



The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
January 30, 2022



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
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 text: 205-201-8866
PASTOR EMERITUS: The Reverend Clifford Hellmers – vestluth@juno.com 205-422-4951
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DIRECTOR OF MOTHER'S DAY OUT: Brooke Heisler – bheisler@vestavialutheran.org
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CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT: Amy Alvis - aalvis@vestavialutheran.org
BOOK KEEPER: Paula Shivers - pshivers@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. 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. Confirmation and Youth Classes meet downstairs in the Sunday School classrooms. Children's Sunday School resumes January 9.



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
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 30, 2022

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

LSB #783



- 1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

INVOCATION

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

If I speak in the tongues of men and angels but have not love,
I accomplish nothing.

If I have the gift of prophecy and fathom all mysteries and all knowledge
but have not love,
I am nothing.

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames but
have not love,
I gain nothing.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father, sanctify in us the godly fruit of love, and may we live in love and seek to love as Christ loved us. Keep us from jealousy and boastfulness and may the love of Jesus be seen in and through us by the power of Your Holy Spirit, in the name of Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"The Gift of Love"

H. Hopson

Though I may Speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain,
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.

FIRST READING

1 John 4:7-12

(God Is Love)

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

(The Way of Love)

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but

then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE



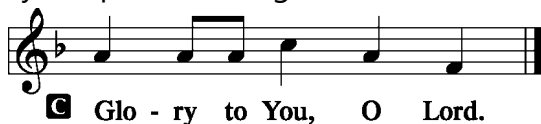
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:38-43

(Jesus Heals Many and Preaches the Good News)

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the fourth chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

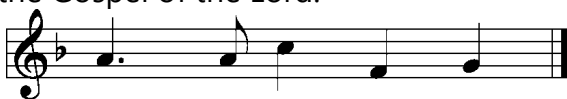
³⁸And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf.

³⁹And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

⁴⁰Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

⁴²And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

LSB #700 (v. 1,2)

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all Thy
hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.

SERMON

Sermon Series: *"To the Church in Corinth"*

Part 3: *"The Gift of Love"*

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Vicar Josh Makey

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

LSB #700 (v. 3,4)

3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and

all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy

turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,

Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in

as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our

with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

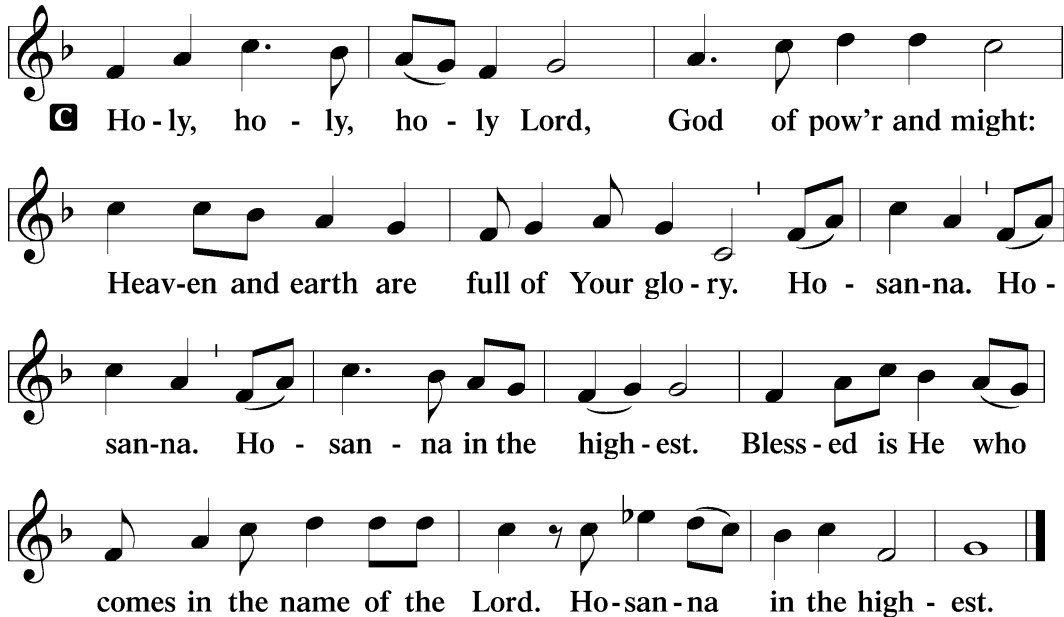
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

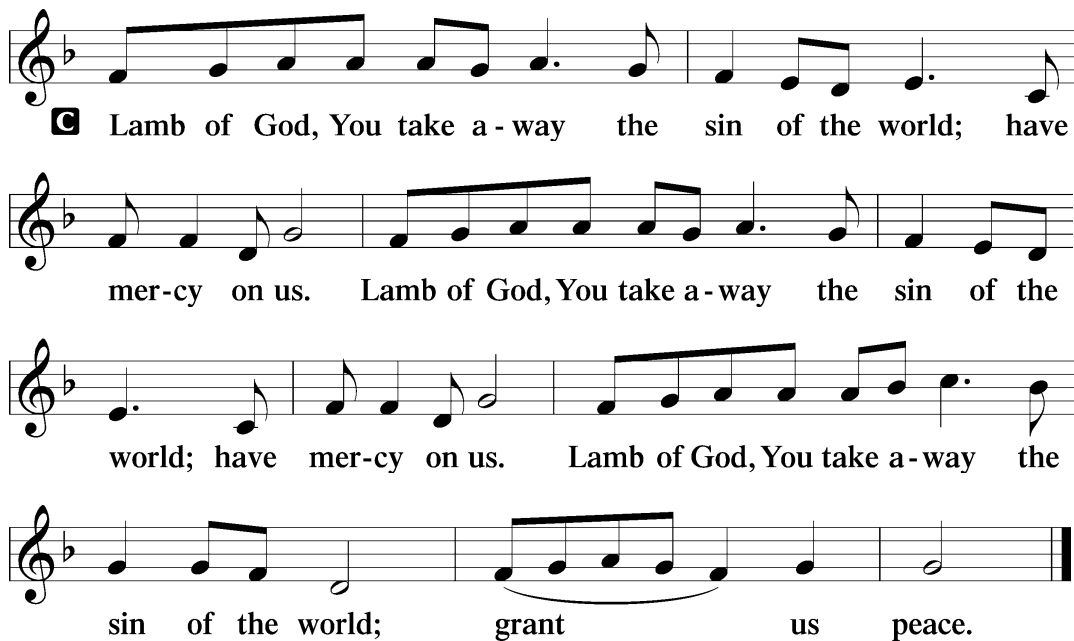
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

LSB #649



1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love;
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
 4 When here our path - ways part, We suf - fer bit - ter pain;
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free



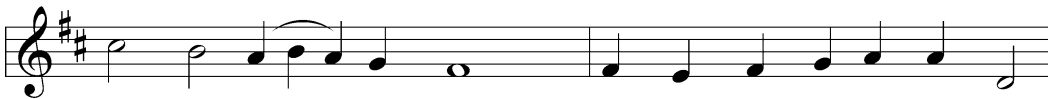
The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.
 And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet a - gain.
 And per - fect love and friend - ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

LSB #633



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
 sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

"Jesus Loves Me"

LSB #588

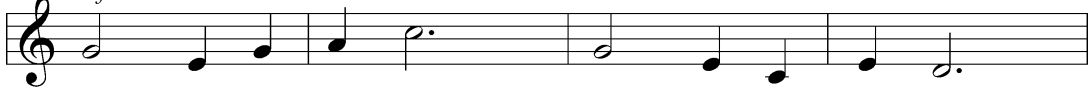


1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.
He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

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 shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

LSB #922 (v. 1-3)



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Clos - er to Me;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, Joy - ful and free. Here My



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.
heard My dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo - ry.
Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here His ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.
Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.

DISMISSAL

Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

