

**† SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION †**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 2, 2021**

**PRELUDE**

Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

Jim Vyhanek

**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 37*)

P Do not fret because of evil people or be envious of those who do wrong;

**C for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.**

P Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

**C Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.**

P Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this:

**C He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.**

P The days of the blameless are known to the Lord, and their inheritance will endure forever.

**C In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.**

P Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever.

**C For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake His faithful ones.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

**C O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for

our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L 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 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

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

[Jesus said to his disciples,] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

Here is Bread

Nancy Raabe

**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** Faithful God, You abide in Your people and we abide in You. Cleanse us by Your word and infuse the whole church on earth with Your living water, so that it bears fruit and witnesses to Your love. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**P** You have created the heavens and the earth. Bless all who tend to the earth, especially those who grow, harvest and maintain our food. Help us to reach out to those who do not have enough to eat, that all may share in Your abundance. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**P** You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of Your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of Your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, fearful, or suffering in any way. Provide for the needs of all, especially those on our prayer line and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P You bind us together as one people and feed us with the same heavenly food. We give You thanks for our First Communicants and pray that they continue to abide with You and all the faithful in Your perfect love. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P You gather us with all the saints, of every time and place, by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Bring us with them to Your eternal kingdom, where we will see You face to face and enjoy life that has no end. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P These and all our prayers we lift up to You, O Lord, 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 having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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.**

## **(10:45) FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

*The First Communicants will be invited to receive first. After they have communed, we will all partake of the Lord's body and blood together.*

## **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 God of abundance, You have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation: You have united us with Christ and one another; and You have made us one with all Your people in heaven and on earth. Send us forth in the power of Your Spirit, that we may proclaim Your redeeming love to all the world; 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**

Sent Forth By God’s Blessing

Franklin Ritter

\*\*\*\*\*

*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 along with your gifts in the offering plate by the Jesus Fountain.*

*Worshippers are encouraged to visit out on the Great Porch after the service. At 10:45 we will have individually wrapped cookies to celebrate our First Communicants. Special thanks to Danielle DiCuio for preparing the cookies.*

**GOD BLESS OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS**

Shelby Aime  
Julia Alioti-Passi  
Drake Benton  
Sean Keough  
Nico Renzo

Elise Solon  
Gavin Solon  
Miles Solon  
Lauren Tavarez  
Jade Wong-Gonzalez

Some of these young people are present in the sanctuary and some are participating from home. We pray that they continue to grow in faith and love as they are welcomed to the table of the Lord.



## **PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE:**

	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Usher Teams</b>
5:30	Mimi Blanco	
9:00	Ellen Story	Anton DeRosa, Richard Graham, Fred Swain
10:45	John Ansorge	John Ansorge, Kathy Coffey, Elaine Podszus

### **News and Notes:**

**WORSHIP UPDATES:** This month marks a new phase as we emerge from the pandemic. Please note what is new and what is coming back!

**Live Stream Worship** - If anyone is interested in joining us remotely, tune in live (Saturday 5:30 p.m., Sunday 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.) by going to our home page (VLC-NY.org) or Facebook Live. Each service will also be archived for later viewing.

**Singing in Church** - We have missed singing together in worship, but considered it best to wait through the worst of the pandemic. We are now ready to start including hymns in our worship services. **Beginning the weekend of May 15/16**, Ascension Day observed, we will sing a Hymn of the Day. As we progress towards summer, we intend to add more and more music to the service. *Sing to the Lord a new song!*

**Lectors Needed** - In addition to singing, we are ready to have lay lectors participate in worship. We will be scheduling them individually during May and June and will then put together a summer schedule. If you would be interested in reading at one of our coming services, please fill out the back side of the Attendance Form or contact Kim Rapillo in the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003 or [KRapillo@VLC-NY.org](mailto:KRapillo@VLC-NY.org).

**Thank you, ushers!** Our faithful usher teams have continued to welcome people to church and assist with finding everything needed. We are grateful for their service and dedication throughout this difficult time. God bless you!

**Prayer Conference call** continues each week on **Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.** The call-in number is (1) 732-434-3982. If you have a specific prayer request, please fill out the back side of the Attendance Form or contact Kim Rapillo in the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003 or [KRapillo@VLC-NY.org](mailto:KRapillo@VLC-NY.org).

**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](mailto: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.

**SOUP KITCHEN MEALS:** Our dates this month will be **Wednesdays, May 12 and 26.** Please sign up in advance to choose your volunteer date and food item, pick up an aluminum tray, 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](mailto:NPalumbo@thechapelschool.org).

