



The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills  
**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
September 4, 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  
PASTOR EMERITUS: The Reverend Clifford Hellmers – [vestluth@juno.com](mailto:vestluth@juno.com) 205-422-4951  
VICAR: Andrew Frerichs – [vicar@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:vicar@vestavialutheran.org)  
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BOOK KEEPER: Melanie Goodson - [bookkeeper@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:bookkeeper@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 Classes meets in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m. Children, Confirmation, and Youth classes also meet at 9:15 a.m. in the classrooms downstairs.



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 common cup will be offered to those who do not take an individual cup. 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*

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 4, 2022

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN**

"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

LSB #940 (v. 1,3,5)



1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we  
3 Lo, the\_a - pos - tles' ho - ly train Join Thy sa - cred



bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,  
name to hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,



All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy  
And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low, And from morn to



vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.  
set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.

5 Holy Father, holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;  
Though in essence only one,  
Undivided God we claim Thee  
And, adoring, bend the knee  
While we own the mystery.

**+ HOLY BAPTISM +**

**(8:00 a.m.)**

**Hayes Matthew Wingo**

*Son of Lauren & Taylor Wingo*

**We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, to work with us in His Kingdom.**

*~the 8:00 a.m. service continues on page 7 with the Baptismal Hymn~*

**INVOCATION (10:30 a.m.)**

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

**Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (10:30 a.m.)**

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**Who made heaven and earth.**

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

O 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.**

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**PSALMODY (10:30 a.m.)**

*~select verses from Psalm 1*

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
**nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**

but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
**and on His law he meditates day and night.**

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

**In all that he does, he prospers.**

The wicked are not so,  
**but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
**nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;**

for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
**but the way of the wicked will perish.**

## GLORIA PATRI (10:30 a.m.)



**C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

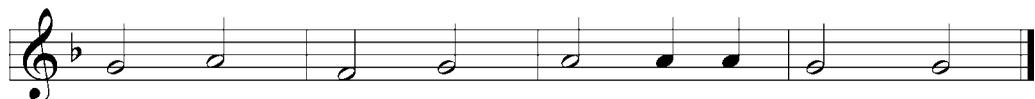


as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## KYRIE (10:30 a.m.)



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (10:30 a.m.)



**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



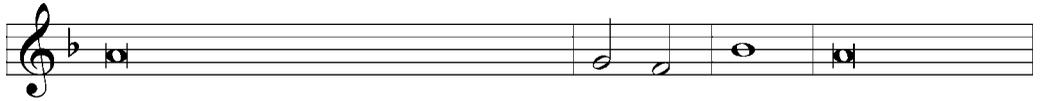
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



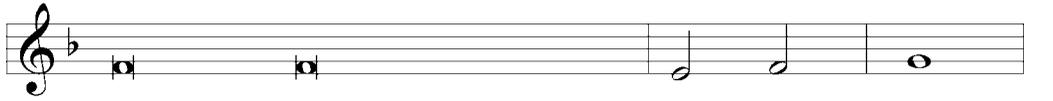
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

# BAPTISMAL HYMN (8:00 a.m.)

"Father Welcomes"

LSB #605 (v. 1-2)

*Refrain*



Fa - ther wel - comes all His chil - dren To His fam - 'ly



through His Son. Fa - ther giv - ing His sal - va - tion,



Life for - ev - er has been won.



1 Lit - tle chil - dren, come to Me, For My king - dom  
2 In the wa - ter, in the Word, In His prom - ise,



is of these. Life and love I have to give,  
be as - sured: Those who are bap - tized and be - lieve

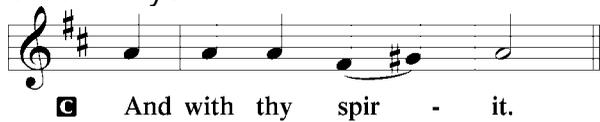


Mer - cy for your sin.  
Shall be born a - gain.

*Refrain*

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.



O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him daily, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.



## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

*(Moses Calls Israel to Follow God)*

<sup>15</sup>“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.

<sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his just decrees then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

<sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE READING

Philippians 3:7-11

*(The Joy of Following Christ)*

<sup>7</sup>But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup>that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA VERSE



## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.



*(The Cost of Discipleship)*

<sup>25</sup>Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my

disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup>saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. <sup>34</sup>"Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? <sup>35</sup>It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



### **APOSTLES' CREED (10:30 a.m.)**

**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

"O Christ Who Called the Twelve"

LSB #856 (v. 1,3-5)



1 O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and fol - low You, For -  
3 O Christ, who led the Twelve A - mong the des - o - late And  
4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd nev - er trod To



sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways For ven - tures bold and new:  
broke as bread of life for all Your love com - pas - sion - ate:  
serve, to suf - fer, teach, pro - claim The near - er reign of God:



Grant us to hear Your call To risk se - cu - ri - ty And,  
Lead us a - long the ways Where hope has near - ly died And  
Send us on ways where faith Tran - scends ti - mid - i - ty, Where



bound in heart and will to You, Find per - fect lib - er - ty.  
help us climb the lone - ly hills Where love is cru - ci - fied.  
love in - forms and hope sus - tains Both life and min - is - try.

5 O Christ, the apostles' Lord,  
The martyrs' strength and song,  
The crucified and risen King  
To whom the saints belong:  
Though generations pass,  
Our tribute still we bring,  
Our hymns a sacrifice of praise,  
Our lives an offering.

## SERMON

*"This is Simple, but Not Easy"*

**Luke 14:27**

Vicar Andrew Frerichs

## OFFERTORY



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.

## PRAYERS 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.

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### PEACE OF THE LORD

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

### AGNUS DEI



☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - - - men.

*~please be seated for the Distribution~*

## DISTRIBUTION

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### "I Come, O Savior to Thy Table"

LSB #618



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and  
2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners  
3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I  
4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my  
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -  
may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in  
have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt  
soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -  
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:  
faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.  
ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:  
ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.  
heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

#### *Refrain*



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

"With the Lord Begin Your Task"

LSB #869



1 With the Lord be - gin your task; Je - sus will di - rect it.  
2 Let each day be - gin with prayer, Praise, and ad - o - ra - tion.  
3 With your Sav - ior at your side, Foes need not a - larm you;  
4 If your task be thus be - gun With the Sav - ior's bless - ing,



For His aid and coun - sel ask; Je - sus will per - fect it.  
On the Lord cast ev - 'ry care; He is your sal - va - tion.  
In His prom - is - es con - fide, And no ill can harm you.  
Safe - ly then your course will run, Toward the prom - ise press - ing.



Ev - 'ry morn with Je - sus rise, And when day is end - ed,  
Morn - ing, eve - ning, and at night Je - sus will be near you,  
All your trust and hope re - pose In the might - y Mas - ter,  
Good will fol - low ev - 'ry - where While you here must wan - der;



In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him com - mend - ed.  
Save you from the tempt - er's might, With His pres - ence cheer you.  
Who in wis - dom tru - ly knows How to stem dis - as - ter.  
You at last the joy will share In the man - sions yon - der.

5 Thus, Lord Jesus, ev'ry task  
Be to You commended;  
May Your will be done, I ask,  
Until life is ended.  
Jesus, in Your name begun  
Be the day's endeavor;  
Grant that it may well be done  
To Your praise forever.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

"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.



## POST COMMUNION COLLECT

*Collect for Grace read in unison*

**O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; 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.



♩ A-men, a-men, a - men.

*~the service continues on the following page with the Closing Hymn~*

## CLOSING HYMN

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

LSB #686



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -  
4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,  
help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,  
strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter  
love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less  
Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a  
Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I  
How I'll sing Thy won - drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me  
strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to  
feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my  
tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE