

WHEN OTHER
HELPERS FAIL AND
COMFORTS
FLEE -- HELP
OF THE HELPLESS,
OH, ABIDE
WITH ME

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 25, 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
VICAR: Andrew Frerichs – vicar@vestavialutheran.org
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Ruth Johnson – ruthinbham@gmail.com
DIRECTOR OF MOTHER'S DAY OUT: Brooke Heisler – bheisler@vestavialutheran.org
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Leigh Walter – lwalter@vestavialutheran.org
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT: Amy Alvis - aalvis@vestavialutheran.org
BOOK KEEPER: Melanie Goodson - bookkeeper@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 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 class rooms 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
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 25, 2022

OPENING HYMN

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

LSB #790 (v. 1-4)



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

-Psalm 46:1 and Psalm 121

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

Amen.

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;

indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;

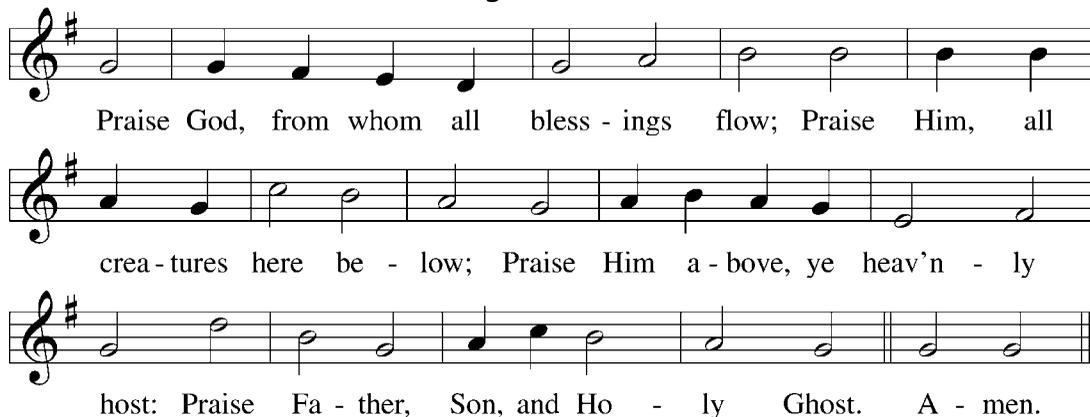
the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

LSB #805



The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the doxology, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the final line ending with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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

Heavenly Father, You are the merciful Lord. We pray that by Your grace, You will listen to us when we call on You. You are the One that helps the helpless, defends the defenseless, and is the father of the fatherless. Give strength in our weakness, we pray, so that we find our Sabbath rest even in this restless world. Hear us for the sake of His name.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 41:8-10

(The Lord Reassures Israel that in Their Day of Trouble He Will Help Them)

⁸But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; ⁹you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; ¹⁰fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM (10:30 a.m.)

arr. R. Sterling

"The Love of Christ"

*If I could speak the love of Christ, my Lord and Master crucified,
I'd testify His precious blood became a cleansing, crimson flood;
the sinner's healing tide.*

*If I could sing the love of Christ, if such a song I'd ever find,
Each note would soar on eagle's wings to praise with angels as they sing,
The Savior of mankind.*

*But, should I sing for all my days the brightest melody,
How could I say in songs of praise all Christ has done for me?
So I must live the love of Christ, and go where Christ alone would go.
I'll bear His cross and share His pain without the hope of worldly gain;
No greater love I'll show.*

*But, should I sing for all my days the brightest melody,
How could I say in songs of praise all Christ has done for me?
So I must live the love of Christ, and go where Christ alone would go.
I'll bear His cross and share His pain, without the hope of worldly gain;
No greater love I'll show.
No greater love I'll show, no greater love I'll show.*

EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

(God of All Comfort)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. ⁶If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. ⁷Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

LSB #793 (v. 1-2)



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To His feet your
2 Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor To His peo - ple



trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; Praise Him still the same as ev - er,



Ev - er - more His prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia,
Slow to chide and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16:19-31

*(The Account of the Rich Man and Lazarus.
The Name 'Lazarus' Means: "One Whom God Helps")*

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹[Jesus said:] "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.

²⁰And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' ²⁵But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' ²⁷And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

LSB #793 (v. 3-4)



3 Fa - ther - like He tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore Him; You be - hold Him



frame He knows; In His hand He gent - ly bears us,
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore Him,



Res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia,
All who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet His mer - cy flows.
al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

SERMON

"Help of the Helpless"

Luke 16:19-31

Rev. Michael D. 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, 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.

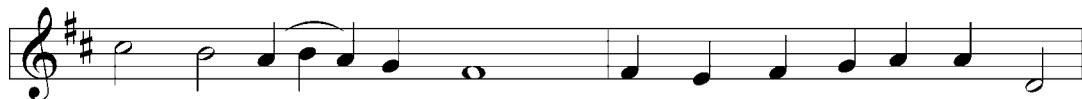
COMMUNION PREPARATION VERSE

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

LSB #633 (v. 1-2)



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

~please be seated for the Distribution~

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

(The Distribution Hymns Reflect Our Thanksgiving for the LCVH Mother's Day Out Ministry)

"Your Love Is Changing the World" (10:30 a.m.)

LCVH Adult Choir

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

LSB #740



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the



heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

"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.

~Hymn continues on the following page~

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

Refrain

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

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

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

LSB #725

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His

in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose

heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

"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.

+ THANKSGIVING FOR THE NEW MOTHER'S DAY OUT PLAYGROUND +

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

"Abide with Me"

LSB #878 (v. 1-2,5-6)



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.

5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE