



The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday Services
December 20, 2020

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF VESTAVIA HILLS



201 So. Montgomery Highway Birmingham, Alabama 35216
 Church office: 205-823-1883 PreSchool/MDO: 205-791-5200
 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
 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. 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.

Advent Worship Schedule:

Saturday, 4:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Worship with seated communion (no singing)
Sunday, 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Worship with individual family table communion
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.	Pastor's Adult Bible Class in the Sanctuary
Wednesday, noon & 6:45 p.m.	MidWeek Advent Worship Services No communion

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PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

LSB #358 (v. 1-3)



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.

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)

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a comma. The second staff ends with a period. The third staff has a double bar line after 'God' and a 'Refrain' marking above the notes for 'Re-joyce!'. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

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 - joyce! Re-joyce!

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

(Herald of Good News)

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Behold your God!"
¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Proclaimers of the Gospel are a Beautiful Sight)

⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ¹⁴But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PREPARATION VERSE

"Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB #349 (v. 1)

The musical notation is written on three staves in a single system. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the verse. The second staff contains the melody for the second line. The third staff contains the melody for the third line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating where a note spans across two words or syllables. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C).

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.

(Announcement to Shepherds: "They Made Known the Saying")

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

Glory be to You, O Lord.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

LSB #388

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



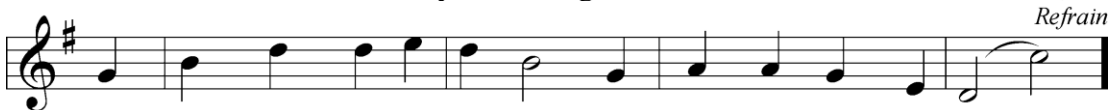
Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.

Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Refrain

SERMON

"A Green Christmas"

Luke 2:17

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

PRAYER 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

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the ✠ Lord be with you always.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

LSB #367

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain:

Come and worship,
come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light.

Refrain

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star.

Refrain

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear.

Refrain

5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.

Refrain

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

"Angles 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.