





## 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***  
**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

March 12, 2017

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN**

**"Fight the Good Fight"**

**LSB #664**



1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your  
2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; Lift up your  
3 Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; His bound - less  
4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He chang - es



strength, and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and  
eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way be -  
mer - cy will pro - vide. Trust, and en - dur - ing  
not who holds you dear; On - ly be - lieve, and



it shall be Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.  
fore us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.  
faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.  
you will see That Christ is all e - ter - nal - ly.

**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

*Armor of God: Ephesians 6:10-18*

Put on the full armor of God,

**so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.**

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,

**but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes,

**you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.**

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,

**with the breastplate of righteousness in place.**

And with your feet fitted with the readiness

**that comes from the gospel of peace.**

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith,

**with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.**

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit,

**which is the word of God.**

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

**With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.**

**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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Almighty God, Your Son was led into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. Come quickly to help us who, because of our weaknesses are assaulted by many temptations. Give each one of us strength and victory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Genesis 3:1-7

*(The Serpent Tempts Adam and Eve)*

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM (10:30)**      *"How Great the Love"*

M.K. Beall

*How great the love that held Him there upon a cruel, lonely tree.  
How great the gift. How great the love—that He would die for even me.  
How great the pain He had to bear, the bitter cup, the agony.  
How great the pain, How great the love—that He would die for even me.  
How great the debt of love I owe for sins forgiven, soul set free.  
How great the debt of love I owe for now and all eternity.  
How great the love that held Him there! How great the cost of victory!  
How great the gift! How great the love—that He would die for even me.*

**EPISTLE READING**

Romans 5:12-19

*(Death in Adam, Life in Christ)*

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—<sup>13</sup>for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.  
<sup>14</sup>Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.  
<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.<sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.  
<sup>17</sup>If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.  
<sup>18</sup>Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.<sup>19</sup>For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL PREPARATION HYMN** "O Christ, You Walked the Road" LSB #424



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.  
2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.  
3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.  
4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,  
5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.  
Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.  
Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-swerv-ing love.  
Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.  
Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.



*(The Temptation of Jesus)*

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

**Glory to You, Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup>and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,'  
and

"On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone."

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the

kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup>And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God  
and him only shall you serve."

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## CATECHISM

## The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

*What does this mean?*

**God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## "Be Still, My Soul"

LSB #752



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear pa - tient-  
 2 Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take To guide the  
 3 Be still, my soul; though dear - est friends de - part And all is  
 4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on When we shall



ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to or - der  
 fu - ture as He has the past. Your hope, your con - fi - dence let  
 dark - ened in this vale of tears; Then you will bet - ter know His  
 be for - ev - er with the Lord, When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and



and pro - vide; In ev - 'ry change He faith - ful will re -  
 noth - ing shake; All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at  
 love, His heart, Who comes to soothe your sor - rows and your  
 fear are gone, Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re -



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly Friend  
 last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know  
 fears. Be still, my soul; your Je - sus can re - pay  
 stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
 His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.  
 From His own full - ness all He takes a - way.  
 All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

## SERMON

*"Be Still, My Soul"*

## Psalm 46:10

Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer

## VOLUNTARY

## OFFERING

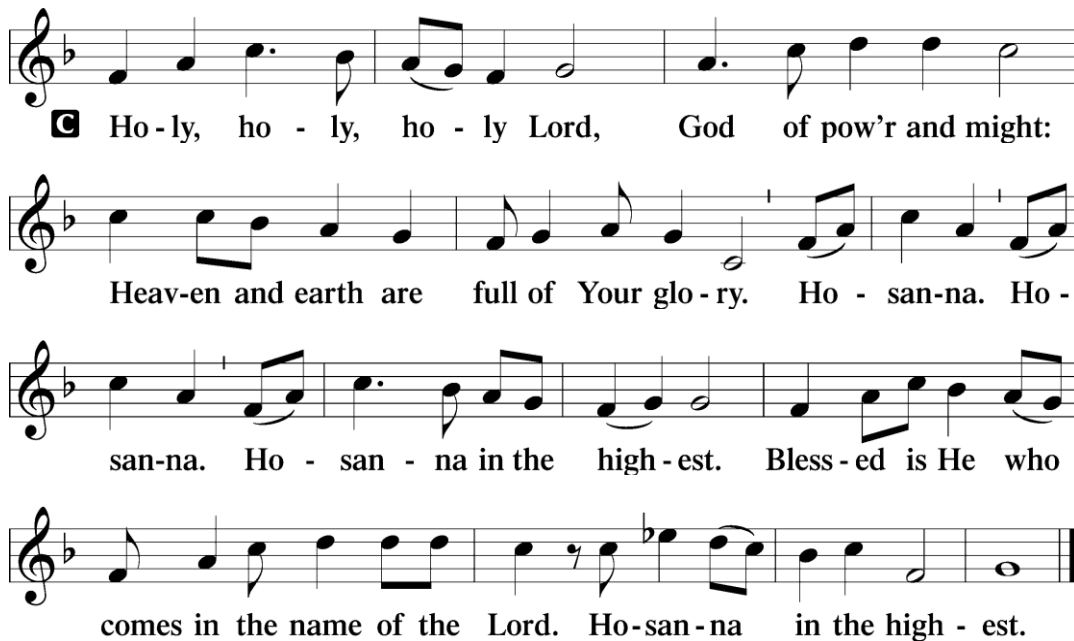
## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

## LORD'S PRAYER

(inside back LSB cover)

## SANCTUS



**C** 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.

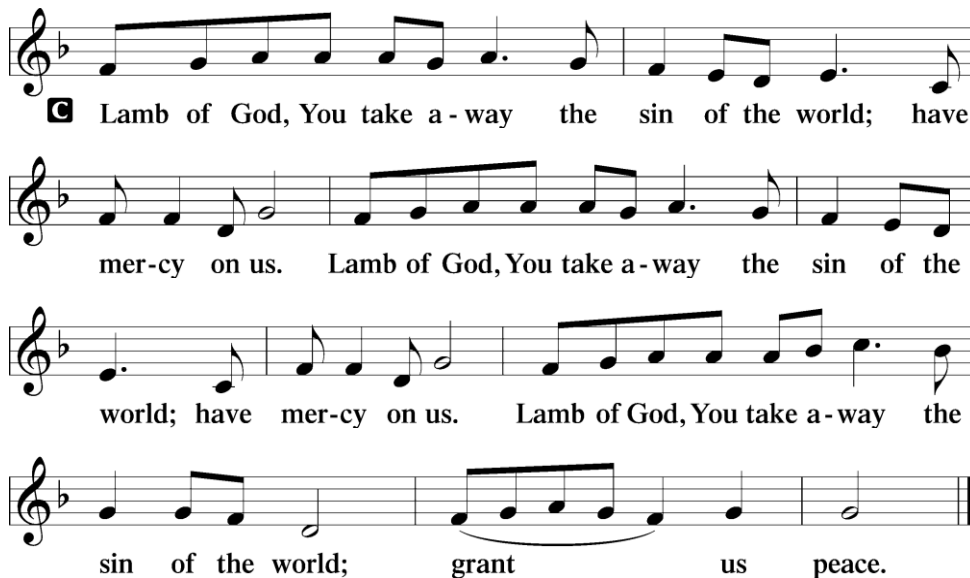
## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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

*Our distribution hymns remind us we are part of the “church militant.” The militant nature of the church is not a physical struggle but our spiritual struggle against sin, death, and the temptations of the devil. Saint Paul reminds us are real struggle is not against flesh and blood, but the spiritual powers at work in this world.*

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

LSB #660

“Cross of Jesus” (10:30)

Choir

“Onward, Christian Soldiers”

LSB #662

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

LSB #657

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Almighty and everlasting Father, through Your Son You have promised us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that in our daily need, and especially in our time of temptation, we may seek Your help and, by a true and lively faith in Your Word, obtain all that You have promised; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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.**

**+ LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS - MISSIONARY AMY FORMELLA +**

## CLOSING HYMN

"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

LSB #919



- 1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace  
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,  
3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;  
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.  
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.  
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.  
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

- 5 Abide with Your protection  
Among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us  
And overcome at length.

- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior,  
Among us with Your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us  
To reach our home above.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE