

† SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION †
Palm Sunday
March 28, 2021

HANDBELL PRELUDE

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Dale Wood

INVOCATION and CALL TO WORSHIP (*Congregation rising*)

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

C Amen.

P O Lord, save us;

C O Lord, grant us victory.

P Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C From the house of the Lord we bless You.

PALM PROCESSIONAL

All Glory, Laud and Honor

David Lowe

(The congregation is invited to wave their palms)

CONFESSION

P Let us confess our sins to the One who saves.

C Gracious God, have mercy on us. 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem gathered with palms in their hands to greet our Lord Jesus Christ, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King, and when He comes again, may we go forth to meet Him with trusting hearts, following Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 50:4-9

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS (*Congregation rising*)

P Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!

C See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

P Hosanna to the Son of David!

C Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

P Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Bless these palms and palm crosses, that remembering His suffering, death and resurrection, we may rejoice in the victory He has won for us, who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

GOSPEL

Mark 11:1-11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 11th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Cindy Berry

SERMON

"Funny Things Jesus Says"

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

P Jesus came among us as a teacher and a suffering servant. As we enter into this Holy Week, guide us with Your Word and open our hearts to seek Your will each day. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P The created world reminds us that life springs from death. Restore places that have been damaged by disaster, pollution, or misuse, and nurture the new growth of flowers, trees and crops. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Jesus emptied Himself and was obedient. Inspire all who are in positions of authority or leadership to use their power for good. Grant wisdom to those making decisions and perseverance to those who are struggling with weakness or opposition. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P During His earthly ministry, Jesus relied on others to care for His needs. Sustain healthcare workers, food service providers, social work agencies, and all who look out for those in need. Bless our own outreach ministries and community partnerships. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Jesus shared times of joy and sadness with the disciples and those who followed Him. We give You thanks for our families and friends, and for our community of faith. Bless those who are preparing to travel for the holidays and bring cheer to those who are still missing loved ones. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Console and strengthen all who live in fear of violence and hate, especially those in the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community, and deliver all people from injustice and hatred. Grant respite and renewal to those who are experiencing illness or any kind of mental or physical suffering. 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 We praise You for the faithful witnesses You have given in every age and time. Give us also the faith to trust the promises of new life in Your Son as we await the resurrection celebration. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, 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 good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord, who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that where death began, there life might be restored. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

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.**

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 As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

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*)

CLOSING PRAYER

P God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of Your Son You offer Your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection; 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

Ride On in Majesty

Bender/Noble

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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.

Special thanks to our worship assistants:

5:30 Clark Family

9:00 Story Family

10:45 Deacon Joan Condon

News and Notes:

Holy Week In-Person Services: We will continue our Holy Week services in the sanctuary. No reservations are required, though we are still observing the recommended safety guidelines. Please note that we will not have any service on Maundy Thursday this year. Also, the Saturday service on Easter weekend will be the same as Sunday morning (not a separate Easter Vigil liturgy). Recorded services will be available online. Here is the remaining schedule:

- ❖ **Good Friday, April 2** - Tenebrae Service at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Easter Sunday Weekend, April 3/4** - Celebrate the Resurrection (all three services)

SOUP KITCHEN MEALS: Our next date will be on **Wednesday, March 31**, when the menu will be chicken drumsticks, mac & cheese, mixed veggies and cookies. 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.

Spring Blood Drive on **Saturday, April 10**, at VLC from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the MPR. Help us give back to the community in a truly life-changing way, since each donation collected can save up to three lives. If you have any questions, contact Kim Zwisdak in the Development Office, 914-337-0207 x1040 or KZwisdak@TheChapelSchool.org. A sign-up sheet is available at the welcome table in the Reception Area or go online to <https://tinyurl.com/April10BloodDrive>

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.

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: Bob Capabiancho, Dean Carbone, Frank Clark, Edward Condolff, Gail Eckstein, Werner Fick, Denzil Francis, Annabella Hansen, Deacon Joe Lamoureux, Frank Lyman, Jayne Marra, Norah Murphy, Joan Paliotta, Sylvia Puig, Ralph Qualitero, Johnathan Richards, Pete & Vera Richards, Morena Rodriguez, Robert Sanger, Syble Schexnayder, Andrew Shreeves, Lila Slattery, Steve Smith, Vincent Valentino

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

- † **Lillian DiMucci**, mother-in-law of Skip Hansen, who passed away on March 19, 2021
- † **Robert "Bob" Roberts**, beloved longtime church member, who passed away on March 13, 2021



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