



The people  
who walked  
in darkness  
have seen  
a great light.

~Isaiah 9:2~

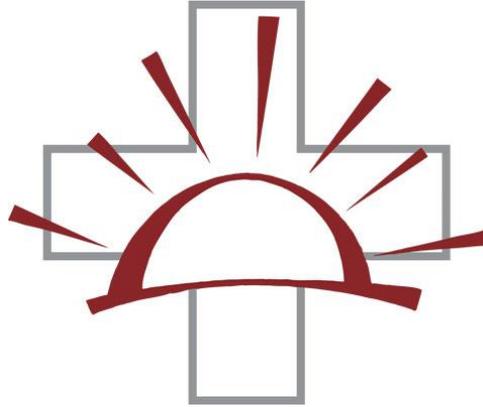
The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

January 26, 2020

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

January 26, 2020



**PRELUDE**

**OPENING HYMN**

"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

LSB #395 (v. 1-4)



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's  
2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di-vine, And deep with-in  
3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls  
4 Al-might-y Fa-ther, in Your Son You loved us when



own truth and light, A-glow with grace and mer-cy!  
our hearts now shine; There light a flame un-dy-ing!  
from God a-bove A ray of pur-est plea-sure.  
not yet be-gun Was this old earth's foun-da-tion!



Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's son, Our Lord and mas -  
In Your one bod - y let us be As liv - ing branch -  
Your Word and Spir - it, flesh and blood Re - fresh our souls  
Your Son has ran - somed us in love To live in Him



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on - ly!  
es of a tree, Your life our lives sup - ply - ing.  
with heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure!  
here and a - bove: This is Your great sal - va - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, All vic - to - rious,  
Now, though dai - ly Earth's deep sad - ness May per - plex us  
Let Your mer - cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, To us giv - ing



Rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!  
And dis - tress us, Yet with heav'n - ly joy You bless us.  
For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.  
Life for - ev - er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev - er!

## INVOCATION

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

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

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 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.**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

<sup>4</sup>One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to inquire in his temple.**

<sup>13</sup>I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD  
**in the land of the living!**

<sup>14</sup>Wait for the LORD;

**be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

## KYRIE



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 9:1-4

*(The People Who Walked in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light)*

<sup>1</sup> But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*"A Jubilant Call to Praise"*

*Rise and sing the Light has come. See the glory of the morning sun.  
Let your music fill this place. Wake with dawn with shouts of praise!  
Rise and sing the Light has come. O, sing unto the Lord, sing unto the Lord.  
Sing a joyful, jubilant song!*

*People, lift a glad refrain. Let your alleluias live again.  
Come, proclaim what God has done; all your voices now as one.  
Rise and sing the Light has come. O, sing unto the Lord, sing unto the Lord.  
Sing a joyful, jubilant song!*

*Come and join the celebrations. This is the day that God has made.  
Join your praise with all creations! Sing unto the lord, sing unto the Lord.  
Sing unto the Lord a new song.*

*Praise the Lord who sets us free! Praise the wonders of His majesty!  
Laud and glorify the name. All His mighty works proclaim.  
Rise and sing the Light has come. O, sing unto the Lord, sing unto the Lord.  
Sing a joyful, jubilant song!  
O, sing unto the Lord! Sing unto the Lord!  
Praise God with joyful jubilant song!*

## EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 5:8-15

*(Walk in the Light)*

<sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

<sup>15</sup>Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of three measures. The first measure contains the notes A4, B4, C5, B4, A4. The second measure contains the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4. The third measure contains the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the staff, with a square symbol under the first 'Al'.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-17

*(Jesus Begins His Ministry)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup>Now when [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.

<sup>13</sup>And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup>"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup>the people dwelling in darkness

have seen a great light,

and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,

on them a light has dawned."

<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

*(inside back cover of the LSB pew hymnal)*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

# HYMN OF THE DAY

"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.



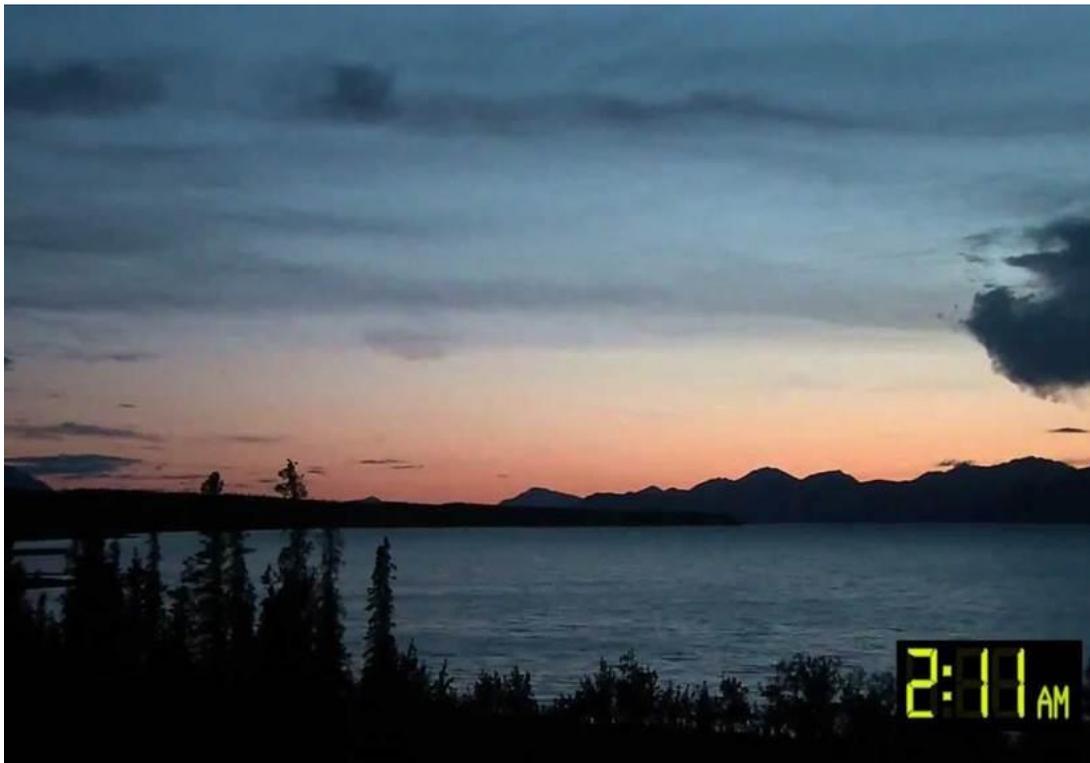
Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

**SERMON**

*"God Is Light"*

**I John 1:5**

Pastor Michael D. Ahlemeyer



**VOLUNTARY**

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

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### LORD'S PRAYER

#### SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## DISTRIBUTION

"O Christ, Our True and Only Light"	LSB #839
"The Summons" (10:30)	Choir
"Beautiful Savior"	LSB #537
"Father, We Praise Thee"	LSB #875

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

## 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.**

## SENDING HYMN

"The People That in Darkness Sat"

LSB #412 (v. 1-4)



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious  
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring  
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a  
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In  
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their  
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All  
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.  
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.  
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF VESTAVIA HILLS

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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

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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.