

Therefore, if anyone is
IN CHRIST,
he is a
new creation.

The old has passed away;
behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17





THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF VESTAVIA HILLS

201 So. Montgomery Highway Birmingham, Alabama 35216

205-823-1883 Fax: 205-823-4549

Web Site: www.vestavialutheran.org or lcvh.org

WORSHIP: 8:00 AM AND 10:30 AM, Sundays

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

Church Office Hours: 9 AM to 1 PM Monday thru Thursday



PASTOR: The Reverend Michael D. Ahlemeyer –pastor@vestavialutheran.org (205) 201-8866

PASTOR EMERITUS: The Reverend Clifford Hellmers –vestluth@juno.com

VICAR: Vicar Luke Watt –vicar@vestavialutheran.org– (402) 853-3514

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Ruth Johnson –rswanagin@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF MOTHER'S DAY OUT: Rose Phillips –rosaphillips@vestavialutheran.org

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Leigh Walter– lwalter@vestavialutheran.org

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT: Abby Cahill- abbycahill@vestavialutheran.org

BOOK KEEPER: Bernie Gregson- bgregson@vestavialutheran.org

ADOPTED MEDICAL MISSIONARIES - Arianna and David Shirk, Madeline & Annabelle - shirkdavid@gmail.com



TO OUR GUESTS: We offer you a warm welcome in the name of Jesus. Please sign the Friendship Register during the offering. If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to have you become a part of our church family. Please feel free to speak with the Pastor about membership in our congregation. If you do have a church home, we pray that God will bless you as you continue your growth in faith and love.



SUNDAY SCHOOL Christian education classes are offered for all ages at 9:00 AM.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH and NURSERY Following the Children's Message, all children ages 3-7 are invited to Children's Church downstairs. They will return to the sanctuary during the offering. A nursery attendant is provided for children ages birth to 3 years during our 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services.



COMMUNION We invite all baptized Christians who acknowledge their sinfulness, trust in Christ as their Savior, and who recognize the real presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the bread and wine to join us at the Communion table. The practice of our congregation is to place the bread into the extended hand of the communicant. The wine is offered in both individual cups and the chalice. If you wish to receive it from an individual cup, please take one from the tray as it is offered by the Elder. The cups in the center of the tray are filled with non-alcoholic wine, in consideration of persons who should not drink wine. Also, children who have not received Communion instruction are invited to come to the Communion rail, fold their hands and receive a blessing.

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
New Year's Service
December 31, 2016 and January 1, 2017

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

LSB #915



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away: behold, the new has come."

-2 Corinthians 5:17

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

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.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your 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.

Amen.

LITANY FOR THE START OF THE NEW YEAR

Revelation 21:3-5

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.

He will dwell with them, and they will be his people,
and God himself will be with them as their God.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more,

neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore,
for the former things have passed away."

And he who was seated on the throne said,
"Behold, I am making all things new."

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, the giver of all good gifts, our thanksgiving overflows for the life You created in us and the new life we now have in You through Holy Baptism. Continue to shower us with Your gifts as we offer thanksgiving for our ongoing communion with You in Your body and blood; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(God Will Create New Heavens and a New Earth)

¹⁷“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. ²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them. ²⁴Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,” says the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

LSB #357 (v. 1-3)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

(Those in Christ are a New Creation)

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God

was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

LSB #357 (v. 4, 5)



4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 23:32-43

(Two Criminals are Crucified with Jesus; New Life at the Foot of the Cross)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

LSB #357 (v. 6-7)

6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
and be Thyself our King of Peace
Refrain

APOSTLES' CREED

(inside back LSB cover)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"All Who Believe and are Baptized"

LSB #601



1 All who be - lieve and are bap - tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Through Christ's re - demp - tion they shall stand A - mong the glo - rious,
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -



heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

SERMON

"Something New"

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Vicar Luke Watt

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in Your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

(inside back LSB cover)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNES DEI



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LSB #380

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

LSB #849

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LSB #361

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O God, that through the waters of Holy Baptism You re-created us to be Your children, bringing us out of darkness and into light. Continue to nurture us with the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN "All Christians Who Have Been Baptized" LSB #596 (v. 1, 4-6)



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap-tized, Who know the God of
4 In Bap-tism we now put on Christ— Our shame is ful-ly



heav-en, And in whose dai-ly life is prized The name of
cov-ered With all that He once sac-ri-ficed And free-ly



Christ once giv-en: Con-sid-er now what God has done, The
for us suf-fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now



gifts He gives to ev-'ry-one Bap-tized in-to Christ Je-sus!
makes us ho-ly, right, and good Be-fore our heav'n-ly Fa-ther.

5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift
and give God thanks forever!
It gives the power to uplift
In all that you endeavor.
When nothing else revives your soul,
Your Baptism stands and makes you whole
And then in death completes you.

6 So use it well! You are made new
In Christ a new creation!
As faithful Christians, live and do
Within your own vocation,
Until that day when you possess
His glorious robe of righteousness
Bestowed on you forever!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.