

AND GIVE THANKS
for everything
TO GOD THE FATHER
in the name of our
LORD JESUS CHRIST.
EPHESIANS 5:20

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
November 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
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
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

Service of Thanksgiving

November 20, 2022

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

LSB #892 (v. 1-2,4)



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to His praise to yield;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To Thy fi - nal har - vest home;



All be safe - ly gath - ered in Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown.
Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear.
There, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy gar - ner to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.
Come with all Thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

+ HOLY BAPTISM +

(10:30 a.m.)

Mateo Jack Heudebert

Son of Emily & Alonso Heudebert

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 10:30 a.m. service continues on pg. 4 with the Hymn of Praise~

CALL TO WORSHIP (8:00 a.m.)

~Psalm 95:1-2, 100:4-5, 147:1,7

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

Amen.

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

Sing the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (8:00 a.m.)

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 (8:00 a.m.)

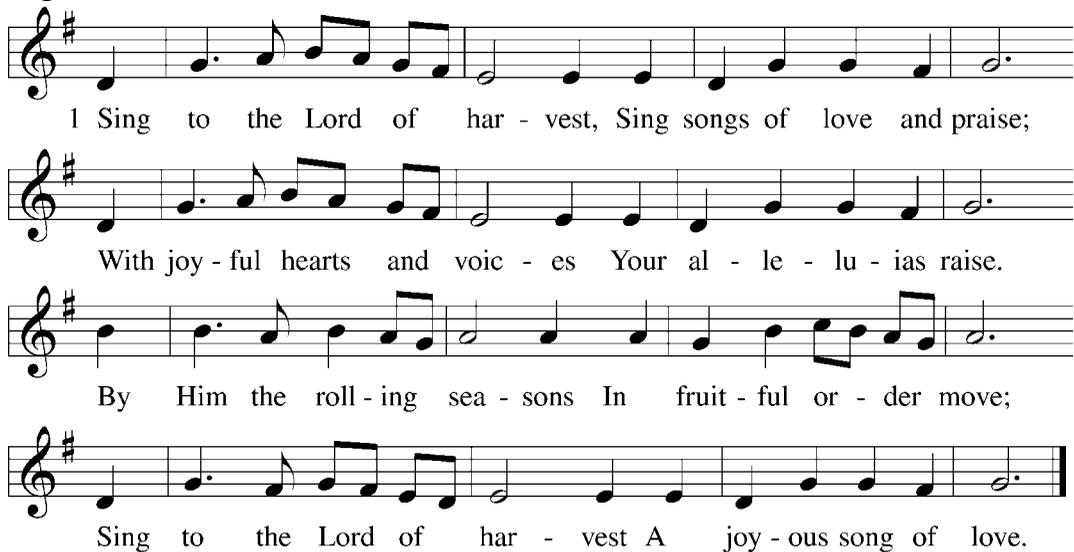
Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning and You graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

LSB #893 (v. 1)



I Sing to the Lord of har - vest, Sing songs of love and praise;
With joy - ful hearts and voic - es Your al - le - lu - ias raise.
By Him the roll - ing sea - sons In fruit - ful or - der move;
Sing to the Lord of har - vest A joy - ous song of love.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

*(Moses Calls on the Israelites to Remember the
Goodness of God as They Enter the Promised Land)*

¹The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. ²And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. ³And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴Your clothing did not wear

out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. ⁵Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM (10:30 a.m.)

M.K. Beall

"With Grateful Heart, I Thank You, Lord"

*I thank you, Lord, for each new day, for meadows white with dew,
For the sun's warm hand upon the earth, for skies of endless blue,
For fruit and flow'r, for lamb and leaf, for every bird that sings,
With grateful heart I thank you, Lord, for all those simple things.*

*I thank you, Lord, for wind and rain and for the silver moon,
For every daisy's lifted face, for every lovely tune,
For winter's white for autumn's gold, for harvest and for home.
With grateful heart I thank you, Lord, for each good gift I own.*

*I thank you, Lord, for hand and heart to offer up your praise.
I thank you, Lord, for tongue to speak of all Your loving ways.
For health and strength, for work and play, for loved ones far and near,
With grateful heart I thank you, Lord, for all that I hold dear.
For all that I hold dear.*

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 4:6-13

(Do Everything with Thanksgiving to God)

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 17:11-19

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the seventeenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

(One Cleansed Leper Returns to Give Thanks to God)

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a

distance ¹³and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."
¹⁴When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests."
And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he
was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶and he fell on his face
at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus answered,
"Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and
give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹And he said to him, "Rise and go your
way; your faith has made you well."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CATECHISM

Lord's Prayer: Fourth Petition with Explanation

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

LSB #686 (v. 1-3)



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 -



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



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



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



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.

SERMON

"A Four-Fold Call to Thanksgiving: When? For What? To Whom? How?"

*Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ~Ephesians 5:20*

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

OFFERING

~Please sign the Record of Fellowship during the Offering~

VOLUNTARY



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, on this day we thank You for Your bountiful gifts to all of us. We remember Your many acts of kindness to Your people through all ages. We bless You for the orderly progression of the seasons and thank You for the bountiful harvest of the fruits of the earth.

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We thank You for the Church, asking that the message of salvation joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world. Bless the work of missionaries, teachers, health workers, and all others who share their faith in countless ways.

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We thank You for the world in which we live and pray for the community of nations. Continue to give us all things needful, and grant that we be good stewards of the earth.

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We thank You for the gift of our families and everyone in them. Help us be truly thankful not only for the material blessings in our lives but for the people who share our lives with us. Grant that our homes be places of love and care and our neighborhoods be welcoming sanctuaries for all.

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We thank You for the faithful labor of people living out their vocations for our welfare. Today we ask a special blessing on the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, whose efforts serve to defend our nation in challenging times and who guarantee our safety in times of peace. And we remember those whose labor brings food to our tables in this and in every season.

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We thank You that Your care embraces all people as we remember those with special concerns and needs including the ill, hospitalized, and those shut-in, [including....], those who sorrow, the unemployed, and underemployed. Help us to find purpose and blessing in assisting those who need the care and compassion that we can offer them.

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Merciful God, in our thankful remembrance we recall those no longer among us on earth, who now rejoice in the glorious light of Your heavenly kingdom. Grant that we be inspired by their faithful witness as we look forward to that time when we rejoice together at Your heavenly throne, giving You eternal thanks and praise.

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.

PRAYERS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

~Please be seated for the Distribution~

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Give Thanks to God, the Father" (10:30 a.m.)

LCVH Adult Choir

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

"Praise and Thanksgiving"

LSB #789



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise



liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the
neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work
guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -



or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Bloss - om and wood.
with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.
joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

"For the Fruits of His Creation"

LSB #894



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.



For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done. In our
For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the



plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 world - wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 won - ders that as - tound us, For the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, Thanks be to God.
 In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

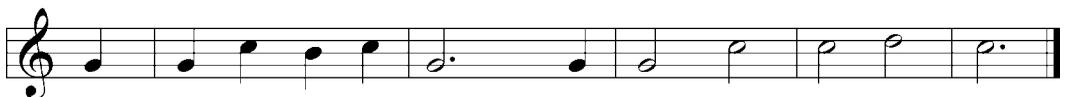
LSB #807



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, My heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, This is my song of songs:
 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon In all high heav'n is known
 4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, In this your con - cord find:
 5 Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,



"May Je - sus Christ be praised!" When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
 "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's ho - ly house of prayer
 Than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word
 "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" Let all the earth a - round
 Sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



This rings my cur - few call: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 Hath none that can com - pare With "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 The e - ter - nal psalm is heard: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 Ring joy - ous with the sound: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 Both now and ev - er - more Shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

The blessings of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you this day and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Now Thank We All Our God"

LSB #895



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voic - es,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won-drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;
With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,



Who from our moth - ers' arms Has blest us on our way
And keep us in His grace And guide us when per - plexed
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



With count - less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



*~All are invited to the Fellowship Hall immediately
following the service to enjoy a Pie Social~*