



All of them have contributed out of their abundance,
but she out of her poverty ...

Luke 21:4, NRSV



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

DIRECTOR OF MOTHER'S DAY OUT: Brooke Heisler –bheisler@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

Stewardship Sunday

September 22, 2019

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK #1

OPENING HYMN

"Now Thank We All Our God"

LSB #895



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voic - es,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won-drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;
With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,



Who from our moth - ers' arms Has blest us on our way
And keep us in His grace And guide us when per - plexed
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



With count - less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, we praise You and we thank You for Your tender, faithful Love. Everything we are and everything we have is Your gift. In the Name and Spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, and to share our time, our talent, and our material gifts as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus.

Amen.

(Cain Offers Fruits while Abel Offers Firstfruits)

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." ²And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. ¹⁶Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM (10:30)

Arr. D. Angerman

"My Worth Is Not in What I Own"

My worth is not in what I own; not in the strength and bone.

But in the costly wounds of love at the cross.

My worth is not in skill or name; in win or lose, in pride or shame.

But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross.

I rejoice in my Redeemer, Greatest Treasure, Wellspring of my soul.

I will trust in Him, no other; my soul is satisfied in Him alone.

As summer flow'rs we fade and die; fame, youth and beauty hurry by.

But life eternal calls to us at the cross.

I will not boast in wealth or might, or human wisdom's fleeting light.

But I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross.

I rejoice in my Redeemer, Greatest Treasure, Wellspring of my soul.

I will trust in Him, no other; my soul is satisfied in Him alone.

Two wonders here that I confess: my worth and my unworthiness.

My value fixed, my ransom paid at the cross.

I rejoice in my Redeemer, Greatest Treasure, Wellspring of my soul.

I will trust in Him, no other; my soul is satisfied in Him alone.

I rejoice in my Redeemer, Greatest Treasure, Wellspring of my soul.

I will trust in Him no other. My soul is satisfied in Him alone.

EPISTLE READING

II Corinthians 9:6-8

(The Lord Loves a Cheerful Giver)

⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

LSB #783 (v. 1,4)



1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 21:1-4

(The Widow's Mite)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, ²and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. ³And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. ⁴For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

First Article with Explanation

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"We Praise You, O God"

LSB #785



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

SERMON

"Widow's Mite: Two Sides (Stories) of the Coin"

Luke 21:1-4

Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer

OFFERING

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

VOLUNTARY

PRESENTATION OF PLEDGES

PASTORAL ADDRESS

The people of God throughout the months of September and October present their pledges to the Lord for our work together in the year 2020. We remember that all that we are and have is God's, entrusted to us to faithfully manage for Him. We remember our need to hear the Gospel proclaimed and taught and the need of others to hear of the hope and salvation that is in Jesus Christ, the Light and Life of the world.

PRESENTATION HYMN

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"

LSB #781 (v. 1,2)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

PRESENTATION PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, accept our pledges in the days ahead as tokens of our thanksgiving for the life we have in Christ Jesus. Enable us to honor these pledges and fulfill them so that the gospel is proclaimed both at home and abroad. May your people grow in faith and may the lost hear and believe the saving message of Jesus Christ. We pray in the name of our servant Lord.

Amen.

(Service continues with additional prayer petitions)

For this congregation which the Lord has purchased and redeemed through Jesus' precious blood, that we be eternally preserved from the assaults of the devil, from division, and from lovelessness, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mercy.

For those with ailments of body, soul, mind, and spirit that are in need of healing (*especially* _____) that the Lord would relieve their suffering, attend to their needs in managing their illness or difficulty, and strengthen them thoroughly to endure treatment and the process of recovery, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mercy.

For those who prepare to go to the Lord's Table solely with repentant hearts; so that without money and without price we may receive Jesus' body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and delight in this saving meal of our Savior Jesus, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mercy.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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.**

SANCTUS



**Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.**

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.

~please be seated for the Distribution Hymns~

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"	LSB #793
"Lord of All Good" (10:30)	Choir
"Praise and Thanksgiving"	LSB #789
"For the Fruits of His Creation"	LSB #894

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

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.

CLOSING HYMN

"Come, All Christians, Be Committed"

F F F F F E D

1 Come, all Chris-tians, be com - mit - ted to the ser - vice of the
 2 Of your time and tal - ents give now, they are gifts from God a -
 3 Come in praise and ad - o - ra - tion, all who on Christ's name be -

F C7 F F A Gm Dm Dm7 Gm7 Am Bb Bb6

E A Bb

Lord; make your lives for him more fit - ted, tune your hearts with one ac -
 bove, to be used by Chris-tians free - ly to pro - claim his won - drous
 lieve; wor - ship him with con - se - cra - tion, grace and love will you re -

F Dm C F C Bb C F Dm Am Dm Gm7

cord. Come in - to his courts with glad - ness, all your sa - cred vows re -
 love. Come a - gain to serve the Sav - ior, tithes and of - ferings with you
 ceive. For his grace give Christ the glo - ry, for the Spir - it and the

Bb Dm C7 F F Dm Gm Dm Gm7 Am7 Bb Gm7 F

C C G E F

new, turn a - way from sin and sad - ness, be trans - formed with life a - new.
 bring; in your work, with Christ find fa - vor, and with joy his prais - es sing.
 Word, and re - peat the gos - pel sto - ry un - til all his name have heard.