



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 Kyle Will –vicar@vestavialutheran.org (850) 321-2922

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: Amy Alvis –aalvis@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

Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2017

8:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

LSB #344



- 1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
- 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
- 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
- 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
- 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in; And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

OPENING VERSICLES

This is the day which the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

From the rising of the sun to its setting.

The name of the Lord is to be praised.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Our God shall come; he does not keep silence.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Make His paths straight.

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: During the first two weeks of Advent we light the first two candles. The Second Candle is known as the "Bethlehem Candle," reminding us of Mary and Joseph's faithful journey to Bethlehem to fulfill God's promise to bring the coming Christ child into the world. As we await Christ's return in glory, this candle serves as a reminder that one day our faith will be made into sight and that we shall see Christ face to face.

(Advent Wreath is lit)

RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB #357

2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on

might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law

Refrain
And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!

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

(Comfort for God's People)

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(The Day of the Lord Will Come)

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

This is the name by which He will be called:

The Lord Is Our Righteousness

He shall reign as king and deal wisely, And shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

This is the name by which He will be called:

The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

This is the name by which He will be called:

The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

(John the Baptist Prepares the Way)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CATECHISM

The Second Article

Redemption

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

LSB #347



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

SERMON

"Are You Comfortable?"

Isaiah 40:1-10

Vicar Kyle Will

VOLUNTARY

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

*The congregation responds, “**Lord, have mercy.**” to each petition until the final:*

Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

LORD’S PRAYER

LUTHER’S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

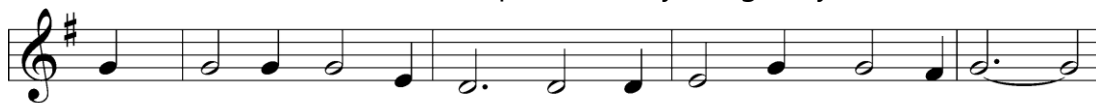
Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN**"Prepare the Royal Highway"**

LSB #343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom-ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE