



***2021 Thanksgiving Eve Service***  
***The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills***

# 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](http://www.vestavialutheran.org)

WORSHIP: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sundays

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:15 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday



PASTOR: The Reverend Michael D. Ahlemeyer – [pastor@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:pastor@vestavialutheran.org) text: 205-201-8866

PASTOR EMERITUS: The Reverend Clifford Hellmers – [vestluth@juno.com](mailto:vestluth@juno.com) 205-422-4951

VICAR: Josh Makey – [jmakey@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:jmakey@vestavialutheran.org) 716-923-3815

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Ruth Johnson – [ruthinbham@gmail.com](mailto:ruthinbham@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: Paula Shivers - [pshivers@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:pshivers@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. 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** Adult Bible Class meets in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m. Children, Confirmation, and Youth Classes meet downstairs in the Sunday School classrooms.



**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 after the sermon. 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 individual cups; 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

## *Thanksgiving Eve Service*

November 24, 2021

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

### **OPENING HYMN**

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

LSB #892



A musical staff in G clef, common time, featuring eighth and sixteenth note patterns.

1 Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest home.  
2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to His praise to yield;



A musical staff in G clef, common time, featuring eighth and sixteenth note patterns.

All be safe - ly gath - ered in Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;  
Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown.



A musical staff in G clef, common time, featuring eighth and sixteenth note patterns.

God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied.  
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear.



A musical staff in G clef, common time, featuring eighth and sixteenth note patterns.

Come to God's own tem - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest home.  
Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole-some grain and pure may be.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,  
**for His steadfast love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the God of gods.  
**for His steadfast love endures forever.**

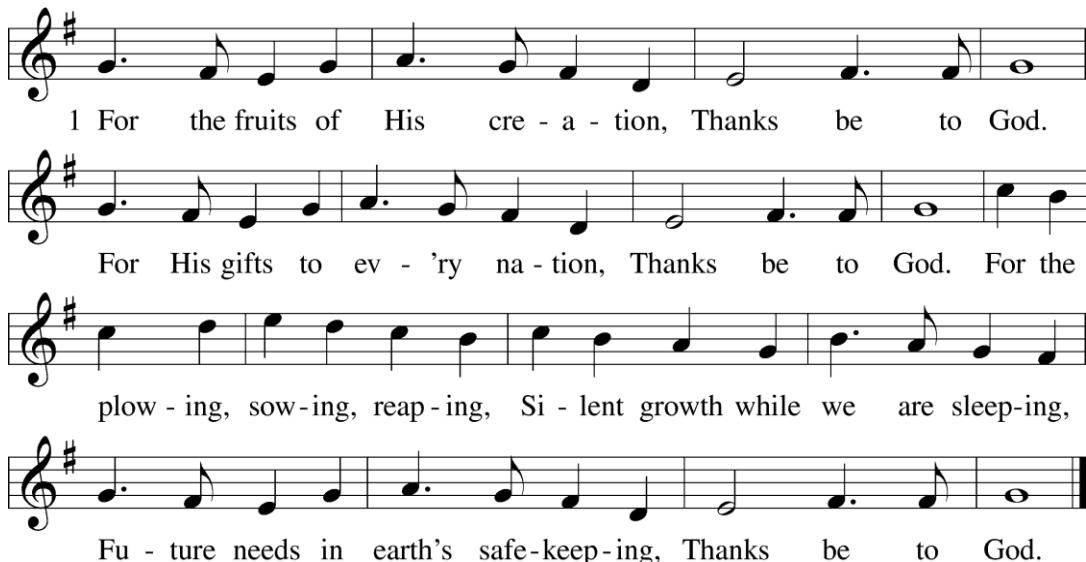
Give thanks to the Lord of lords.  
**for His steadfast love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
**for His steadfast love endures forever.**

## THANKSGIVING MEDLEY

"For the Fruits of His Creation"

LSB #894 (v. 1)



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.

For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the

plow - ing, sow-ing, reap-ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep-ing,

Fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, Thanks be to God.

Most gracious God, who gives us so freely of Your bounty.

**We call to remembrance in glad thanksgiving  
Your loving kindness and tender mercies.**

For the world in which we live, for its fruitfulness and order.

For its beauty and its wonder.

For the life You have given us here to enjoy, we praise You, O God.

**For our home, for our families and friends.**

**For the fellowship that we share.**

**For the love that lifts our hearts and nurtures our spirits,**

**We praise You, O God.**

"For the Fruits of His Creation"

LSB #894 (v. 2)



2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.



In the help we give our neigh-bor, God's will is done. In our



world-wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair-ing,



In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.

For the common blessings of our everyday life.

For food and clothing, for shelter and rest.

For work and leisure, we praise You, O Lord.

**For this land that we love, for our nation's heritage of liberty.**

**For the sacrifices of our forefathers and foremothers.**

**For all efforts that mankind may be one in Christ,**

**We thank You, Lord.**

"For the Fruits of His Creation"

LSB #894 (v. 3)

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the soprano range. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below each staff. The first staff begins with a dotted half note followed by eighth notes. The second staff begins with a dotted half note followed by eighth notes. The third staff begins with a quarter note followed by eighth notes. The fourth staff begins with a dotted half note followed by eighth notes.

3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.

For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the

won - ders that as - tound us, For the truths that still con-found us,

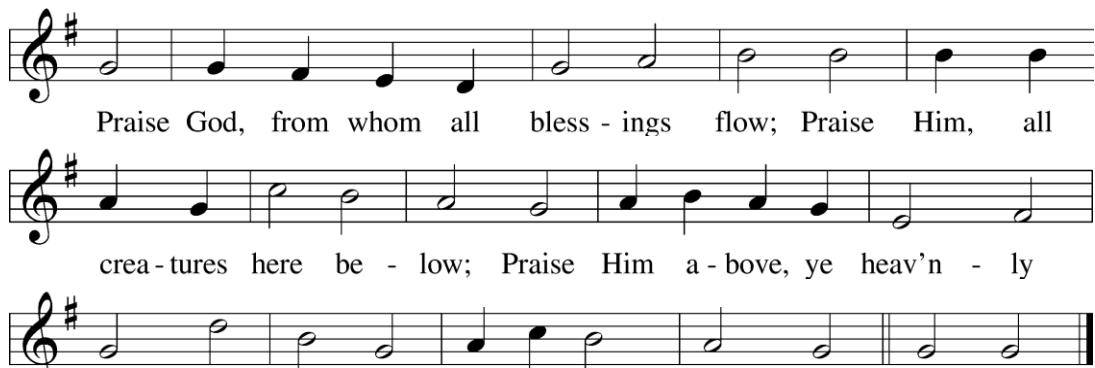
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

For Your gracious gifts to our minds and spirits.  
For memory that links us to the past, for hope that leads us to the future.  
For courage in times of trouble, for patience in tribulation,  
For faith in every moment and love at all times, we thank You,  
Heavenly Father.

**For Your majesty and power,**  
**For Your wisdom and goodness.**  
**For Your justice and truth.**  
**For Your Son, Your blessed Gift of love through**  
**Whom we have forgiveness.**  
**For Your Holy Spirit enlightening our hearts,**  
**We thank You, O God, and sing:**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

LSB #805



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly  
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

*(Remember with Gratitude the Good Land God Gives You)*

<sup>1</sup>"The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. <sup>2</sup>And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. <sup>3</sup>And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. <sup>5</sup>Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. <sup>6</sup>So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. <sup>7</sup>For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup>a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup>a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. <sup>10</sup>And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Pray for All People)*

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 17:11–19

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the seventeenth chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(Jesus Cleanses the Ten Lepers)*

<sup>11</sup>On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance <sup>13</sup>and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." <sup>14</sup>When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup>Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; <sup>16</sup>and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? <sup>18</sup>Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup>And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"Now Thank We All Our God"

LSB #895



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voic - es,  
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won - drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;  
With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us  
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,



Who from our moth - ers' arms Has blest us on our way  
And keep us in His grace And guide us when per - plexed  
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



With count - less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!  
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

## SERMON

*"Give Thanks for What?"*

**Luke 17:11-19**

**1 Thessalonians 5:18**

Vicar Joshua Makey

## **RESPONSE**

"We Praise You, O God"

LSB #785 (v. 1)

1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;  
In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;  
We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.

## **PRAYERS**

### **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.**

## **CONFESSON OF SINS**

Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, asking Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

**Amen.**

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful and merciful, He will surely do it. Go in  peace trusting in His promises and receiving the full forgiveness of your sins offered at His table.

**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

LSB #893



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest, Sing songs of love and praise;  
2 God makes the clouds rain good - ness, The des - erts bloom and spring,  
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar The gifts His good - ness gave,



With joy - ful hearts and voic - es Your al - le - lu - ias raise.  
The hills leap up in glad - ness, The val - leys laugh and sing.  
The gold - en sheaves of har - vest, The souls Christ died to save.



By Him the roll - ing sea - sons In fruit - ful or - der move;  
God fills them with His full - ness, All things with large in - crease;  
Your hearts lay down be - fore Him When at His feet you fall,



Sing to the Lord of har - vest A joy - ous song of love.  
He crowns the year with bless - ing, With plen - ty and with peace.  
And with your lives a - dore Him Who gave His life for all.



## "Praise and Thanksgiving"

LSB #789

1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things  
2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our  
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise

liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the  
neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work  
guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -

or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Blos - som and wood.  
with You, Har - vest-ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.  
joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, whose mercies are new every morning and Whose goodness, though undeserved, still abundantly provides for all our wants of body and soul, grant us, we humbly pray, Your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness towards us, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

The blessings of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you this night and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

LSB #643

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con - fess-ing,  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing,

The peo - ple of God from His dwell - ing take leave.  
The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.

The Sup - per is end - ed. O now be ex - tend - ed  
Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,

The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
Em - brac - ing His chil - dren of each tribe and race.

The seed of His teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,  
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;

Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
U - nite us as one in this life that we share.

His grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing

To work for God's king - dom and an - swer His call.  
Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



*~All are invited to the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service to enjoy a Pie Social.~*