

† SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION †
Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 21, 2021

PRELUDE

Prelude & Fugue in E Minor

J. S. Bach

INVOCATION and CONFESSION (*Congregation rising*)

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us first confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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 119*)

P With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from Your commands.

C I treasure Your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against You.

P Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

C With my lips I declare all the laws that come from Your mouth.

P I delight in the way of Your decrees as much as in great riches.

C I will meditate on Your precepts and consider Your ways.

P I will delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Almighty God, Your beloved Son came to bear the pains of the cross for us and thus defeat the power of the evil one. Renew our hearts daily to follow Him, until we come at last to joy and glory; 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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt – a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." ⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE (*Congregation rising*)

P Come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,

C who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."
²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said,
"An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your
sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this
world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all
people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

Jacob Weber

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

P Heavenly Father, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us to write Your Word on our hearts, that we might know You as the God who forgives our iniquities and remembers our sins no more. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Your Son came not to be served, but to serve. We give You thanks for the faithful service of all who seek to follow You, especially the quietest ones we may not even notice. Help us to humbly serve one another in our homes, communities and congregation as Christ has served us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You watch over, protect and defend us through the service of others. Guide all who have been given positions of authority, that they may act wisely and for the common good. Be with those who serve in the military, police, and first responders, especially as they face harm or danger in the line of duty. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Your Son endured suffering in offering up His life for us. Bless, sustain and relieve all who suffer in our midst, that walking the way of the cross, they may be strengthened in faith and know fullness of life. 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 Through the life, death and resurrection of Your Son, You have delivered our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from stumbling. Comfort all who mourn, that they may see clearly the promise of eternal life in Christ. 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 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. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son, but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us to trust in Your promise of salvation now fulfilled in Christ. 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 Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our pilgrimage, that on the day of His coming, we may together with all Your saints celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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.**

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Please wait for the pastor to proceed out of the sanctuary, then exit out of the building. Please also dispose of bulletins and used communion containers in the receptacles provided.

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

News and Notes:

EASTER FLOWERS: We are 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: Thank you to the many people who have generously prepared Easter baskets. There will be plenty enough to make sure each child has something to take home. In order to get them distributed, **the deadline to return all baskets is Wednesday, March 24.**

Our final Lenten midweek prayer service will be held remotely on Wednesday, **March 24**, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Log on to Zoom or Facebook or call (1)929-205-6099 and then enter the Meeting ID 994 3979 7879.

VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR - Our annual Chapel School book fair continues online **through Thursday, 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>

Youth Lenten Mission Project for Lutheran World Relief: There is still time to put together a Personal Care Kit for a refugee or victim of disaster. Pick up a flyer 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. Final drop-off run by the Youth 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!

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 Weekend, March 27/28** - Palm crosses and palm fronds available (all three services)
- ❖ **Good Friday, April 2** - Tenebrae Service at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Easter Sunday Weekend, April 3/4** - Celebrate the Resurrection (all three services)

Holy Week Crucifers: We would like to schedule a crucifer to carry the processional cross for each of our eight Holy Week services (Palm Sunday weekend, Good Friday, Easter weekend). **Any youth or adult volunteers are welcome to participate.** To sign up, please indicate your availability (including the date and service time) on the back of the Attendance Form or contact Kim Rapillo in the church office at 914-337-0207, x1003 or KRapillo@VLC-NY.org. We will then schedule and confirm.

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!

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 **April 15**.

Women's Bible Study/LWML Group will resume meeting in person on **Saturday, April 17, at 9:00 a.m.** in the MPR. Remote participants will also be able to join via Zoom. The discussion for this month will be on Chapters 18 and 19 of the Stormie Omartian book. For more information, contact Deacon Wendy Krolides (914-391-9356) or Terry Vidal (terry.n.vidal@gmail.com).

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 Salsbury, Robert Sanger, Syble Schexnayder, Andrew Shreeves, Steve Smith, Ben Tashoff, Deb Tashoff, Sandy Tashoff, Rod Tomlinson, Vincent Valentino, Milana Zirolnik

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

- † **Robert "Bob" Roberts**, beloved longtime church member, who passed away on March 13, 2021.

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