



growing  
OUR  
FAITH  
THROUGH  
Generosity



## 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



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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

Stewardship Sunday

October 22, 2017

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "Voices Raised to You We Offer" LSB #795 (v. 1-3, 5)



1 Voic - es raised to You we of - fer; Tune them, God, for  
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise You; Earth and sky Your  
3 Christ, the song of Love in - car - nate, Touch - ing earth with



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute  
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts You lend us,  
heav - en's grace, For Your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,



For Your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!  
We re - turn to You to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!  
For Your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to You we sing!  
Al - le - lu - ia! God, Cre - a - tor, source of life!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, Re - deem - er, Lord of life!

5 How can any praise we offer  
Measure all the thanks we owe?  
Take our hearts and hands and voices—  
Gifts of love we can bestow.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Triune God, to You we sing!

## CALL TO WORSHIP

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

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

We confess the attitudes and actions of our sinful nature hinder our kindness.

**Open our hearts to receive so that our hands might be generous; and find joy in refreshing others through unconditional love “expecting nothing in return.”** - *Luke 6:35*

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.**

# HYMN OF PRAISE

## "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart"

LSB #806



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the



Ho - ly One, Give thanks \_\_\_\_\_ be - cause He's giv - en\_\_ Je - sus



Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give



thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks \_\_\_\_\_ be - cause He's giv - en\_\_



Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am



strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," \_\_\_\_\_ Be - cause of



what the Lord has done for us. And now let the



weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am



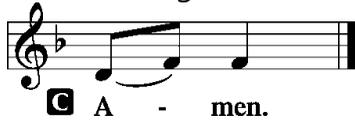
rich," \_\_\_\_\_ Be - cause of what the Lord has done for us.



Give thanks, \_\_\_\_\_ give thanks. \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious Father, You are the Giver of all good things. You long to be generous to Your children in both the needs of body and soul. You pour out unending blessings far beyond what we deserve, through the cross of Calvary in the saving work of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.



## FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

*(The Fellowship of the Early Church Marked by Generosity)*

<sup>42</sup>And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Use my life, Lord, to serve Your People,  
And follow You wherever You may lead.  
Let everything I do reveal my trust in You.  
Your faithful witness I will be.  
Use my hands, Lord, to help your people,  
And share the many blessings I receive.  
Let every warm embrace reflect your love and grace,  
So all may know You and believe.  
Use me, Lord, to be a true disciple.  
Use me, Lord, to comfort and forgive.  
Guide my way as I follow You in faith,  
And serve You every day I live.  
Take my life and let it be used to serve you faithfully.  
Show me, Lord, what You have planned.  
Help me live as You command.  
Help me live as You command.  
Use my voice, Lord, to teach Your people,  
And tell the hope and promise of Your Word.  
Let every song I raise resound in grateful praise  
To share my joy with all the world.  
Use me, Lord, to be a true disciple.  
Use me, Lord, to comfort and forgive.  
Guide my way as I follow You in faith,  
And serve You every day I live.  
Take my life and use me, Lord!*

## EPISTLE READING

I Timothy 6:17-19

*(Paul's Call to Be Generous)*

<sup>17</sup>As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. <sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA VERSE

**C** Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:32-36

*(Reflect God's Love by Giving without Expecting Back)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.



<sup>32</sup>"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, **expecting nothing in return**, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## APOSTLES' CREED

(inside back LSB cover)

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Now Thank We All Our God"

LSB #895



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voic - es,  
 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won-drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;  
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us  
 The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,



Who from our moth - ers' arms Has blest us on our way  
 And keep us in His grace And guide us when per - plexed  
 The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



With count-less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.  
 And free us from all ills In this world and the next!  
 For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

**SERMON***"Expect Nothing In Return"***Luke 6:35**

Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer

**OFFERING***(please register your attendance in the pads located near the center aisle)***VOLUNTARY**

## PRESENTATION OF PLEDGES

### **PASTORAL ADDRESS**

The people of God throughout the month of October present their pledges to the Lord for our work together in the year 2018. We remember that all that we are and have is God's, entrusted to us to faithfully manage for Him. We remember our need to hear the Gospel proclaimed and taught and the need of others to hear of the hope and salvation that is in Jesus Christ, the Light and Life of the world.

### **PRESENTATION HYMN** "We Give Thee But Thine Own" LSB #781 (v. 1,2)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.  
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

## PRESENTATION PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, accept our pledges in the days ahead as tokens of our thanksgiving for the life we have in Christ Jesus. Enable us to honor these pledges and fulfill them so that the gospel is proclaimed both at home and abroad. May your people grow in faith and may the lost hear and believe the saving message of Jesus Christ. We pray in the name of our servant Lord.

**Amen.**      *(Service continues with additional prayer petitions)*

For this congregation which the Lord has purchased and redeemed through Jesus' precious blood, that we be eternally preserved from the assaults of the devil, from division, and from lovelessness, let us pray to the Lord,

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those with ailments of body, soul, mind, and spirit that are in need of healing (*especially \_\_\_\_\_*) that the Lord would relieve their suffering, attend to their needs in managing their illness or difficulty, and strengthen them thoroughly to endure treatment and the process of recovery, let us pray to the Lord,

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who prepare to go to the Lord's Table solely with repentant hearts; so that without money and without price we may receive Jesus' body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and delight in this saving meal of our Savior Jesus, let us pray to the Lord,

**Lord, have mercy.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

(inside back LSB cover)

## 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

**G** 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

"We Praise You, O God"	LSB #785
"What Gift Can We Bring" (10:30)	Choir
"Praise and Thanksgiving"	LSB #789
"For the Fruits of His Creation"	LSB #894

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. May Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Your name.

**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.**

*~The service concludes on the following page~*

**CLOSING HYMN****"Take My Life and Let It Be"**

LSB #783



- 1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;  
 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;  
 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;  
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise.  
 Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.  
 Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.  
 Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it Thine,  
 It shall be no longer mine;  
 Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
 It shall be Thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
 At Thy feet its treasure store;  
 Take myself, and I will be  
 Ever, only, all for Thee.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**