





## THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF VESTAVIA HILLS

201 So. Montgomery Highway Birmingham, Alabama 35216

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Web Site: [www.vestavialutheran.org](http://www.vestavialutheran.org) or [lcvh.org](http://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](mailto:pastor@vestavialutheran.org) (205) 201-8866

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ADOPTED MEDICAL MISSIONARIES - Arianna and David Shirk, Madeline & Annabelle - [shirkdavid@gmail.com](mailto: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*

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 2017

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN

"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

LSB #435



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined  
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -  
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -  
4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain  
out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,  
tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,  
new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -  
From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and  
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain  
Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.  
make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.  
will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.  
deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

## INVOCATION

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

**Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## INTROIT

Psalm 42:1-5, Psalm 42:1

As a deer pants for water,  
**so pants my soul for you, O God.**

My soul thirsts for God,  
**for the living God.**

When shall I come and appear before God?  
My tears have been my food day and night,  
**while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?"**

These things I remember,  
**as I pour out my soul.**

How I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God  
with glad shouts and songs of praise,  
**a multitude keeping festival.**

Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?  
**Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation.**

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

As a deer pants for water,  
**so pants my soul for you, O God.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Almighty God, source of all power and renewer of health and life, draw us ever closer to You, and supply us with the living water that will quench our great thirst for time and for eternity. This we ask in the name of Jesus, who offered Himself as our Savior and our Redeemer.

**Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Exodus 17:1-7

*(Water from the Rock)*

<sup>1</sup>All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM (10:30)****"God of Grace"**

M.K. Beall

*God of grace, amazing wonder, irresistible and free.**O the miracle of mercy, Jesus reaches down to me.**God of grace, I stand in wonder as my God restores my soul;**His own blood has paid my ransom, awesome cost to make me whole.**God of grace who loved and knew me long before the world began,**Sent my Savior down from heaven, perfect God and perfect man.**God of grace, I trust in Jesus, I'm accepted as His own;**Ev'ry day new grace sustains me as I lean on Him alone.**God of grace, I stand astounded, cleansed, forgiven and secure.**All my fears are now confounded and my hope is ever sure.**God of grace, now crowned in glory where one day I'll see your face;**And forever I'll adore You in Your everlasting grace.**And forever I'll adore You, in Your everlasting grace.***EPISTLE READING**

Romans 5:1-8

*(While We Were Still Sinners, Christ Died for Us)*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup>but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL PREPARATION HYMN** "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary" LSB #423 (v. 1)



**HOLY GOSPEL**

John 4:5-26

*(Jesus Talks with a Samaritan Woman at the Well)*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the fourth chapter.

**Glory to You, Lord.**

<sup>5</sup>So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

<sup>7</sup>There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus



answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet." <sup>20</sup>Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"My Song is Love Unknown" LSB #430 (v. 1-2,6-7)



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to  
2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly  
stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake  
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?  
Who at my need His life did spend!

6. In life no house, no home  
My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb  
But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say?  
Heav'n was His home  
But mine the tomb  
Wherein He lay.

7. Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like Thine  
This is my friend,  
In whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
Could gladly spend!

## SERMON

*"Living Water"*

**John 4:13-15**

Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer

## **VOLUNTARY**

## **OFFERING**

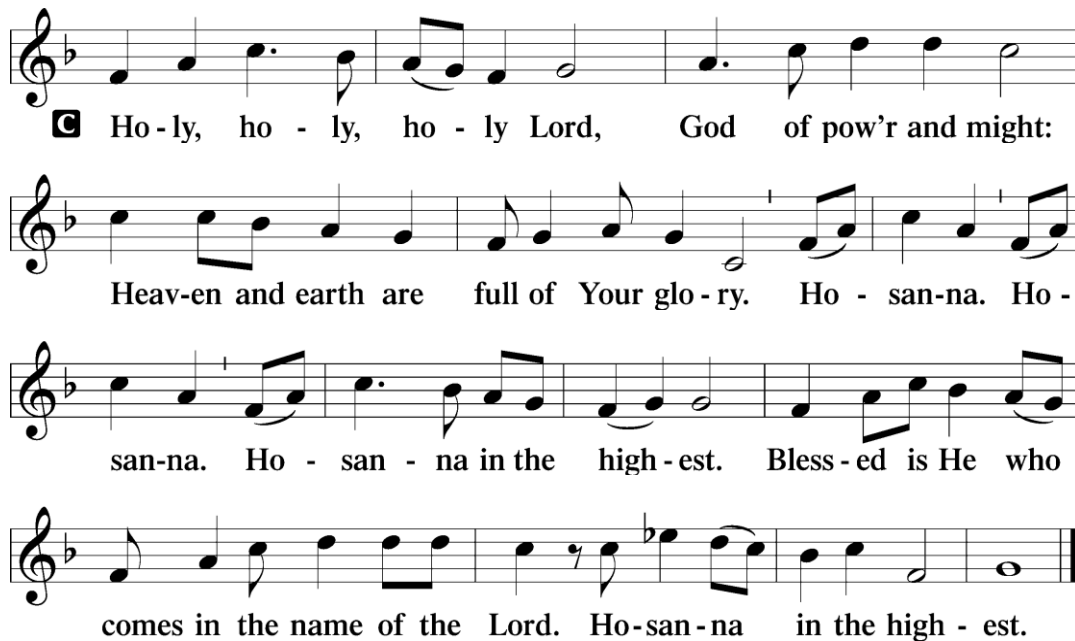
## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Lord in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

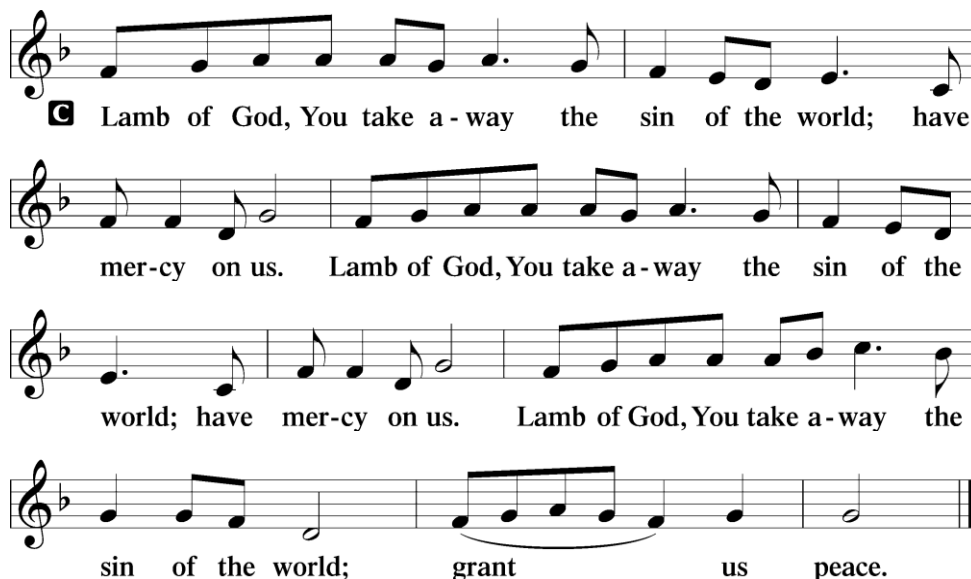
## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI



**♩** 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

"How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"	LSB #524
"And Jesus Said" (10:30)	Choir
"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"	LSB #528
"Christ, the Life of All the Living"	LSB #420

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your great love for us is beyond comprehension. We thank You for granting us peace, pardon, and comfort at Your Table, where we find satisfaction. Strengthen us through what we have here received and keep us steadfast throughout our pilgrimage on earth, bringing us at last to that heavenly banquet in Your kingdom. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

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.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

LSB #924



1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's  
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling  
joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion  
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,  
Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;  
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,  
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,  
O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.  
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE