



*O Come, O Come*  
**UNEXPECTED**  
*Immanuel*

**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**December 15, 2019**

**The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills**



## 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](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)

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Ruth Johnson –[rswanagin@gmail.com](mailto:rswanagin@gmail.com)

DIRECTOR OF MOTHER'S DAY OUT: Brooke Heisler –[bheisler@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:bheisler@vestavialutheran.org)

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Leigh Walter –[lwalter@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:lwalter@vestavialutheran.org)

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT: Amy Alvis –[aalvis@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:aalvis@vestavialutheran.org)

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  
The Third Sunday in Advent  
**December 15, 2019**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN**

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

LSB #358 (v. 1,3-5)



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your  
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by  
5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad - dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your  
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,  
clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.  
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.  
in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

## OPENING VERSICLES

The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

All those who await His appearance pray:

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

The whole creation pleads:

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

## 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.**

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

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,

**Amen.**

### RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB #357 (v. 1)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. *Refrain* Re - jice! Re - jice!



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

~LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH DURING THE RESPONSE~

*(Angels Appear to Abraham)*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD appeared to [Abraham] by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.

<sup>2</sup>He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth <sup>3</sup>and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, <sup>5</sup>while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup>And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent."

<sup>10</sup>The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

<sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" <sup>13</sup>The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'" <sup>14</sup>Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*"Long Awaited One"*

*Come now, Child of promise, hope of all the earth.  
This broken world will be healed by Your most humble birth.  
Come now, Child of mercy, Prince of Peace and grace.  
Your life will silence our fears and all our sins erase.  
Long awaited One, we will find rest in Your love.  
We have walked in darkness; let us see light from above.  
Emmanuel, God with us, hope has begun.  
Emmanuel, You are the Light, God's only Son.  
Your will come to save us all, O long awaited One.  
Come now, Child of heaven, savior, King and Friend.  
O living Word of the Father now to us descend.  
Come now, Child of wonder, reign in majesty.  
Awaken all of creation, set our spirits free.  
Long awaited One, we will find rest in Your love.  
We have walked in darkness, let us see light from above.  
Emmanuel, God with us, hope has begun.  
Emmanuel, You are the light, God's only Son.  
You will come to save us all, O long awaited One.  
Come now, Child of promise, long awaited One.  
Come now, Child of promise, long awaited One.  
Come now, come now, come now, come now, come.*

## EPISTLE READING

Philippians 4:4-7

*(Rejoice Always for the Lord Is at Hand)*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL PREPARATION VERSE

"Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB #349 (v. 1)

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.

*(Angels Appear to the Shepherds)*

The Holy Gospel for this Third Sunday in Advent is from St. Luke, the second chapter.

**Glory be to You, O Lord.**

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

*(inside back cover of the LSB hymnal)*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

LSB #367 (v. 1,2,5)



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

**SERMON**

*Unexpected: "Angels Appearing"*

**Luke 2:8-15**

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

**OFFERING**

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

## **VOLUNTARY**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Lord, in Your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*(inside back cover of the LSB hymnal)*

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **PAX DOMINI**

The peace of the ☩ Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

"Let All Together Praise Our God"	LSB #389 (v. 1-5)
"Carol at the Manger" (10:30)	Choir
"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"	LSB #366
"Let Our Gladness Have No End"	LSB #381

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving kindness sent Your only begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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 on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

LSB #368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?  
3 Come to Beth-le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun-tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

~ VOTERS MEETING FOLLOWING LATE SERVICE~