



the
ASCENSION

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Sunday Services

May 16, 2021

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
 PASTOR EMERITUS: The Reverend Clifford Hellmers –vestluth@juno.com 205-422-4951
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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.

Current Worship Schedule:

Saturday, 6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Worship with communion no singing
Sunday, 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Worship with individual family table communion
Sunday, 9:15 a.m.	Pastor’s Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall Children & Youth Sunday School

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

LSB #493 (v.1,2)



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band Up -



hymns through - out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia,
on the Mount of Ol - ives stand. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
al - le - lu - ia! And with His faith - ful fol - l'wers



trod, As - cends un - to the throne of
see Their Lord as - cend in maj - es -



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HYMN

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

LSB #493 (v. 6)

6 O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to You let earth accord:
Alleluia, alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run, With Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, as You have given Christ all rule, authority, power, and dominion and exalted Him by His ascension, so may we, with the eyes of our hearts so be enlightened and with that spirit of wisdom, let us not lose heart, but find confidence, joy, and hope in Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:6–11

(The Promise of the Holy Spirit at the Ascension)

⁶So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:15-23

(Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father with all dominion and power)

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might ²⁰that He worked in Christ when He raised him from the dead and seated him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

The Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Ascension)

⁴⁴Then He said to them, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance

and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. ⁵¹While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

"On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"

LSB #492 (v. 1,3)



1 On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build The hope of my as -
3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Re - call - ing Your as -



cen - sion; This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled All doubt and
cen - sion, That I may serve You faith - ful - ly In thanks for



ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the Head is, there as well I
my re - demp - tion; And then, when all my days will cease, Let



know His mem - bers are to dwell When Christ will come and call them.
me de - part in joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

SERMON

"Time to Testify"

Acts 1:6-11

Rev. Clifford Hellmers, Pastor Emeritus

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 OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

*~An usher will direct you to the front of the church. Please keep proper
social distancing as we invite you to **stand** at the communion rail.~*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

LSB #549



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
2 Crown Him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, Who from His al - tar call;
3 Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed from the fall,
4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid Lord did call,
5 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get The worm-wood and the gall,



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your tro - phies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your tro - phies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.

6.
Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all.

7.
Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

LSB #702



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;
 3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
 My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
 Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
 Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
 love to Thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
 trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, we pray that even as we believe Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to have ascended into heaven, so may we also in heart and mind ascend and continually dwell there with Him. Keep us ever watchful and ever mindful for Your Son's appearance at the end time. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Amen.

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.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Christ the Eternal Lord"

LSB #829 (v. 1,5)



1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, Whose prom - ise here we claim,
4 Christ the un - fad - ing Light Of ev - er - last - ing day,



Whose gifts of grace are free-ly poured On all who name Your name;
Our Morn-ing Star in splen-dor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;



With thank - ful - ness and praise We stand be - fore Your throne,
That light of truth You give To ser - vants as to friends,



In - tent to serve You all our days And make Your glo - ry known.
Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief jour-ney ends.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE