carols as a **special Epiphany service on Wednesday, January 6, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.** Come and celebrate "Little Christmas" with music by the Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, Village Bells, Village Brass and string quartet.

The Village Lutheran Church will host the **Good News Christian Coffee House on Saturday, January 9, 2010** with music by Psalm 96. The Coffee House opens at 7 p.m. with gourmet coffee and pastries, and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$5/Adult, Seniors, Students. Children \$2 (ages 5-12). A love offering will be taken to offset expenses.

Join us for monthly worship at Sprain Brook Manor Rehabilitation in Scarsdale. Services are normally held at 2:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Future service: **January 12, February 9.**

LISTEN TO WORSHIP WHILE TENDING TO CHILDREN - The Care Room is now equipped with remote speakers so that children and caretakers can hear what's going on in the service. There are also speakers in the Friendship Room for families who need to take upset children out for a break. You don't have to miss a thing!

Each week we will share a thought from the book, *Life's Little Book of Wisdom For Kids* (Barbour Publishing, www.barbourbooks.com). This week, remind that special child in your life: **There's no such thing as too many friends.**

LWML Mite Box Report: Mission Grant #10 has been completed thanks to all who have so generously to the Mite Box collection. The next Mission Grant to be met is #11 (Beautiful Feet). This Mission Grant will bring hundreds of college students together to learn about missions around the world, how they can be involved, and build them up to both lead mission education on their campuses and serve the Lord and Churches around the world on the mission field. Mite Boxes can be obtained in the Multi-Purpose Room on the piano. You can take home a Mite Box, fill it with loose change and return it to the big Mite Box.

The women of VLC have started a PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY. A Prayer Shawl is a soft, warm shawl, knitted or crocheted, which is given to persons who are ill, have suffered a loss, or are in the midst of a crisis. The shawl is intended to provide warmth, comfort, a “hug”, and to be a reminder of God’s embracing arms, which are always around us. When the prayer shawl is completed, it will be turned into the church office where it will be blessed with special prayer and delivered by the Pastors or Deacons to someone in need. Anyone that can participate by knitting or crocheting a shawl or to assist in this endeavor, please contact Shawl Coordinator, Erika Doherty, at 914-337-1080. For more information, see the pamphlets in the Tract Rack, in the Narthex of the church.

GATHERING OF FRIENDS X - Save the date & get involved! Friday, March 12, 2010. Gala Dinner and Auction benefitting Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School. For more information or to get involved, please contact: Ellen Bryceland, Event Chair at 914-439-2911 / e-mail eobb46@gmail.com. or Jeanette Van Duyne, Development Assistant at 914-337-0207 x 1040 / e-mail jvandyne@vlc-ny.org.

Village Lutheran Church & The Chapel School Stays Green with X3 Clean! VLC/TCS is now providing alcohol-free foam hand sanitizers in all classrooms and offices, and now has wall-mount units posted throughout the building. X3 Clean is “green”, but we have seen test results wherein it has proven effective against H1N1 (Swine-like flu).

SENIOR NEWS

Upcoming Seniors’ Luncheons - Save the dates!

January 12 - Deacon Carol Pfizenmaier discusses her recent mission trip to Malawi, Africa..

February 9 - BINGO and Chinese Banquet.

March 9 - Rich O’Donnell, Appraiser for Eastchester shares tax issues for seniors.

Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and lunch begins at 12 noon. All VLC Seniors, Loehman Village Residents and community Members welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

There will be Total Family Worship (no classes) on the weekend of December 26-27, 2009. **Sunday School classes resume, and attendance awards will be given out, on January 3, 2010.**

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Church and School Undecorating Party - Sunday, January 3, 2010 at 12 noon. Bring your left-over Christmas Cookies/Treats. Pizza and soda provided. RSVP by calling 914-337-0207 (1003) or filling out the tear-off..

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

End of Year Giving: Would you like to make an end of year gift to Village Lutheran Church or The Chapel School? Gifts may be mailed in to: 172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, New York 10708 or made electronically on-line (up to Dec. 31, 2009 at www.VLC-NY.ORG (Click on “GIVING”) or www.THECHAPELSCHOOL.ORG (Click “Giving” and then “Giving on Line”).

The wise men brought Jesus gifts, but, before presenting their gifts, they first gave Him honor through giving of themselves. Matthew 2:10-11 says, “*When they saw the star they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, incense and myrrh.*” Our gifts to God are worthless unless given in faith (Hebrews 11:6) from hearts completely devoted to Him.

The Simply Giving Program - Just as you rely upon receiving income on a regular basis, Village Lutheran Church relies upon your regular contributions. Village Lutheran Church deeply appreciates the efforts of congregation members to make consistent donations throughout the year. To assist you, the church provides a convenient electronic giving option for setting up regular contributions: This program is offered by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Contact Jeanette Van Duyne (914) 337-0207, x1040.

SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

Help the Hungry at Christmas! Want to help at a local soup kitchen or food pantry this holiday season? See the list of agencies on the tract rack by the church entrance.

The **Blessing Basket** collection will continue under the piano in the Friendship Room. Non-perishable items will be taken to ECAP.

PARISH HEALTH NEWS

Health tip from your Parish Health Practitioner Joy Elwell - Keep your pets safe at Christmas time. Christmas decorations, which are very dangerous for cats and dogs, include: ribbon, tinsel, wires from lights, ornament hangers, the water in the base of the Christmas tree, poinsettias, amaryllis, holly and Christmas cactus. Make sure to secure your tree so your pet can't tip it over. Pick out some safe toys so your pet will be occupied and enjoy a happy (and safe) Christmas, too!

Yoga is held on **Mondays at 7 p.m.** in the Multi-Purpose Rm. Cost \$10. If you need more information call Faith Forliano 725-8035. No pre-registration required.

St. Monica's Circle: St. Monica (b.333, d.387), the mother of St. Augustine, is a patron saint of mothers. A caring initiative for families growing through childbirth and adoption, St. Monica's Circle will provide 5 meals to benefit the growing family.

If you are expecting a child through pregnancy or adoption, please notify the church office at 337-0207 when your child is expected to come home, so that we may coordinate volunteers.

St. Monica's Circle has become aware of a family in need. This young family will suddenly and unexpectedly be adopting a newborn baby boy in the next few weeks from a family member who is not well. They have no baby supplies, clothes, etc. If you have baby supplies or baby clothes, up to size 18 months, that you would like to donate, please call the church office (914)337-0207 x 1003 and speak with Kim Rapillo. She will be helping to identify what is needed for this family.

AED: Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School have three **Automated External Defibrillators** (AED) located on each level of our campus: by the lunchroom, outside the gym and outside the sanctuary (in the closet marked AED) in the Friendship Room. These life saving devices are easy to use in the event that someone on our campus experiences distress and their heart stops beating.

Lutheran Counseling Center provides caring, Christian professional counseling right on our campus. Under LCC's Membership Assistance Program (MAP), VLC members & friends can access these services at the rate of only \$25 per session (for up to 4 sessions). Major health care insurance companies reimburse for LCC services and LCC uses a sliding scale. Call Pastor Hartwell at 337-0207 (1022).

CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

The next **Chapel School Open House** will take place on **Friday, January 8**, with a presentation for Grades K-8 at 9:00 a.m. and a Preschool presentation at 1:15 p.m. Invite families with young or elementary school-aged children to see how much The Chapel School has to offer!

YOUTH NEWS

Voyagers (3rd-6th) - Meetings are held in the Multi-Purpose Room 6 - 7 p.m. on Thursdays. The next meeting will be held on **January 14, 2010**. Questions, call Erika (914)395-1954 or e-mail tyandbash@aol.com.

Lifers (7th-8th) - Meet on Thursdays from 6 - 7 p.m. for Confirmation. Please visit our VLC website under the youth section for more information or contact Pastor Taylor at (914)337-0207 (1021) or e-mail Dtaylor@VLC-ny.org.

Crusaders (9th-12th) - **LC-MS Gathering Check Up meeting, Jan. 10** in the Lunch room at 10:30 a.m. Watch the bulletin board and our Facebook page (vlccrw10) for upcoming events! Be a part of Crusader Youth! For questions/concerns about our Crusader Youth, please contact Mindy at VLCcrw10@optonline.net.

COMMUNITY NEWS

‘Hearts to Home’ for the Holidays: The Bronxville High School Youth Council will be purchasing calling cards for our troops to call home over the holidays. They will continue to collect donations through the end of December. The cost of each card is \$15. Please send checks made out to ‘Hearts to Home’ to: 100 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708. Thank you and Happy Holidays!

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A GREAT NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION...Help others learn English. The Adult Learning Center, located at 138 Centre Avenue in New Rochelle, is looking for volunteers who would be willing to give two or more hours a week teaching basic English to adult students. We will provide all books & training. No prior experience needed. Classes begin Feb. 3, 2010. Call Sister Eileen/Sister Mary (914)633-7298.

MEALS ON WHEELS 10708, INC. NEEDS VOLUNTEERS! Can you spare approximately 1 ½ hours one day a week (or at least a month) to assist us in the delivery of the noon-day meal to our clients, located mainly in the Bronxville area? Meals are delivered every day of the week, including weekends and holidays - 365 days per year. Our clients, most of whom are homebound, elderly or disabled, will be most appreciative of your help. To volunteer or obtain more information, call the Meals-On-Wheels Office at 787-3027 or e-mail MOW1973@aol.com.

An Invitation to Join the District’s “Stop, Drop and Pray” Team - Do you believe in God’s power through prayer to dramatically increase the effectiveness of our mission and kingdom work? Are you a member of the Atlantic District Mission Society’s “Stop, drop and pray” network? If not, I invite you to join our prayer team today in seeking out God’s blessing and provision for all our outreach efforts. We seek to faithfully partner with the Lord in the essential work of extending the kingdom of God on earth. When you join “Stop, drop and pray,” you’ll receive a free weekly E-Letter reminding you to stop what you are doing and take time out to pray for specific mission projects and events throughout the District. To enroll, simply contact me at carol.mittelstaedt@ad-lcms.org or call Carol at 914-337-5700 x 6.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICES

Assisting Minister:	Deacon Intern Betty Roberts
Organist:	Deborah Reiss
Lector:	Morris Mayer
Comm. Assts:	Morris Mayer, John Divi
Youth Wor. Asst:	Diana Mayer
Ushers:	Mickie Hover, Skip Hansen, Warren Wong
Altar Guild:	Deacon Ann Terenzio
Altar Flowers:	Kim Rapillo
Sextons:	Greta & Rebecca Kollmann

THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

SAT., Dec. 26, 2009 5:30 p.m. Spoken Divine Service / 6:30 p.m. Prayer Service
SUN., Dec. 27, 2009 9:00 a.m. Total Family Worship Service and Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Worship Service and Holy Communion

St. Stephen's Day Observance
Message by Deacon Program Graduate Morris Mayer

Stewardship Update

Amount received last week: \$8,710
Amount received to date: \$155,216
Amount needed to date: \$165,875
\$6,635 average weekly need to meet our 09-10 commitment

Isaiah 62:6-12

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, ⁷and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. ⁸The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; ⁹but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. ¹⁰Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. ¹¹The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." ¹²They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Titus 3:4-7

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.