

† SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION †
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9, 2021

PRELUDE

When Love is Found

Charles Callahan

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 66*)

P Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

C Sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious!

P Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard;

C He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.

P Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me.

C I cried out to Him with my mouth; His praise was on my tongue.

P If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

C but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.

P Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld His love from me!

**C Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C O God, You have prepared for those who love You joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for You, that loving You above all things, we may obtain Your promises that exceed all we can desire; 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 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

L 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 "I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father." Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 15:9-17

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁹[Jesus said to his disciples,] "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,

just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

MUSICAL OFFERING This Little Light of Mine Traditional
Recorded by The Concordia Community Choir

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 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 Loving God, You call Your people to bear fruit. Strengthen the bonds among all the faithful, and help us to increase in love and joy for the sake of the whole world. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Creating God, the earth praises You. Fill the earth with signs of Your presence, that all the creatures of land, sea and sky may join together to sing of Your glory. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Faithful Savior, You conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant Your word in the hearts of all who lead, and give them Your Spirit so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Friend in time of need, You forget no one and You reach out to those who feel alone. Guide and sustain all caregivers, medical professionals, and first responders. Send Your healing touch to any who are sick or suffering, and be with those who are facing death. We pray especially for all on our prayer line and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, You comfort us. Bless all the mothers in our midst, those who are preparing to become mothers, and the mother figures in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, those grieving the loss of mother or child, those who wish to be mothers but cannot, and those who have not had a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Fount of wisdom, we give You thanks for all places of learning and especially for those who have been called to be teachers. As Concordia College prepares to cease operations, we pray Your blessing upon the graduates this weekend, the faculty and staff finishing their work, and the alumni who have been part of the college's 140-year legacy. We pray also for the ongoing educational ministry of The Chapel School and our mission to know, love and share the love of Christ in this community. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Gentle Redeemer, all who die in You abide in Your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who sought to stay close to You throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in everlasting love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P These and all our prayers we offer to You, O God, 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 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 Almighty God, You provide the true bread from heaven, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of His body and blood may abide in Him, and He in us, that we may be filled with the power of His endless life; for He 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 How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord Henry Gerike

* * * * *

Offerings and Attendance Forms may be placed in the offering plate by the Jesus Fountain as you leave.

Happy Mother’s Day: *A warm welcome to all mothers and mother-figures. We invite you to pick up our Mother’s Day gift (rose pin and bookmark) by the Jesus Fountain at the exit of the church. God bless you!*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE:

	Lector	Usher Teams
5:30	Larry Cosentino	
9:00	Janet George	John Divi, Ralph Schoene, Fred Swain
10:45	Donna Lubinsky	Skip Hansen, Kathy Coffey

Concordia Community Choir: George Heath, director; John Klibonoff, piano

News and Notes:

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Christopher Roge, from Kathryn Ruth and Donna Lubinsky.

WORSHIP UPDATES: 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 are now ready to start including hymns in our worship services. **Beginning next weekend, May 15/16** (Ascension Day observed), we will sing a Hymn of the Day. Current guidelines indicate that the best practice is to wear masks, maintain social distancing and allow time between services, all of which we are following.

Lectors Needed - In addition to singing, we are returning to having lay lectors participate in worship. We are 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.

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.

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.

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).

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 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 Dr. 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, May 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. 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, Barbara DeGeorge, Rev. Rudy DeRosa, Annabella Hansen, Tiffany Ramos Meneres, Amy Alfonsi Moll, Norah Murphy, Barbara Norman, Sylvia Puig, Ralph Qualetoro, Justin Riedl, 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

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School
172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708
914-337-0207 + www.VLC-NY.ORG