



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

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Ruth Johnson –rswanagin@gmail.com

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CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Leigh Walter –lwalter@vestavialutheran.org

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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

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 6, 2019

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Arise and Shine in Splendor" LSB #396 (v. 1-4)



1 A - rise and shine in splen - dor; Let night to day sur -
2 See earth in dark - ness ly - ing, The hea - then na - tions
3 The world's re - mot - est rac - es, Up - on whose wea - ry
4 Lift up your eyes in won - der— See, na - tions gath - er



ren - der. Your light is draw - ing near. A - bove, the
dy - ing In hope - less gloom and night. To you the
fac - es The sun looks from the sky, Shall run with
yon - der From sin to be set free. The world has



day is beam - ing, In match - less beau - ty
Lord of heav - en— Your life, your hope— has
zeal un - tir - ing, With joy Your light de -
heard Your sto - ry; Her sons come to Your



gleam - ing; The glo - ry of the Lord is here.
giv - en Great glo - ry, hon - or, and de - light.
sir - ing That breaks up - on them from on high.
glo - ry; Her daugh - ters haste Your light to see.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Numbers 24:17, Psalm 72:8-11, 17

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

Amen.

A star will come out of Jacob,

a scepter will rise out of Israel.

May He have dominion from sea to sea.

May desert tribes bow down before Him.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute.

May the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

May all kings fall down before Him,

May His name endure forever.

May people be blessed in Him,

May all nations call Him blessed!

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Song of Thankfulness and Praise" LSB #394 (v. 1, 5)



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

(Future Glory of Israel)

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(The Mystery of Christ)

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PREPARATION VERSE**"O Morning Star"**

LSB #395 (v. 1)

1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer - cy!
Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's son, Our Lord and mas -
ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on - ly!
Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, All vic - to - rious,
Rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!

(Visit of the Wise Men)

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the second chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.**APOSTLES' CREED**

(inside back LSB cover)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"As With Gladness Men of Old"

LSB #397



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
 5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
 So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
 Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
 So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
 All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
 There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

SERMON*"Not Just Wise Men, but Brave Men"*

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

John 12:42-43**OFFERING****VOLUNTARY****PRAYER OF THE CHURCH****LORD'S PRAYER**

(inside back LSB cover)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

- 1. We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.**

***REFRAIN:* O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

- 2. Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign**

Refrain.

- 3. Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God on high.**

Refrain.

4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom:
Sorr'wing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Refrain.

5. Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Earth to heav'n replies.

Refrain.

"The First Noel"

1. The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay; keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

REFRAIN: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east,
Beyond them far, And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.

Refrain.

**3. And by the light of that same star,
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.**

Refrain.

**4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.**

Refrain.

**5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full reverently upon the knee,
And offered there, in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.**

Refrain.

“Good Christian Men Rejoice”

**1. Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

2. **Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath ope'd the heavenly door,
And man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!**
3. **Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the life of Your Son, Christ Jesus, given to us in this Holy Meal. May Your Spirit bring to fruition in our lives the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation, that we would live for You, and love as Christ has loved us, for His sake and for the sake of all the world. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the LORD look upon you with His favor, and give you His peace.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

LSB #411



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

DISMISSAL

Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

