

† SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION †
Second Sunday of Easter
April 11, 2021

PRELUDE

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 36*)

P Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the skies.

C Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, Your justice like the great deep.

P O Lord, You preserve both man and beast.

C How priceless is Your unfailing love!

P Both the high-born and the lowly find refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

C They feast on the abundance of Your house; You give them drink from Your river of delights.

P For with You is the fountain of life;

C in Your light we see light.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Almighty God, grant that we who have joyfully celebrated the Lord's resurrection may, by Your grace, confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 John 1:1 – 2:2

1 ¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. **2** ¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE (*Congregation rising*)

P Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

C **You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.** (John 6:68)

GOSPEL

John 20:19-23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

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

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

MUSICAL REFLECTION

MEDITATION

"Forgive Us Our Sins"

Deacon Student Anton DeRosa

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 Alive in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God, who promises to hear and answer in steadfast love.

P You shower Your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Refresh Your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and bring to Your whole creation the gift of new life. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of Your love. Bestow the peace of Christ upon our leaders and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Move us by the Spirit to provide for the needs of others. Come near with Your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. 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 give us fellowship with one another in this community of faith. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy, especially our fellow church members Bob and Kevin. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to You, trusting in Your never-ending goodness and mercy; 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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His body, the Church. And we ask You to help us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may continue in this fellowship and do the good works which You desire us to do; 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

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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:

Concordia Conservatory Concerts: The Conservatory is pleased to present two final performances this spring:

- ❖ In conjunction with the Osilas Gallery show "Portraits of Immigrants" a broadcast concert will air on **Sunday, April 11, at 5:00 p.m.** with songs of Dvorak, Weill, and Berlin. Featuring soprano Sun Young Chang with cello and guitar. The broadcast link is \$25.
- ❖ The Hoch Chamber Music Series Concert concludes with Patitucci and Schubert on **Saturday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m.** as a live-stream event from Sommer Center. Hosted live by jazz great John Patitucci and Lawrence Dutton of the Emerson String Quartet, the longtime friends will bring their deep musical knowledge and humor. Also performing will be Elizabeth Lim-Dutton, violin; Jee Sun Lee, violin; Emanouil Manolov, viola; Andrew Janss, cello, Jon Cowherd, piano and Jon Klibonoff, piano.

For more info or to purchase the links, go to www.ConcordiaConservatory.org or call 914-395-4507.

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.

SOUP KITCHEN MEALS: Our dates this month will be **Wednesday, April 14 and 28**. 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.

1st Communion Instruction for 5th grade and older will take place on **Wednesdays, April 14, 21 and 28, at 6:00 p.m.** We are now planning to offer the classes via Zoom and meet in person to create individual banners. The 1st Communion celebration is scheduled for **Sunday, May 2, at the 10:45 service**. 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: Dean Carbone, Frank Clark, Edward Condolff, Rev. Rudy DeRosa, Gail Eckstein, Dave Emmons, Werner Fick, Annabella Hansen, Deacon Joe Lamoureux, Frank Lyman, Jayne Marra, Amy Alfonsi Moll, Norah Murphy, Joan Paliotta, Sylvia Puig, Ralph Qualitero, Johnathan Richards, Pete & Vera Richards, Morena Rodriguez, Syble Schexnayder, Andrew Shreeves, Lila Slattery, Steve Smith, Ben Tashoff, Vincent Valentino

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

- † **Kevin Warnken**, husband of Mindy Warnken, Associate Organist and Receptionist at VLC, and beloved member of our community, who passed away on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021
- † **Robert Sanger**, father of Amy Heath, who passed away on March 28, 2021
- † **Lillian DiMucci**, mother-in-law of Skip Hansen, who passed away on March 19, 2021

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