

A Living, Daring CONFIDENCE

A Worship Series on Romans

With Themes from the
Theology of Martin Luther



*“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace,
so sure and certain that a man would stake his life
on it a thousand times.”*

(Martin Luther, Preface to Romans, 1522)



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF VESTAVIA HILLS

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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

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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

Part One of Romans: Law and Gospel

October 6, 2019

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

LSB #657 (v. 1-3)



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat-'ning to de -



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -
vour us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to
self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of
o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He
hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's
we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's



arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION & 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.

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.

LITANY ON LAW AND GOSPEL

The Bible contains two main teachings. We call them the Law and the Gospel. The Law has many purposes, but it especially shows us our sin, as the Apostle Paul says in Romans 3:20: "Through the law comes knowledge of sin." The Gospel shows us God's grace, especially in Jesus Christ, whose blood shed on the cross justifies us through faith. The following verses from Romans and Paul's other letters assure us that God's grace always triumphs over the Law's accusations.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

We are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. *(Romans 3:23-24)*

For the wages of sin is death.

The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. *(Romans 6:23)*

Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. *(Galatians 3:10b, 13a)*

You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked.

By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your doing; it is the gift of God. *(Ephesians 2: 1-2a; 8)*

The Gospel of God's grace triumphs over the Law's accusations.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. *(Romans 8:1)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious Father, You have justified us through the blood shed by our Savior. We thank You for declaring us righteous in Your sight by this gift of grace. We ask that You give to us an ever growing and stronger faith that holds on to Jesus to silence the Law's accusations. Lead us to boast not in ourselves but only in the Gospel, the good news of Your rich blessings given to us because of Jesus. We pray this in Your holy Name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for You live and reign as the one true God, now and forever.

Amen.

RESPONSE

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

LSB #657 (v. 4)

4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who
fear it; For God Him-self fights by our side With weap-ons
of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,
child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They
can - not win the day. The King-dom's ours for - ev - er!

OLD TESTAMENT

Jeremiah 31:31-34

(A New Covenant)

³¹“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 3:19-26

(A Righteousness Apart from the Law)

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"

LSB #609 (v. 1,6)



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;
From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release
And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:14-18

(Law through Moses; Grace through Jesus)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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.

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. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THEME HYMN

"In Christ Alone"

Getty/Townend



1. In Christ a-lone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my
2. In Christ a-lone, who took on flesh, full-ness of God in help-less
3. There in the ground His bod-y lay, Light of the world by dark-ness
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in



song; This Cor-ner-stone, this sol-id Ground, firm through the
babe! This gift of love and right-eous-ness, scorned by the
slain; Then, burst-ing forth in glo-rious Day, up from the
me; From life's first cry to fi-nal breath, Je-sus com-



fierc-est drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of
ones He came to save. Till on that cross as Je-sus
grave He rose a-gain! And as He stands in vic-to-
mands my des-ti-ny. No power of hell, no scheme of



peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings cease. My Com-fort-
died, the wrath of God was sat-is-fied, For ev-ery
ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; For I am
man, can ev-er pluck me from His hand; Till He re-



er, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.
sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
His and He is mine, bought with the pre-cious blood of Christ.
turns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

SERMON *"Part One: God Has Done What the Law Could Not Do"*

Romans 3:19-26

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

VOLUNTARY

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER *(inside back LSB cover)*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

"How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" LSB #524

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" LSB #528

"Beautiful Savior" LSB #537

"Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness" LSB #563

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshipped in Your presence and received both forgiveness of many sins and assurance of Your love in Christ Jesus. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until, with all Your saints, we inherit eternal salvation, 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.

SENDING HYMN

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

LSB #924



1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling



joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.