

† SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION †
Third Sunday in Lent
Lutheran Schools Sunday
March 7, 2021

PRELUDE

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Harold DeCou

INVOCATION and CONFESSION (*Congregation rising*)

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

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of Your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone.

C Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit, that attentive to Your Word, we may confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Your Son.

P Gracious God, have mercy on us.

C In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT (*from Psalm 19*)

P The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.

C Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

P There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

C Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

P The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

C The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

P The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

C The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

P May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Holy God, through Your Son You have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in Your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 20:1-17

¹Then God spoke all these words:

²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female servant, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female servant, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those

who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY (*Congregation rising*)

P Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us,

C so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

P May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give us a spirit of unity among ourselves as we follow Christ Jesus,

C so that with one heart and mouth we may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

John 2:13-22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Balm in Gilead

John Leavitt

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

P Almighty God, YAHWEH, holy is Your name. Purify the faith of Your church, that Your people place their trust in nothing beside You. Guide all Your children, that in every situation our words and actions may honor You. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P The heavens declare Your glory. Renew Your creation; protect creatures and crops that are endangered; give us eyes to see the wonder of the earth and skies. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill all leaders with Your ways of peace and mercy. Move those in authority to work for the well-being of the people in their care, especially the most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Give courage to those who are fearful or anxious; give Sabbath rest to all who are weary; and bring relief to all who are suffering. We pray especially for those on our prayer line and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P You call us into Your presence and make us one in Christ. We give You thanks for this community of faith, and especially for the educational ministry of The Chapel School. Bless our faculty and staff, our students and their families, and all who support our mission to know, live and share the love of Christ. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P The cross of Christ shows us Your power to save. Give us joy in the hope of the resurrection and the promise of Your heavenly 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 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 redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness and salvation that come 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 Almighty God, we thank You for feeding us through this Sacrament of Your Son's body and blood. May it strengthen us to follow where You lead, and to serve as You enable 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

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Weitzel/Manz

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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:

Holy Baptism: We rejoice with the newly baptized and welcome them into the family of faith. Edward James Gaffney III, son of David and Janine Gaffney, is being baptized at a special service on March 7, 2021.

CHAPEL SCHOOL AWARD: Each year on Lutheran Schools Sunday we recognize an individual for distinguished service and dedication to The Chapel School. We are pleased this year to honor Mrs. Lisa Jones, the current PTO President and an active member of the church and school community. You can watch the presentation by Principal Michael Schultz on our home service for this weekend. Congratulations, and God bless Lisa!

Daylight Savings Time is set to resume **next** weekend (many apologies from your Minister of Music, who got the date mixed up). So...remember to set your clocks **one hour ahead** on Saturday night, March 13.

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*. 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

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)

SOUP KITCHEN MEALS: Volunteers are needed every two weeks. Our next date will be on **Wednesday, March 10**. Please note that the Soup Kitchen has scheduled our second date this month for **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 information, contact Nelly Palumbo at 347-538-2909 or NPalumbo@thechapelschool.org.

VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR - Our annual Chapel School book fair will be held online this year from **March 12-25**. 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: 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: We are hoping to fill as many baskets as possible! There are 106 children served by the MLK Head Start in New Rochelle. If you would like to reach out, please pick up an empty basket 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. Since the program will be on break for Holy Week, 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).

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: Andis Akerfelds, Joan Bevers, Brianna Blanco, Bob Capabiancho, Dean Carbone, Frank Clark, Lillian DiMucci, Gail Eckstein, Annabella Hansen, Deacon Joe Lamoureux, Frank Lyman, Jayne Marra, Joan Paliotta, Sylvia Puig, Ralph Qualitero, 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

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

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