

† SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION †
First Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2021

PRELUDE

Southwell

Christopher Uehlein

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.

INTROIT (*from Psalm 25*)

P To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in You I trust, O my God.

C Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

P No one whose hope is in You will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.

C Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths;

P guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long.

C Remember, O Lord, Your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

P Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;

C according to Your love remember me, for You are good, O Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Holy God, in the waters of the flood You saved faithful Noah, and in the wilderness of temptation You sustained Your Son. As we have come to new life in the waters of baptism, send Your holy angels to be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us; 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

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY (*Congregation rising*)

P Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

GOSPEL

Mark 1:9-15

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

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

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Precious Lord

Thomas Dorsey

SERMON

"Rainbow Promises"

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 Relying on the promises of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

P Your kingdom has come near to us in Christ. Give Your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance. Teach us to trust always in the good news of Your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction, and empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and educators. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they maintain justice for all, especially the lowly and vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You are with us even in the wilderness. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer, especially all on our prayer line and those we lift up before You now...(PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You claim us as beloved children in the covenant of baptism. Keep us mindful of our baptismal identity for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern, especially our food collection and soup kitchen partnerships and our Lenten service projects making Easter baskets and personal care kits. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in baptism. We praise You for all those who have died trusting in Your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the promised land of peace and rest. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to You, faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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; who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many, that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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 thanks 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

Magdalen

Albert Beck

* * * * *

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:

Winter Worship Schedule - We are continuing with two services on Sunday at 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. through the end of February. We will resume the Saturday service at 5:30 p.m. on the weekend of **March 6-7**.

Lenten midweek prayer services will be held remotely on Wednesdays, February 24 through March 24, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. This live event, led by our pastors, will include a brief Bible Study each week on the theme *God's Love is Shown*. There are three ways to access the service:

- ❖ Zoom Video (for computer or smart device) - Log on to Zoom.us using the ID 99439797879
- ❖ Call in via Zoom by phone - Dial (1) 929-205-6099 and then enter the Meeting ID 994 3979 7879
- ❖ Facebook Live - Go to Facebook.com/VillageLutheranBronxville/live

SOUP KITCHEN MEALS: Due to a prior scheduling commitment at the Soup Kitchen, the next date will be on **Tuesday, February 23** (this is a change for February only). Our March dates will be on Wednesdays, March 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.

Blessing Basket/Food for ECAP: Here's an idea: When you are out shopping, look for healthy food items on sale and get a few for the food pantry. Drop off items in the Blessing Baskets in the Friendship Room 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 **March 18**.

Easter Baskets: Our annual service project for area children has begun. If you would like to participate in this effort to bring cheer and joy to a child, please pick up an empty basket from the back of the sanctuary and fill it with Easter treats (a list of suggested items is included). Wrap filled baskets in cellophane and return to the church for distribution at the MLK Head Start in New Rochelle. Baskets must be returned **no later than Sunday, March 21**. Thank you!

Youth Lenten Mission Project for Lutheran World Relief: Join our young people in creating a Personal Care Kit, to be delivered to people in need around the world through LWR. Simply pick up a copy of the detailed instructions and purchase the items on the list (towel, soap, toothbrush, comb and nail clippers), wrap them in the towel and leave the package in the marked bin. **We will be collecting the kits through March 25**. If you need more information, please contact Pastor Geminn at SGeminn@VLC-NY.org.

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, March 20, at 9:00 a.m.** Join us to discuss how we experience God with us during times of disappointment, during dark moments in our relationships, and when we are in the midst of the overwhelming. Please read Chapters 15, 16 and 17 of the Stormie Omartian book in preparation for our discussions. For more information, contact Deacon Wendy Krolides (914-391-9356) or Terry Vidal (terry.n.vidal@gmail.com).

E-Scam Alert: Be careful of emails or texting that seem "strange," even if they come from people you trust. If it seems out of character or tone, it's likely a scammer trying to deceive you into giving them money, or more likely, gift cards. The message does not come from the "sender" and should be deleted. If you are unsure, do not reply or forward the message but call or email the person separately.

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, Bob Capabiancho, Frank Clark, Lillian DiMucci, Annabella Hansen, David & Linda James, Deacon Joe Lamoureux, Frank Lyman, Jayne Marra, Joan Paliotta, Sylvia Puig, Johnathan Richards, Jonathan Roberts, Linda Roth, Douglas Salsbury, Steve Smith, Ben Tashoff, Deb Tashoff, Sandy 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.

- † **Robert K. Hartwell**, father of our Pastor Rob Hartwell, who passed away on February 19, 2021 (arrangements are still being made)
- † **Henry Joerz**, Concordia Class of 1987 and longtime friend of the community, who passed away on February 2, 2021

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School
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