



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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2017

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten"

LSB #914



1 Light of Light, O Sole - Be - got - ten Ra - diance of the
2 Word e - ter - nal, through Your be - ing God cre - at - ed
3 Still Your brood - ing Spir - it hov - ers O - ver cha - os,
4 Come, Lord Je - sus, by Your Spir - it In our hearts Your



Fa - ther's face, Word made flesh, who lived a - mong us
all we see, When the emp - ty spac - es ech - oed
dark and deep, Call - ing out with in - vi - ta - tion:
work be - gin, Bring the heal - ing res - to - ra - tion



Full of truth and full of grace, Shine up - on our
With the Fa - ther's "Let there be . . ." Light and life burst
"Rise, a - wak - en from your sleep; Christ the Lord will
Of Your im - age lost by sin; From Your full - ness



hu - man dark - ness; Pierce the night that shrouds our race.
from the glo - rious Pow - er of Your maj - es - ty!
shine up - on you And from death your soul shall keep."
all re - ceiv - ing Grace on grace, new life with - in!

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

O almighty God, merciful Father,
I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, You who are the light of the world, continue to shine Your light of grace and truth into our hearts. Expose our sin and remove our spiritual blindness that we may walk as children of the light who reflect You in all that we do; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 42:14-21

(God Will Turn Darkness into Light)

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*On His head a crown of thorns, on His tongue the bitter gall,
On His back a purple robe, on His heart the sin of all.
In His ear the rabble's cry, in His side the cursed spear,
From His lips a final prayer, on His cheek a falling tear.
See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Oh, did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
On His feet a crimson stain, on His hands a scarlet trace,
On His mind the Father's will,
Through His blood the gift of grace, through His blood the gift of grace.*

EPISTLE

Ephesians 5:8-14

(Walk as Children of Light)

⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PREPARATION HYMN

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" LSB # 849 (v. 1,3)

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered

at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious

Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us

storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 9:1-7,13-17,34-39

(Jesus Gives Sight to a Man Born Blind)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

(inside back LSB cover)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Christ, Our True and Only Light"

LSB #839



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of Your grace The souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray That they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more Such grace with



those who sit in night; Let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; En - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way! Let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'ers to Your fold. U - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore And end - less praise to



hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - joice.
in - most minds Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed In You find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

SERMON

"Spiritual Sight"

John 9:1-41

Vicar Luke Watt

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

(inside back LSB cover)

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PEACE OF THE LORD

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI

■ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"	LSB #411
"My Faith Has Found a Resting Place" (10:30)	Choir
"My Song is Love Unknown"	LSB #430
"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"	LSB #425

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;

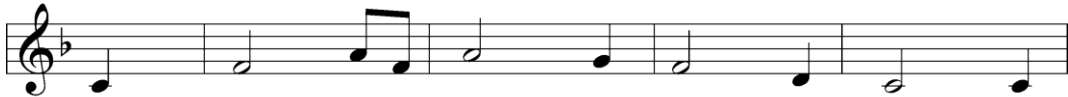
The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

LSB #744



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE