





## 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)

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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  
**Service of the Rite of Confirmation**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

10:30 AM  
May 20, 2018

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

LSB #501



1 Come down, O Love di - vine; Seek Thou this soul of mine,  
2 O let it free - ly burn, Till world - ly pas - sions turn  
3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty Mine out - ward ves - ture be  
4 And so the yearn - ing strong, With which the soul will long,



And vis - it it with Thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
And low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
Shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; With - in my heart ap - pear,  
And let Thy glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight,  
True low - li - ness of heart, Which takes the hum - bler part,  
No soul can guess His grace Till it be - come the place



And kin - dle it, Thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
And o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes His dwell - ing.

## 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.

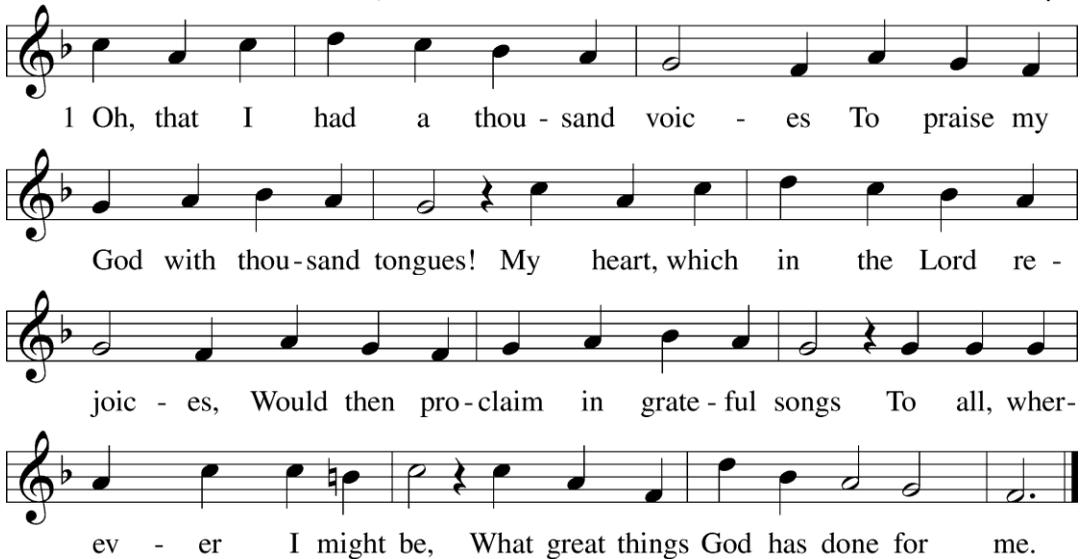
**Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day, when all who have ran the race of faith shall receive the crown of life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" LSB #811 (v. 1,5)



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es To praise my  
God with thou-sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -  
joic - es, Would then pro-claim in grate - ful songs To all, wher -  
ev - er I might be, What great things God has done for me.

5 Creator, humbly I implore You  
To listen to my earthly song  
Until that day when I adore You,  
Together with the angel throng  
And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing  
Eternal anthems to my King.

## FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-12

*(The Day of Pentecost)*

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup>And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup>both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." <sup>12</sup>And all were amazed and perplexed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Spiritual Blessings in Christ)*

<sup>16</sup>But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

<sup>17</sup>For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*"Be in Our Gathering"*

S. T. Ford

*Be in our gath'ring, Spirit of All, binding in love your chosen and called.  
Be in our mission, making us whole, stirring to service and touching each soul.*

*Be in our struggles, so that we live able to differ and to forgive.  
Heal our divisions with your embrace, weaving them into your fabric of grace.*

*Spirit of God, Heavenly Dove, fill us we pray with your goodness and love.  
Fill us we pray with your goodness and love.*

*Be in our searching, humbly we pray, lighting the journey, guiding our way;  
Wisdom of Ages making us one, parting the darkness, revealing The Son.*

*Be in our worship, God, to impart, patience and kindness to ev'ry heart;  
Heirs to your promise, hope yet to come, born of the knowledge that you are our home.*

*Spirit of God, Heavenly Dove, fill us we pray with your goodness and love.  
Fill us we pray with your goodness and love. Amen, Amen.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth and sixteenth chapters.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(The Work of the Holy Spirit)*

<sup>26</sup>“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. <sup>27</sup>And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

