





## 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

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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CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Leigh Walter– [lwalter@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:lwalter@vestavialutheran.org)

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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.

*The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills*  
The First Sunday in Advent  
**December 3, 2017**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING VERSICLES**

The Spirit and the Church cry out:

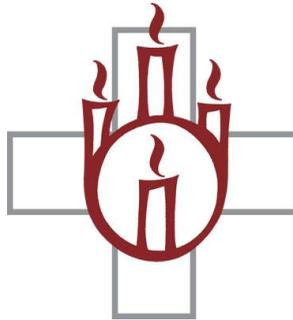
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

All those who await His appearance pray:

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

The whole creation pleads:

**Come, Lord Jesus.**



**OPENING HYMN****"Savior of the Nations, Come"**

LSB #332 (v. 1-4)



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
God was there up - on His throne.  
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and be saved by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Vicar: Advent is a four week journey of preparation for the birth of the coming Christ child.*

Pastor: The wreath is green to remind us the Christ child comes to bring us life.

*Vicar: The four blue candles represent the four weeks of this special time of repentance, renewal, and reconciliation.*

Pastor: The wreath is a circle to remind us the Christ child comes to bring us eternal life.

*Vicar: The First Candle is known as the "Prophecy Candle" or the "Candle of Hope."*

Pastor: The light pierces the darkness and reminds us that we have hope because God is faithful and fulfills all of His promises.

All: **Our hope comes from the Lord.** *(Romans 15:12-13)*

*(Advent Wreath is Lit)*

**RESPONSE**

## "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

LSB #357 (v. 1)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*(Children of Israel Fear God Has Withdrawn His Presence Due to Their Sin)*

<sup>1</sup>Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. <sup>8</sup>But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Shine on our world and light the darkness.  
Long we have waited for a sign.  
Turn our midnight into morning.  
Turn our mourning into joy divine.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Come, Messiah, light our way.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Shine on our world today.  
(Come, O come.)  
Shine on our world today.*

*Shine on our hearts and light the darkness.  
Long we've been blinded by our sin.  
Turn our sorrow into gladness.  
Churn our spirits, stir us deep within.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Come, Messiah, light our way.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Shine on our world today.  
(Come, O come.)  
Shine on our world today.*

*O come, O bright and morning star,  
(Shine on our world today.)  
And bring us comfort from afar!  
(Shine on our world today.)*

*Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Come, Messiah, light our way.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Shine on our world today.  
(Come, O come.)  
Shine on our world today.  
(Come, O come.)  
Shine on our world today.  
O come, O come, Emmanuel.*

**EPISTLE READING**

I Corinthians 1:3-9

*(Paul's Thanksgiving for the Faithfulness of God)*

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL PREPARATION VERSE**

"Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB #349 (v.1)

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff contains the first two lines of the verse, the second staff contains the next two lines, and the third staff contains the final line. The music ends with a double bar line.

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Mark 11:1-10

*(Jesus Enter Triumphantly into Jerusalem)*

The Holy Gospel for this First Sunday in Advent is from St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.

**Glory be to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" <sup>4</sup>And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. <sup>5</sup>And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. <sup>7</sup>And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup>And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

(inside back LSB cover)

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" LSB #348



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.  
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.  
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.  
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

**SERMON**

*"Are We More than Dust in the Wind?"*

**Isaiah 64:6**

Pastor Michael Ahlemeyer

**OFFERING**

**VOLUNTARY**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Lord, in Your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

(inside back LSB cover)

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **PAX DOMINI**

The peace of the ✠ Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

"Once in Royal David's City"	LSB #376
"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"	Choir (10:30)
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"	LSB #393
"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"	LSB #374

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving kindness sent Your only begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,

**Amen.**

**+++Rev. Charles St. Onge+++**

Pastor, Ascension Lutheran, Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
LCMS Area Facilitator for the Caribbean

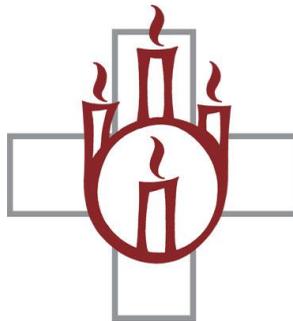
## **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**



**CLOSING HYMN****"The Advent of Our King"**

LSB #331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
 Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
 And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
 The sinful self be put away,  
 The new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,  
 Who comes to set us free,  
 With Father, Spirit, ever one  
 Through all eternity.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

## CONTINUE WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 6TH

11:30 AM - SENIOR MINISTRY ACTIVITY

6:00 PM - FELLOWSHIP DINNER

6:30 PM - CHILDREN'S PROGRAM PRACTICE

6:45 PM - WORSHIP

7:30 PM - ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE