

† SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION †
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021

PRELUDE

Christ, the Life of All the Living

Johann Krebs

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 God of grace, by sending us Your Son, You lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Grant that we may always recognize Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your blessings, and cheerfully serve You and one another; 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

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [Moses and the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE (*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

John 3:14-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴[Jesus said to Nicodemus,] "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

MUSICAL REFLECTION Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Timothy Shaw

SERMON "Snakes and More Snakes" 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 Holy God, You loved the world by giving Your only Son, that whoever believes in Him might be saved. Bless the work of Your Church and all who are called to share the Gospel. By Your Spirit, create and sustain saving faith within us and all who hear Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, in these Lenten days we pray that You would draw us into Your light. Expose what we have thought, spoken or done against You, that we might look to Your Son lifted up on the cross and find life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P You made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins. Set Your Spirit at work within us, that we may resist what is evil and carry out the good works You desire us to do. We pray especially for our Lenten mission projects and our ongoing social ministries. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Bless and sustain all who serve in government, that they may act wisely and in accordance with Your will. Support those who defend, protect and attend to our needs while we continue to navigate through this pandemic, especially first responders, medical professionals, and funeral home personnel. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God, You are our light and our salvation. Hide in the shelter of Your wings any who are suffering in body, mind or spirit. Keep them from fear and uphold them with the healing power of Christ. We pray especially for all on our prayer line and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Your steadfast love endures forever. We give You thanks for our community of faith, for the believers of every generation, and especially for the family and friends dear to us. Keep us in Your faith and favor, that we may abide in Your eternal peace now and forever. 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, who accomplished our salvation by the tree of the cross, that where death arose there life also might rise again, and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise be overcome by the tree of the cross. 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 pray 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

By Grace I'm Saved

Kevin Hildebrand

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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:

Lenten midweek prayer services are being held remotely on Wednesdays, through March 24, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The live service includes a brief Bible Study each week on the theme *God's Love is Shown*. Log on to Zoom or Facebook or call (1)929-205-6099 and then enter the Meeting ID 994 3979 7879.

Holy Week In-Person Services: We welcome you to observe this holy season with your church family in the sanctuary. Recorded services will also be available online. Please note that we will not have any service on Maundy Thursday this year. Here is the schedule:

Palm Sunday, March 27/28 - Palm crosses and palm fronds available

Good Friday, April 2 - Tenebrae Service at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 3/4 - Celebrate the Resurrection (all three services)

EASTER FLOWERS: We are now collecting orders for lilies and tulips to beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The cost per plant is \$20 and may be given in honor or memory of a loved one. Please fill out the order form on the welcome tables or contact Kim Rapillo in the church office, 914-337-0207 x1003 or KRapillo@VLC-NY.org. **The deadline to order is Sunday, March 21!**

Easter Baskets: There are 106 children served by the MLK Head Start in New Rochelle, and we are hoping to come as close as possible to that amount. One week left!! Since the program will be on break for Holy Week, please fill and return baskets **no later than Sunday, March 21**. Thank you!

VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR - Our annual Chapel School book fair has begun and will be held online **through March 25**. Congregation members are invited to browse and shop for family and friends. Free shipping for orders over \$25, and 25% back in TCS Scholastic Dollars for every purchase. Visit the book fair homepage at <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/chapelschoolpto>

Blessing Basket/Food for ECAP: 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**.

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).

Youth Lenten Mission Project for Lutheran World Relief: A Personal Care Kit brings instant relief to distressed people around the world. You can join the effort - 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. Final drop-off will be **Thursday, March 25, from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. on the Great Porch**. If you need more information, please contact Pastor Geminn at SGeminn@VLC-NY.org.

Easter Drive-Thru for Kids: The VLC Youth and TCS PTO invite families with young children to drive through our parking lot on **Saturday, March 27, between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon**, for a fun Easter treat. Hop to it!

Frank Rendo Concert - Palm Sunday, **March 28, at 2:00 p.m.** in the VLC sanctuary. Reservations required. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/Rendo2021> or call 914-337-0207 x1040.

SOUP KITCHEN MEALS: Our next date will be on **Wednesday, March 31** (not March 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 info, contact Nelly Palumbo at 347-538-2909 or NPalumbo@thechapelschool.org.

Spring Blood Drive on Saturday, April 10, at VLC from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the MPR. Help us give back to the community in a truly life-changing way, since each donation collected can save up to three lives. If you have any questions, contact Kim Zwisdak in the Development Office, 914-337-0207 x1040 or KZwisdak@TheChapelSchool.org. A sign-up sheet is available at the welcome table in the Reception Area or go online to <https://tinyurl.com/April10BloodDrive>

Prayer Conference call resumes on Tuesday, April 13, at 6:00 p.m. Join Pastor Hartwell and Minister of Music Deb Reiss for quiet reflective prayer as we thank God for the blessings He provides and lift up the needs of world during the pandemic. 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 at in-person worship or contact Kim Rapillo, Church Office Administrative Assistant, at 914-337-0207 x1003 or KRapillo@VLC-NY.org.

1st Communion Instruction for 5th grade and older 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!

Save the Date: The Atlantic District LWML Virtual Retreat "Life in the Son" will be held on **Saturday, April 24, at 10:00 a.m.** Come share in worship, Bible Study, song, mission and fellowship. For more information contact Jeanette Coulthurst, Chapel School teacher and VP for Mission Outreach of the LWML-Atlantic District, at atlanticlwml@gmail.com.

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: Joan Bevers, Bob Capabiancho, Dean Carbone, Frank Clark, Edward Condolff, Lillian DiMucci, Gail Eckstein, Werner Fick, Annabella Hansen, Deacon Joe Lamoureux, Frank Lyman, Jayne Marra, Joan Paliotta, Sylvia Puig, Ralph Qualitero, Johnathan Richards, Pete & Vera Richards, Morena Rodriguez, Douglas Salisbury, Robert Sanger, Syble Schexnayder, Andrew Shreeves, Steve Smith, Ben Tashoff, Deb Tashoff, Sandy Tashoff, Rod Tomlinson, Vincent Valentino, Milana Zirolnik

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