



The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills  
**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

March 20, 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](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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**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

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**PRELUDE**

**OPENING HYMN**

"Christ Be My Leader"

LSB #861



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the  
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or  
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my  
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though  
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.  
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.  
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

## INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of  $\text{✠}$  the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*~Isaiah 55:6,8-9,12*

Seek the Lord while he may be found;

**call on him while he is near.**

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

**neither are your ways my ways,”**

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,

**so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

You will go out in joy

**and be led forth in peace;**

the mountains and hills

will burst into song before you,

**and all the trees of the field  
will clap their hands.”**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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**

Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

# HYMN

## "I Leave All Things to God's Direction"

LSB #719 (v. 1,3-4)



1 I leave all things to God's di - rec - tion; He loves me  
3 My God de - sires the soul's sal - va - tion; My soul He,  
4 My God has all things in His keep - ing; He is the



both in joy and woe. His will is good, sure His af -  
too, de - sires to save. There - fore with Chris - tian res - ig -  
ev - er faith - ful friend. He gives me laugh - ter af - ter



fec - tion; His ten - der love is true, I know. My for - tress  
na - tion All earth - ly trou - bles I will brave. His will be  
weep - ing, And all His ways in bless - ings end. His love en -



and my rock is He: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.  
done e - ter - nal - ly: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.  
dures e - ter - nal - ly: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Job 4:5-9

*(Job's Friends Incorrectly Believe Earthly Suffering Is Always God's Punishment)*

<sup>5</sup>But now it has come to you, and you are impatient;  
it touches you, and you are dismayed.

<sup>6</sup>Is not your fear of God your confidence,  
and the integrity of your ways your hope?

<sup>7</sup>Remember: who that was innocent ever perished?  
Or where were the upright cut off?

<sup>8</sup>As I have seen, those who plow iniquity  
and sow trouble reap the same.

<sup>9</sup>By the breath of God they perish,  
and by the blast of his anger they are consumed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE READING

Romans 11:33-36

*(God Guides Human Events Beyond Our Ability to Fathom)*

<sup>33</sup>Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How  
unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

<sup>34</sup>"For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
or who has been his counselor?"

<sup>35</sup>"Or who has given a gift to him  
that he might be repaid?"

<sup>36</sup>For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory  
forever. Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## LENTEN VERSE

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

LSB #422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-5

*(Tower of Siloam)*

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



**G** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will

all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## CATECHISM

### *The Third Petition*

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

*What does this mean?*

**The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.**

*How is God's will done?*

**God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

# HYMN OF THE DAY

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

LSB #427



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred  
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -  
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.  
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

## SERMON

*"When Towers Fall"*

**Luke 13:1-5**

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

## RESPONSE

"Create in Me"

LSB #956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, along with rests and ties. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

## 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.**

### AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

LSB #434 (v. 1)



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

## DISTRIBUTION

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### "Lord of All Hopefulness"

LSB #738



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:  
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

# DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

## "Be Still, My Soul"

LSB #752



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear pa-tient-  
2 Be still, my soul; your God will un-der-take To guide the  
3 Be still, my soul; though dear-est friends de-part And all is  
4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has-t'ning on When we shall



ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to or-der  
fu-ture as He has the past. Your hope, your con-fi-dence let  
dark-ened in this vale of tears; Then you will bet-ter know His  
be for-ev-er with the Lord, When dis-ap-point-ment, grief, and



and pro-vide; In ev-'ry change He faith-ful will re-  
noth-ing shake; All now mys-te-rious shall be bright at  
love, His heart, Who comes to soothe your sor-rows and your  
fear are gone, Sor-row for-got, love's pur-est joys re-



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n-ly Friend  
last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know  
fears. Be still, my soul; your Je-sus can re-pay  
stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



Through thorn-y ways leads to a joy-ful end.  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be-low.  
From His own full-ness all He takes a-way.  
All safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

LSB #707



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!  
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.  
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.  
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

**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

"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

LSB #722



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;  
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,  
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.  
For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.  
I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.



With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;  
Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,  
Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.  
For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.  
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE