

† SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION †
Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021

PRELUDE

Come, You Faithful

Wayne Wold

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 4*)

P Answer me when I call to You, O my righteous God.

C Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

P Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for Himself;

C the Lord will hear when I call to Him.

P In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

C Offer right sacrifices and trust in the Lord.

P Many are asking, "Who can show us any good?"

C Let the light of Your face shine upon us, O Lord.

P I will lie down and sleep in peace,

C for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Holy and righteous God, You have raised up this fallen world through Your Son, the Author of Life. Fill us with Your words of life, that freed from the peril of death, we may live in perpetual gladness and eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 3:12-19

¹²When Peter saw [the crowds running toward them], he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made [this crippled man] walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. ⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE (*Congregation rising*)

P Alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

C **“Look at my hands and feet...Touch me and see.” Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

Luke 24:36-48

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

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

³⁶While they were talking about [the Emmaus disciples], Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

MUSICAL REFLECTION

This Joyful Eastertide

Ronald Nelson

SERMON

“Fish and Scars”

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 Lord God, in Your presence we find fullness of joy, and by Christ Jesus You deliver peace forevermore. In the midst of this world's sins and sorrows, give us peace in the knowledge of His salvation and confident hope in the resurrection of the dead. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, You have made us Your children and gathered us into Your Holy Church. Sustain all who proclaim Your Holy Word and all who serve as Your witnesses. Open our minds to hear and understand Your good and gracious will for us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give peace to our homes and enliven them by the resurrected life of Christ. Let forgiveness reign among families, and provide communities of love and support to those who are alone. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Guide our elected officials and community leaders in the ways of justice and peace. We pray especially for places torn apart by violence and unrest, that injustice may be rectified and mutual trust be established. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Father, give Your presence and comfort to those who are troubled in our midst. Comfort all who weep and mourn with the blessed joy of Easter morning. We pray especially for all on our prayer lines and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P These things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us for the sake of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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. Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation, until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal. 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 O God the Father, fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing Michael Burkhardt

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IMPORTANT REMINDERS: All worshippers should continue wearing face coverings during the service and maintain social distancing. Although a portion of our community has been vaccinated, precautions are still necessary. It is possible to become infected after being vaccinated and many have still not been vaccinated.

For this reason, we also ask that worshippers exit the church in a timely fashion and fellowship outside on the great porch after services. This provides a safer environment and allows the sanctuary to be cleaned promptly.

We appreciate your patience. As we near the end of the pandemic, we may be growing weary of pandemic precautions, yet love for neighbor compels us to make safety for everyone our top priority.

News and Notes:

If you have any prayer requests or wish to submit information to the church office, 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.

Prayer Conference call continues each week on **Tuesdays 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.

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.

SOUP KITCHEN MEALS: Our next date will be **Wednesday, April 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.

VLC is Ready to Live Stream Worship! Beginning **May 1**, we will use newly upgraded video and sound capability to live-stream all of our worship services. The live stream can be accessed through our website (VLC-NY.ORG) or Facebook Live, and will replace the pre-recorded services introduced during the pandemic. This means that you can tune in live (Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 9:00 & 10:45 am) or view an archived copy at a later time. As we emerge from the pandemic, this system provides an ongoing in-home option for those who cannot attend church in person, whether for health reasons, bad weather, travel, or the like. It will also allow anyone who is not in the area to take part virtually in our worship and special events such as First Communion, Confirmation and holiday services.

A Memorial Service for Bob Roberts will be held at VLC on **Saturday, May 1, at 2:00 p.m.** We will include music that Bob wished to have in his memory, and give thanks for his life in our community of faith. The service will be live-streamed for those who cannot attend in person.

1st Communion will be celebrated on **Sunday, May 2, at the 10:45 service.** Please note that our new live-streaming capability allows family and friends to view the service remotely if they are unable to attend.

New Member Open House - If you are interested in joining VLC or finding out more about the Lutheran faith, join Pastor Geminn in a Zoom session on **Wednesday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m.** To sign up, call the church office at 914-337-0207, x1003 or email pastor Geminn at SGeminn@VLC-NY.org.

Bronxville Interfaith Prayer Service - In honor of the National Day of Prayer, all are welcome to assemble at Bronxville Village Hall on **Thursday, May 6, at 9:00 a.m.** Hosted and led by Bronxville area clergy.

Women's Bible Study/LWML Group will hold its final meeting before the summer break on **Saturday, May 15, at 9:00 a.m.** in the MPR. Remote participants will also be able to join via Zoom. For more information, contact Deacon Wendy Krolides (914-391-9356) or Terry Vidal (terry.n.vidal@gmail.com).

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 **May 20.**

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: Rev. Rudy DeRosa, Tiffany Ramos Meneres, Amy Alfonsi Moll, Norah Murphy, Lila Slattery, Ben Tashoff

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

- † **Andres (Andy) Romero**, step-father of Lisa Stelzer, who passed away on April 13, 2021
- † **Rev. Henry Koepchen**, member of the Concordia Class of 1952 and pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church in Setauket, NY for his entire ministry, who passed away on April 12, 2021
- † **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
- † **Virginia Giunti**, sister of Louis Martucci and sister-in-law of Carol Martucci, who passed away on March 19, 2021

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School
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