

**† SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION †**  
**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**February 7, 2021**

**PRELUDE**

Praise to the Lord

Kevin Hildebrand

**INVOCATION and CONFESSION** (*Congregation rising*)

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

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sins to God, our merciful Father.

**C Almighty God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have turned away from each other in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us all that is past, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, move us to serve You faithfully. Amen.**

P God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**OPENING VERSICLES**

P This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**C From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

P Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

**C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

P Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

**C Teach me Your paths.**

P Sanctify us in Your truth.

**C Your Word is truth.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

**C Everlasting God, You give strength to the weary and power to the faint. Keep us firmly in the true faith, that by Your heavenly grace we may be healed and made whole, and the good news of Your salvation be made known to all; 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

Isaiah 40:21-31

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. <sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. <sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORY (*Congregation rising*)

P Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

**C Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.**

P Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

**C Jesus is the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.**

**GOSPEL**

Mark 1:29-39

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

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

<sup>29</sup>As soon as they left the synagogue, [Jesus] entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup>That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

On Eagles' Wings

Paul Tate

**SERMON**

Rev. Scott Geminn

**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 Guided by Christ, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

P For the church: For ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, and for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P For creation: For all creatures great and small, for the fragile places of the earth, and for wisdom to care for all that God has made. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P For the nations: For all who govern in cities and towns, states and countries; for business and community leaders; and for all health organizations, that they strive to overcome adversity and seek to serve those most in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P For all wearied by life's burdens: For those who are poor, for those lacking support in relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to You. We remember especially our friends in the Concordia community, all on our prayer lines, and those we lift up in the quiet of this moment...(PAUSE). Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P For this congregation: For outreach and social ministries; for our Sunday School and The Chapel School; and for the young people in this place, that the love of Christ overflow among us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, hear our prayers for the sake of the One who dwells among us, Jesus Christ our 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 Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, 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. We give You thanks for the salvation You have granted to us through Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Light of the world. Send the Spirit of Your Son into our hearts, that as Your beloved children we may welcome our Savior who comes to us in His body and blood. 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.**

### **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 You thanks, gracious God, that You have once again fed us with the food of heaven, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place into the world, nourished and forgiven, to live as You have taught us; 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**

The Kingsfold Turmpet

Alfred Fedak

\* \* \* \* \*

*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:**

**Prayer for Concordia College:** As the college continues to deal with closing at the end of this academic year, we pray for God’s mercy and peace: God of comfort and strength, we thank You for the ministry of Concordia College and all the students who have been formed by the education they received. We lift up current students, faculty, and staff during this time of transition. Grant wisdom to all who lead, calm all anxiety, and continue to guide all in the community with Your providential care. As we grieve the loss of our beloved partner in ministry, give us faith in Your guiding hand. Be with Iona and its leaders as they create new opportunities. In the name of our Savior Jesus. Amen.

**Prayer Conference Call** will take place on **Tuesday, February 9, at 6:00 p.m.** 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](mailto:KRapillo@VLC-NY.org). During Lent, you are invited to join in the midweek prayer service on Wednesdays.

**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](mailto: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 date is Wednesday, February 10.** Due to a prior scheduling commitment at the Soup Kitchen, the following date will be on **Tuesday, February 23** (this is a change for February only). 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](mailto:NPalumbo@thechapelschool.org).

**Ash Wednesday is February 17.** We will have 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

- † **Henry Joerz**, Concordia Class of 1987 and longtime friend of the community, who passed away on February 2, 2021
- † **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**  
**172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708**  
**914-337-0207 + [www.VLC-NY.ORG](http://www.VLC-NY.ORG)**