



O Emmanuel

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills  
**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
November 28, 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](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  
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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

**The "O Antiphons" of Advent**

**Part 1: "O Emmanuel"**

November 28, 2021

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN**

"The Advent of Our King"

LSB #331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

## ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**Amen.**

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.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

O almighty God, merciful Father,

**I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I have mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. I am sorry for all of this and ask for Your grace.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come among us with great might! For when the time had fully come, You sent Your Son, born of a virgin, for us and for our salvation. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace, to all the places of the world where people desperately need You. Come and give us the gift of Your presence among us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THEME VERSE

~Isaiah 7:14

Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign.

**Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB #357 (v. 1)



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 - jice! Re-joyce!



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

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:14-17

*(The Sign of Emmanuel)*

<sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CHORAL ANTHEM (10:30 a.m.)

J. Paige

*"The King Is Coming Soon"*

*Let the angels sing. Let the bells in heaven ring, for the King is coming soon.*

*Let the stars on high lend their glory to the sky, for the King is coming soon.*

*Every valley shout for joy. Let every mountain ring.*

*Let the rivers clap their hands in praise.*

*Let the nations of the world rejoice and sing everlasting songs of joy,*

*Everlasting songs of joy, for the king is coming soon.*

*Let the ocean waves lift a tuneful hymn of praise, for the King is coming soon.*

*Let the seas rejoice. Every river lift its voice, for the King is coming soon.*

*Every valley shout for joy. Let every mountain ring.*

*Let the rivers clap their hands in praise.*

*Let the nations of the world rejoice and sing everlasting songs of joy,*

*Everlasting songs of joy, for the king is coming soon.*

*Let the world as one sing the glory of the Son.  
With a joyful song let creation sing along, for the King is coming soon.  
Every valley shout for joy. Let every mountain ring.  
Let the rivers clap their hands in praise.  
Let the nations of the world rejoice and sing everlasting songs of joy,  
Everlasting songs of joy, for the King is coming soon  
Christ is coming soon.*

## **EPISTLE READING**

Galatians 4:4-7

*(In the Fullness of Time, God Sent His Son)*

<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE "O ANTIPHON" OF ADVENT**

O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior.

**Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

# MAGNIFICAT

"My Soul Rejoices"

LSB #933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!



*(The Birth of Jesus Christ)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the first chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

LSB #332 (v. 1-4)



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
God was there up - on His throne.  
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

# SERMON

*Sermon Series on the "O Antiphons of Advent"*

*Part 1: O Emmanuel*

**Matthew 1:23**

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

## **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**

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

## **DISTRIBUTION**

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

"Awake, Awake & Greet the New Morn"

Choir (10:30 a.m.)

"What Child Is This"

LSB #370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
 2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are  
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

### "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

LSB #374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.  
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



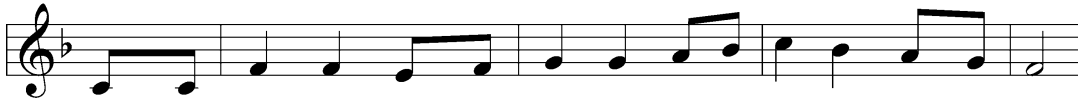
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

"Infant Holy"

LSB #393



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouth received the holy Sacrament, we may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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.**

## CLOSING HYMN

"Once He Came in Blessing"

LSB #333



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -  
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He  
3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y  
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,  
feeds us; Pre - cious food from heav - en,  
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor  
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to  
Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will  
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful  
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.  
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.  
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.  
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE