



WRESTLING *with* GOD

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 16, 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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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
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 16, 2022

OPENING 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 - er, 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'rинг 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



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in Him."

~Jeremiah 17:7

CONFSSION 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.

KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let
us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"

Refrain

C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, give us grace to be persistent in faith even when we face trials and tribulations. Empower us by Your Spirit to hold fast to Your promises as we walk by faith and not by sight. Help us to believe that all things are accomplished by Your direction. Even when we struggle and wrestle with Your will, uplift us and sustain us by Your almighty hand, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 32:1-22-30

(Jacob Wrestles with God and Is Blessed)

²²The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. ²⁴And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

P. Bliss/C. McCartha

"I Will Sing of My Redeemer"

*I will sing of my Redeemer and His wondrous love for me;
On the cruel cross He suffered for my sin and set me free.
I will sing of my Redeemer, with His blood He purchased me;
On the cross He sealed my pardon, paid the price and made me free.*

*I will tell the wondrous story, how my soul He came to save.
In His boundless love and mercy, He the ransom freely gave.
I will sing of my Redeemer, with His blood He purchased me;
On the cross He sealed my pardon, paid the price and made me free.*

*I will praise my blessed Redeemer. His triumphant power I'll tell;
How He saved my wounded spirit, healed my soul and make me well.
I will sing of my Redeemer, with His blood He purchased me;
On the cross He sealed my pardon, paid the price and made me free.*

*I will sing of my Redeemer and His heavenly love for me;
How the Son of God has brought me gifts of life and joy and peace.
I will sing of my Redeemer, with His blood He purchased me;
O the cross He sealed my pardon, paid the price and made me free,
Paid the price and made me free.*

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

(God's Power Is Made Manifest in Our Weakness)

⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

C 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 18:1-8

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

(The Parable of the Persistent Widow)

¹And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' ⁴For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" ⁶And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

"If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee"

LSB #750 (v. 1,3-4,7)



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee And hope in
3 Be pa - tient and a - wait His lei - sure In cheer-ful
4 God knows full well when times of glad-ness Shall be the



Him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what-e'er be -
hope, with heart con - tent To take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's
need - ful thing for thee. When He has tried thy soul with



tide thee, And bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
plea-sure And His dis - cern - ing love hath sent, Nor doubt our
sad - ness And from all guile has found thee free, He comes to



God's un - chang - ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move.
in - most wants are known To Him who chose us for His own.
thee all un - a - ware And makes thee own His lov - ing care.

7 Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,
 Perform thy duties faithfully,
And trust His Word; though undeserving,
 Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook in need
The soul that trusted Him indeed.

SERMON

"Blessing in the Wrestling"

Genesis 32:22-30

Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer

OFFERING

~Please sign the Record of Fellowship during the offering~

VOLUNTARY

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.

SANCTUS

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics start with "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:". The second staff continues with "Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -". The third staff continues with "san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who". The fourth staff concludes with "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

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.

~Please be seated for the Distribution~

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Behold the Lamb" (10:30 a.m.)

LCVH Adult Choir

~Distribution Hymns Continue on the Following Page~

"I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"

LSB #729

1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust-ing on - ly Thee;
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans-ing In the crim - son flood;
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,

Trust-ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.
Trust-ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5. I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.

Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

6. I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

LSB #702

1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
trust re-move; O bear me safe a-bove, A ran-somed soul!

"Draw Us to Thee"

LSB #701



1 Draw us to Thee, For then shall we Walk in Thy
2 Draw us to Thee, Lord, lov - ing - ly; Let us de -
3 Draw us to Thee; O grant that we May walk the
4 Draw us to Thee That al - so we Thy heav'n - ly
5 Draw us to Thee Un - ceas - ing - ly, In - to Thy



steps for - ev - er And has - ten on Where Thou art
part with glad - ness That we may be For - ev - er
road to heav - en! Di - rect our way Lest we should
bliss in - her - it And ev - er dwell Where sin and
king - dom take us; Let us for - e'er Thy glo - ry



gone	To	be	with	Thee,	dear	Sav	-	ior.
free	From	sor -	row,	grief,	and	sad	-	ness.
stray	And	from	Thy	paths	be	driv	-	en.
hell	No	more	can	vex	our	spir	-	it.
share,	Thy	saints	and	joint	heirs	make		us.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

LSB #924

1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling

joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,

Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.