**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. We will be discussing chapters 20-21 of the Stormie Omartian book and looking at options for next year's study. For more information, contact Deacon Wendy Krolides (914-391-9356) or Terry Vidal ([terry.n.vidal@gmail.com](mailto:terry.n.vidal@gmail.com)).

**GATHERING OF FRIENDS 2021:** Tickets are now on sale for our outdoor, socially distanced Spring Festival to be held right here at our campus on **Saturday, May 15, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.** Activities and treats for every age, including delicious food, a circus show, games and more. To purchase tickets or find out more information, go to [www.Gathering-of-Friends.org](http://www.Gathering-of-Friends.org) or call Kim Zwisdak in the Development Office at 914-337-0207 x1040.

**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.**

**Pentecost Piano Recital** - A benefit concert for the Chapel School by Matthew Martinez. Hear live music in our beautiful sanctuary as Middle School teacher Mr. Martinez plays piano favorites on **Pentecost Sunday, May 23.** There will be two performances, **at 3:00 & 6:00 p.m.,** with limited seating to accommodate social distancing. Tickets are \$20/adult and \$10/child (18 and under), with all proceeds going to support our school. Pick up an order form at the Reception table and submit with your payment or go online to <https://tinyurl.com/May23Piano>. If space is still open, tickets will be available at the door for \$25. Order now!

**2021 TCS Golf Outing** - GOLFERS and SPONSORS NEEDED! JOIN US on Monday, 5/24 for our 2021 TCS Golf Outing at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville. This is a great day of golf and a wonderful opportunity to raise money for scholarships for students at The Chapel School. Online registration is NOW OPEN! We will again have lots of exciting prizes up for "Pay to Play" at exclusive "must play" venues! You won't want to miss it! <https://tinyurl.com/GolfOuting21>

**Baccalaureate Sunday will be June 6.** If you have a graduate you would like to celebrate, please provide the following information: (1) Name of graduate; (2) Name of school; (3) Plans for fall, if known. Use the back of the Attendance Form or contact Kim Rapillo in the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003 or [KRapillo@VLC-NY.org](mailto:KRapillo@VLC-NY.org). The deadline to receive information for printing in the bulletin is **Sunday, May 30.**

**Prayer Line:** We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: Frank Clark, Rev. Rudy DeRosa, Annabella Hansen, Tiffany Ramos Meneres, Amy Alfonsi Moll, Norah Murphy, Barbara Norman, Sylvia Puig, Ralph Qualetoro, Bryan Schmeling, Lila Slattery, Ben Tashoff

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

- † **Rev. Dr. Frazier Odom**, father of Monique Nunes, who passed away on April 20, 2021
- † **Andres (Andy) Romero**, step-father of Lisa Stelzer, who passed away on April 13, 2021
- † **Virginia Giunti**, sister of Louis Martucci and sister-in-law of Carol Martucci, who passed away on March 19, 2021



**Free Six Week Support Group via Zoom for Those  
Who Have Lost a Loved One  
During the Pandemic**

Join us for a six week FREE Grief Support Group for anyone who has Lost a Loved One During COVID

Sessions will begin on Wednesday evening, May 19, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom and continue for the next five weeks.



Registration is limited. Call or E-mail LCC today to save your spot!\*

**Facilitator of this group:**



**Mary Beth Werdel, PhD, LMHC**, received her doctorate in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola University, Maryland and completed a doctoral internship at the Wendt Center for Loss and Healing in Washington, D.C. She is also an Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Fordham University. Dr. Werdel's research focuses on the intersection of spirituality and well-being during times of loss, stress, and trauma. Her most recent research studies focused on spiritual coping resources for parents of children with

an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Her clinical experience, including her work as a family therapist, focuses on working predominately with individuals, children and families who have experienced significant loss, stress or trauma.

\*Call LCC at 1-800-317-1173 or e-mail the Center at [Center@LCCNY.org](mailto:Center@LCCNY.org) to sign up for this support group. This support group is made possible by funding from our donors.

**Village Lutheran Church**  
**The Chapel School**  
172 White Plains Road  
Bronxville, NY 10708  
914-337-0207  
[www.VLC-NY.ORG](http://www.VLC-NY.ORG)

Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Scott Geminn, Associate Pastor  
Deborah Reiss, Minister of Music

**TO KNOW LIVE AND SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST**

*Under the blessing of God, the mission of Village Lutheran Church is a ministry of the Word and Sacraments. This ministry gives opportunities for mission, witness, nurture, fellowship, stewardship, and service. It focuses on the specific needs of individuals and groups within the congregation and extends to the church-at-large, the community, and the world.*

*The Chapel School is an integral part of the congregation's ministry directed specifically to children. It provides a distinctive Christian education enabling children to evidence a Christian lifestyle and to achieve academic success.*

**TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY**