



The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills  
**Third Advent MidWeek Service**

December 15, 2021  
Noon & 6:45 p.m.



## 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  
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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.



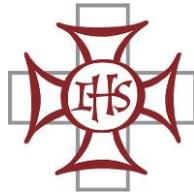
**COMMUNION** We invite all baptized Christians who acknowledge their sinfulness, trust in Christ as their Savior, and who recognize the real presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the bread and wine to join us at the Communion table. The practice of our congregation is to place the bread into the extended 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

**The "O Antiphons" of Advent**

**Part 6: "O Lord"**

December 15, 2021



**OPENING HYMN**

"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

LSB #352 (v. 1-2,4)



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'  
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send  
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,  
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

## 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

O Lord Yahweh, Ruler of Israel, having delivered Your people from slavery long ago, You made known Your Law to Moses. You promised that One greater than Moses would appear to bless us with a righteousness apart from the Law. Rule now our hearts that we might hold fast to Your Son, who, being born under the law, redeemed us with outstretched arm. Rule, O Lord, until that day when at Your coming every knee will bend in honor to You and every tongue confess Your Name.

**Amen.**

## THEME VERSE

~Isaiah 33:22

For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver.

**For the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB #357 (v. 3)



3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on



Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law



In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - jice! Re-joyce!



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

*(The Great "I AM" Appears to Moses at the Burning Bush)*

<sup>1</sup>Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." <sup>4</sup>When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup>Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup>And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup>Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup>and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup>He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup>Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

<sup>15</sup>God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations."

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE READING**

Hebrews 3:1-6

*(Jesus Greater Than Moses)*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, <sup>2</sup>who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. <sup>3</sup>For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. <sup>4</sup>(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) <sup>5</sup>Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, <sup>6</sup>but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, Who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai.

**Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.**

For the law was given through Moses.

**Grace and truth come through Jesus Christ.**

# 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!

*(Jesus Identifies Himself as "I AM")*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the eighth chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>48</sup>The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" <sup>49</sup>Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup>Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. <sup>51</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." <sup>52</sup>The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'" <sup>53</sup>Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" <sup>54</sup>Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.'" <sup>55</sup>But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. <sup>56</sup>Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." <sup>57</sup>So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" <sup>58</sup>Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." <sup>59</sup>So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

"When All the World Was Cursed"

LSB #346 (v. 1,3-4)



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na - tion,  
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres - sion,  
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.  
Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.  
The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re - pen-tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,  
Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,  
That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.  
Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.  
Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

## SERMON

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

*Part 6: O Lord*

*"Who Is Your Lord?"*

**Isaiah 33:22 & Exodus 3:1-15**

Vicar Joshua Makey

## **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.**

### **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

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

LSB #358 (v. 1,3,13)



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your



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

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart  
For You to dwell within my heart.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE