



**The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills**  
**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

November 12, 2017

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN**

“Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”

LSB #670



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, Bright  
2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, More  
3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, Ye  
4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, Su -



ser - apts, cher - u - bim, and thrones, Raise the glad strain:  
glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, Lead their prais - es:  
pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: “Al - le - lu - ia,  
per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: “Al - le - lu - ia,



“Al - le - lu - ia!” Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,  
“Al - le - lu - ia!” Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal  
al - le - lu - ia!” Ye ho - ly Twelve, ye mar - tyrs  
al - le - lu - ia!” To God the Fa - ther, God the



pow'rs, Vir - tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels'  
Word, Most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the  
strong, All saints tri - um - phant, raise the  
Son, And God the Spir - it, Three in



choirs:            “Al - le - lu - ia,       al - le - lu - ia!       Al - le -  
 Lord:             “Al - le - lu - ia,       al - le - lu - ia!       Al - le -  
 song:             “Al - le - lu - ia,       al - le - lu - ia!       Al - le -  
 One:              “Al - le - lu - ia,       al - le - lu - ia!       Al - le -



lu - ia,   al - le - lu - ia,   al - le - lu       -       ia!”  
 lu - ia,   al - le - lu - ia,   al - le - lu       -       ia!”  
 lu - ia,   al - le - lu - ia,   al - le - lu       -       ia!”  
 lu - ia,   al - le - lu - ia,   al - le - lu       -       ia!”

**+ HOLY BAPTISM +**

**(8:00)**

**Emmett Andrew Welch Burnett**

*Son of Lee and Jessica Burnett*

**We welcome you into the Lord’s family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, to work with us in His kingdom.**

*~8:00 service continues with the Prayer of the Day on pg. 2~*

**INVOCATION (10:30)**

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

**Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (10:30)**

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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord, when the Day of Judgment comes, our only hope will be Your grace. Keep us alert and watchful for the coming of Your Son, and for His sake invite us to His marriage feast which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# HYMN OF PRAISE

## "This is the Feast"

*Refrain*

**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
5 For the Lamb ——— who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

*Final Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## FIRST READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

*(Coming of the Lord)*

<sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM** (10:30)

"Give Me Oil in My Lamp"

Arr. J. Martin

*Give me oil in my lamp. Give me oil in my lamp.*

*Give me oil in my lamp. Give me oil in my lamp.*

*Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.*

*Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning. Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.*

*Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning, keep me burning 'til the break of day.*

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King of Kings.*

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King.*

*I sing praise and give thanks for Your blessings. I sing praise every day I live.*

*I sing praise and give thanks for Your blessings, for the blessing You alone can give.*

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King of Kings.*

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King.*

*Give me joy in my heart, keep my singing. Give me joy in my heart each day.  
Give me joy in my heart keep me singing. Keep me singing 'til the break of day.*

*Give me oil in my lamp, keep my burning. Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.  
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning, keep me burning 'til the break of day.*

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King.*

*Hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King!*

## **SECOND READING**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

*(The Day of the Lord)*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL PREPARATION VERSE**

**"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"**

LSB #334



I O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.

*(Parable of the Ten Virgins)*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.****APOSTLES’ CREED** (10:30)

(inside back LSB cover)

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**



1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," The watch - men on the  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, And all her heart with  
 3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels



heights are cry - ing; "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"  
 joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
 sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals' clear - est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing  
 For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in  
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the



cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?  
 truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.  
 choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.



The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!  
 Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son,  
 No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might



Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare  
 Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall  
 Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly



To meet the Bride - groom, who is near."  
 To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.  
 Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

**SERMON**

*"Watch!"*

**Matthew 25:13**

Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer

**VOLUNTARY**

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

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**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.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## AGNUS 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 begin on the following page~*

# "Though All Our Life Is Like a Scroll"



*All* 1 Though all our life is like a scroll Un -  
*All* 2 Though pomp - ous - ly we try to dress In  
*Choir* 3 Though earth's deep wa - ters foam and roar As  
*All* 4 Though crit - ics cut out Scrip-ture's claims And  
*All* 5 Now sing a high dox - ol - o - gy To



rolled with blem-ish-ed pa - ges; Though sin has shred - ded  
 cos - tumes of our mak - ing; Though fig leaves of self -  
 surg - ing waves are roll - ing; Though all the na - tions  
 treat them with de - ri - sion; Though they con-duct their  
 God who gives sal - va - tion. Both here and in e -



what was whole And death is now our wa - ges; Yet  
 righ-teous-ness Are fu - tile and heart - break - ing; Yet  
 rage with war While bells of doom are toll - ing; Yet  
 hos - tile aims With scal - pels of sus - pi - cion; Yet  
 ter - ni - ty Let this be our vo - ca - tion. To



here we stand in con - fi - dence, With Je - sus as our  
 filth - y rags Christ glad - ly wore So we would per - ish  
 God gives peace - ful for - ti - tude, He nur - tures us with  
 how the liv - ing, two-edged sword Pro - claims the dead and  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it raise A sym - pho - ny of



sole de - fense, For He a - lone still saves\_\_ us.  
 nev - er - more. His grace a - lone still clothes\_\_ us.  
 Heav-en's food. True faith a - lone still an - chors.  
 ris - en Lord! God's Word a - lone: still truth - ful.  
 grate - ful praise, For He a - lone is wor - thy.

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** (continued)

"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus" (10:30)	Choir
"Draw Us to Thee"	LSB # 701
"Onward, Christian Soldiers"	LSB # 662

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER** (8:00)

Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your true 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.**

## **NEW MEMBER WELCOME** (10:30)

***Bill and Judy Baker***

***Stephanie Blood***

***Walter and Lisa Hellwig (Rachel, Walter, Hannah)***

***Harry and Theresa Niendorf***

***Suzy Selassie – Michael***

***Clint and Dorothy Rowin***

***Jim and Melissa Schmaltz***

***Linda Schoen***

***Luis and Janelle Sierra (Alex, Franky, Gabriel, Max)***

***Larry Smith***

***Sarah Stephens and Eric Wilbrandt***

***Bethany Quinn***

## 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.**

## SENDING 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.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## 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](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

PASTOR EMERITUS: The Reverend Clifford Hellmers –[vestluth@juno.com](mailto:vestluth@juno.com)

VICAR: Vicar Kyle Will –[vicar@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:vicar@vestavialutheran.org) (850) 321-2922

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BOOK KEEPER: Bernie Gregson- [bgregson@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:bgregson@vestavialutheran.org)

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.