

**[Jesus said,] "I am the vine;
you are the branches. If a man
remains in me and I in him, he
will bear much fruit; apart from
me you can do nothing. This is
to my Father's glory, that you
bear much fruit, showing
yourselves to be my disciples."**

- John 15:5,8 -

 heartlight.org

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

SUNDAY MORNING

July 26, 2020

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
 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
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TO OUR GUESTS: We offer you a warm welcome in the name of Jesus. 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.



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 in Communion. The cups in the center of the tray are filled with non-alcoholic wine, in consideration of persons who should not drink wine. Children who have not received Communion instruction are invited to fold their hands and receive a blessing.

Current Worship Schedule:

Saturday, 6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Worship with seated communion	<i>*No singing * masks required</i>
Sunday, 8:00 a.m.	Sanctuary Worship with seated communion	<i>*Traditional Service *masks required</i>
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Worship with seated communion	<i>*Traditional Service *masks required</i>
Sunday, 11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary Worship with seated communion	<i>*Service will be live-streamed *masks required</i>

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
A Worship Series on the "I AM" Statements of Jesus

Week 6: I Am the Vine

July 26, 2020

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

LSB #790 (v. 1,2,5)



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,

Nor stands in the way of sinners, not sits in the seat of scoffers;

But his delight is in the law of the Lord,

And on His law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water

That yields its fruit in its season,

And its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Let us then confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

Almighty God, even though we are joined by faith to Christ the true Vine, we often seek to find other sources of life for ourselves. We follow our own sinful desires and pursue the temptations offered by the world around us. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Lead us to follow Your holy Son and to know Him as our only source of life.

God has had mercy on us. He sent His Son to be our Savior. Jesus offered up His life on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. He rose from death on the third day to win eternal life for us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus, You are the true Vine. By faith we are joined to You and receive from You forgiveness and life. Your Word and Your holy Supper nourish us in faith. Help us by Your Spirit to bear fruit in words of love and service to others. We pray that our words and our works will be a witness for You, so that others will be joined to You, the true Vine, for all eternity.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"

LSB #680 (v. 1,2)



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head
prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the
All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the
rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the



vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 23:5-6

⁵“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Colossians 2:6-10

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



The Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

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.

SERMON HYMN

"O Blessed Spring"

LSB #595 (v. 1-4)



1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us
2 Through sum-mer heat of youth-ful years, Un - cer - tain
3 When au-tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our



in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take



be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.

SERMON

A Worship Series on the "I AM" Statements of Jesus

Week 6: I Am the Vine

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

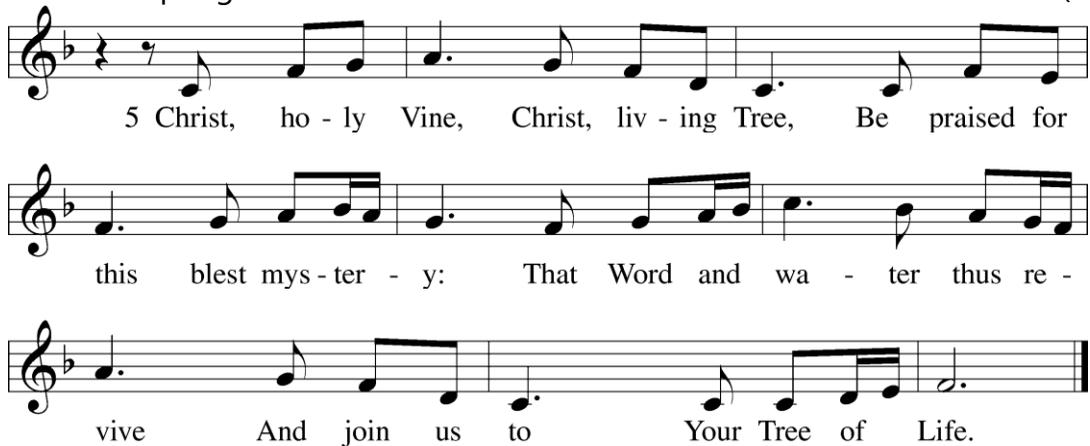
or

Rev. Clifford Hellmers (Pastor Emeritus)

SERMON HYMN

"O Blessed Spring"

LSB #595 (v. 5)



5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for
this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -
vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord in Your Mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him,
He it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

By this My Father is glorified,

That you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Almighty Father, Bless the Word"

LSB #923



1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your
2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward
3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye



seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!
wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