<sup>4</sup>But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

<sup>5</sup>But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup>But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup>Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup>concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

<sup>12</sup>“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

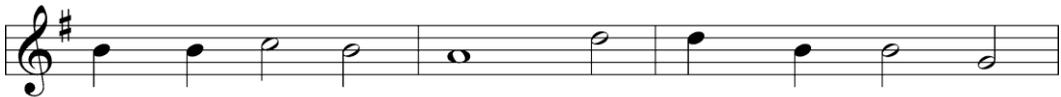
## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Children may leave at this time for Children's Church)

### SERMON HYMN "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" LSB #528 (v. 1-5)



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing My  
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As -  
3 Je - sus! The name that charms our fears, That  
4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; He  
5 Look un - to Him, ye na - tions; own Your



great Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of my  
sist me to pro - claim, To spread through all the  
bids our sor - rows cease; 'Tis mu - sic in the  
sets the pris - 'ner free. His blood can make the  
God, ye fall - en race. Look and be saved through



God and King, The tri - umphs of His grace!  
earth a - broad, The hon - ors of Thy name.  
sin - ner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.  
foul - est clean; His blood a - vails for me.  
faith a - lone, Be jus - ti - fied by grace.

## SERMON

*"Learning a Foreign Language"*

**Acts 2:3-6**

Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer

## GATHERING OF THE OFFERING

## VOLUNTARY

*"One Bread, One Body"*

*traditional*

## **INDIVIDUAL CONFIRMATION**

*After a personal statement of faith, each confirmand kneels to receive a stole, blessing, and a confirmation verse.*

### **Confirmation Class of 2018**

**+ Henry Hayes +**

*Why did God give the law?*

I Thessalonians 5:11

**+Evelynn Nicholas +**

*Why did God give the law?*

Philippians 4:13

**+ Caroline Romp +**

*What does it mean that we are saved through faith alone?*

Hebrews 4:16

**+Alex Sierra +**

*What is the purpose of the Bible?*

Revelation 2:10

## INVITATION TO CONFESS FAITH

Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

You have been baptized and you have been taught the faith according to our Lord's invitation. The fulfillment of His bidding we now celebrate with thankful hearts, rejoicing to confess the faith into which you were baptized and which you yourselves will now confess before the Church. Jesus said: "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will confess him before My Father in heaven. But he that denies Me before men, I will deny him before My Father in Heaven."

Pastor: Lift up your hearts therefore to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what, in the name of the Lord, as fellow children of God in His Church, we shall now ask you :

**Congregation: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?**

*Confirmands: I do.*

**Congregation: Do you believe in God the Father Almighty?**

*Confirmands: Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

**Congregation:**      **Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?**

*Confirmands:*      *Yes, I believe 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. On 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 shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

**Congregation:**      **Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?**

*Confirmands:*      *Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*

**Congregation:**      **Do you believe the inspired Scriptures to be the written Word of God and confess the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to be faithful and true to the Scriptures?**

*Confirmands:*      *I do.*

**Pastor:**              Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

*Confirmands:*      *I do.*

**Pastor:**              Do you desire to be a member of the Lutheran Church and of this congregation?

*Confirmands:*      *I do.*

Pastor: Do you sincerely intend to conform all your life to God's word, to receive regularly His grace and forgiveness in Holy Communion, and serve Him continually in faith, word, and deed as He enables you?

*Confirmands: I do.*

Pastor: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

*Confirmands: I do.*

## **WELCOME INTO CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP**

Upon this your profession and promise, I invite and welcome you, as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation, to share with us in all the gifts our Lord has for His Church and to live them out continually in His worship and service. He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**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.**

## COMMUNION PREPARATION VERSE "At the Lamb's High Feast" LSB #633 (v.1-2)



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

*(Please be seated for Distribution)*

## DISTRIBUTION

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS AND SONGS

"Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid"	LSB #500
"Give Thanks to God the Father"	Choir
"Holy Spirit, Light Divine"	LSB #496
"Take My Life and Let It Be"	LSB #784

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from ear to the heart, from the heart to daily life, that as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

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 continues on the following page with the Recessional Hymn.~*

**RECESSIONAL HYMN****"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"**

LSB #685 (v.1,3-4)



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -  
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He  
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to  
 con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to  
 from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,  
 us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion  
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and  
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that  
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful  
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,  
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.  
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.  
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**