

† SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION †
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 31, 2021

PRELUDE

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

Clay Christiansen

INVOCATION and CONFESSION (*Congregation rising*)

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. 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

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C O God, You are the strength of all who put their trust in You. Mercifully grant Your power and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak – that prophet shall die."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth – as in fact there are many gods and many lords – ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE (*Congregation rising*)

P Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

C **You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.** (John 6:68)

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

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

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching – with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

MUSICAL REFLECTION Thy Strong Word (*Homage to Beethoven*) Gail Smith

SERMON

"Reflections on the Reading: Mark 1:21-28" (insert)
Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Congregation rising*)

C **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

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P You are God of gods and Lord of lords. Reveal the saving knowledge of Christ's truth to all people, that loving You and one another we may be one in spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, Your voice was heard at Mt. Sinai and Your authority was made manifest in Christ, the Prophet greater than Moses. Send faithful preachers into Your harvest who will be diligent to listen to Your Word and speak it faithfully in Your name, and give us ears to hear gladly the saving words of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, guard our families and homes, and build them up in love. Support parents in their task of bringing up their children, strengthen those whose faith is weak, and make us bold witnesses to our faith with heart and action. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, give health and success to all who serve for our governance and protection. Make them high in purpose, wise in counsel and unwavering in duty. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Father of all mercies, Your Son cast out unclean spirits and taught with authority. He is the Great Physician of body and soul. Heal and restore those who are sick, distressed, in danger, or facing any need. We pray especially for those on our prayer line and those we remember before You now, either silently or aloud...(PAUSE). Sustain them with patience, trusting in Your gracious care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord of life, look with favor upon all who are grieving and grant the peace that only You can give. We give you thanks for the lives that have touched our own, and for the faithful witnesses of every time and place. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

C Amen.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

† 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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known in Your Son, who manifested the fullness of Your glory in the form of our human nature. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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.

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."

P Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

C Lord, have mercy upon us and grant us Your peace.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

C Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION

P Take and eat, the body of Christ given for you...
(We eat the bread)

P Take and drink, the blood of Christ, shed for you...
(We drink the cup)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P We give thank to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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.

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul

Gerhard Krapf

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Please wait for the pastor to proceed out of the sanctuary, then exit out of the building. Bulletins and used communion containers may be placed in the receptacles provided.

Please also fill out the Attendance Form and place it in the offering plate by the Jesus Fountain. If you have any prayer requests or other information to share with the Church Office, you can use the back side of the form.

News and Notes:

Concordia College Announcement: It was announced on Thursday, January 28, that Concordia College–New York would be closing as of the end of this academic year. Iona College will be taking over the Bronxville campus and operating programs from there. As a community partner of Concordia College, Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School is in prayer for the students, faculty and staff during this time of transition. We also keep Iona in our prayers and we lift up our new neighbors in their expanding ministry of Christian higher education. More information is available at www.Concordia-ny.edu.

Prayer Conference Call will continue weekly on **Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.** through February 9. The call-in number is **(1) 732-434-3982**. If you have any prayer requests, please fill out the back side of the Attendance Form or contact Kim Rapillo, Church Office Administrative Assistant, at 914-337-0207 x1003 or KRapillo@VLC-NY.org. During Lent, you are invited to join in the midweek prayer service on Wednesdays.

Concordia Conservatory "Unique" Series - This new interactive concert series has been created for elementary-age learners with special needs. The host, Liz Ast, is a music therapist who will focus on tempo and the beat that keeps music flowing in works by Bach, Debussy, Haydn and Shostakovich. The first presentation is **Saturday, February 6, at 11:00 a.m.** Broadcast links may be purchased for \$10 at www.ConcordiaConservatory.org or call 914-395-4507.

Lunch and Learn—Founding Faith: VLC members Dick Forliano, Eastchester Town Historian, and George Pietarinen, Associate Professor at LIU and former VLC President, will make a presentation including recently uncovered illustrations on how people of faith along with their families have guided the town of Eastchester over the last 3¾ centuries. You will learn the story of how very famous and also rather obscure individuals have made significant and positive contributions. **Tuesday, February 9 from 12 noon-1 pm** by Zoom video or telephone. For information, contact the church office at 914-337-0207, x1003.

Zoom Bible Study: What Now? The Empty Tomb of Jesus and Its Implications for Today - Join Pastor Geminn on **Tuesday, February 9 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** to look at the last chapter of Mark. Compared with the other Gospels it seems to have an unresolved ending, but Mark's reasons are relevant to us today. Come find out what they are! For more information, contact Pastor Geminn at SGeminn@VLC-NY.org

SOUP KITCHEN MEALS: Due to great need in the community, we have agreed to continue preparing meals twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesdays. **Our next dates are February 10 and 24.** Please sign up in advance to choose your volunteer date and food item, pick up an aluminum tray (back of church or Reception Area), prepare food at home, and drop off at church between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Nelly Palumbo at 347-538-2909 or NPalumbo@thechapelschool.org.

Ash Wednesday is February 17. We plan to offer two in-person services at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. with Holy Communion and optional imposition of ashes. To minimize contact, the pastors will stand outside on the Great Porch after each service and use Q-tip swabs for the ashes. We will also have a virtual home prayer service online. Subsequent Lenten midweek prayer services will be held remotely. Watch for further details and updates as we prepare to enter into the holy season of Lent.

Blessing Basket/Food for ECAP: We continue to collect food donations for ECAP through the church. The Blessing Baskets are located by the piano in the Friendship Room. Please bring items there on weekends or leave them with the receptionist during the week. Outdoor drop-off in the Concordia parking lot is available on the third Thursday of the month. The next date is **February 18**.

Women's Bible Study/LWML Group has shifted to a remote format, available through Zoom video or telephone. The next meeting will be on **Saturday, February 20, at 9:00 a.m.** We will consider chapters 13-14 of the book *Just Enough Light for the Step I'm On, Trusting God in the Tough Times* by Stormie Omartian. For more information, check out the February issue of Village Voices or contact Deacon Wendy Krolides (914-391-9356) or Terry Vidal (terry.n.vidal@gmail.com).

Winter Worship Schedule - The Saturday service has been temporarily suspended for the winter. We continue with two services on Sunday at 9:00 & 10:45 a.m., and hope to resume our full schedule of three services on the weekend of March 6-7.

1st Communion Instruction for 5th grade and older: We normally offer this program during Lent, but due to the pandemic this year our classes will meet after Easter **beginning Wednesday April 14**. We hope to have all classes and the lock-in in person, but there will also be a Zoom option and the instruction will become remote if conditions require it. If you would like to have your child complete the 1st Holy Communion classes, please call 914-337-0207 (1003) or e-mail VLCMAIL@VLC-NY.ORG to receive a registration form. The Chapel School students and community youth are welcome, too!

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: Glenn Accocella, John Accocella, Andis Akerfelds, Joan Bevers, Andy Boron, Bob Capabiancho, Lydia Chao, Frank Clark, Lillian DiMucci, Annabella Hansen, Robert Hartwell Sr., David & Linda James, Deacon Joe Lamoureux, Frank Lyman, Joan Paliotta, Sylvia Puig, Johnathan Richards, Jonathan Roberts, Linda Roth, Steve Smith, Ben Tashoff, Rod Tomlinson, Vincent Valentino, Richard White, Milana Zirolnik

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

- † **Eugene Porter**, grandfather of Kate Marino, who passed away on January 15, 2021
- † **Samuel Goodine**, son of former Concordia professor Dr. Elizabeth Goodine, who passed away on January 13, 2021

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School
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