

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
"Royal Names for a Royal Child"
Part 4: Prince of Peace
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 18, 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
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DIRECTOR OF MOTHER'S DAY OUT: Brooke Heisler – bheisler@vestavialutheran.org
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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.

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

~Please stand and face the Processional Cross~

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit and the Church cry out:

Come, Lord Jesus.

All those who await His appearance pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

The whole creation pleads.

Come, Lord, Jesus.

OPENING HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LSB #380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

And His name shall be called:

Wonderful Counselor.

Mighty God.

Everlasting Father.

Prince of Peace.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Amen.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

-Isaiah 9:2, and 60:3, 19-20

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

~Advent Wreath Is Lit While Singing Hymn~

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

LSB #357 (v.1)

I O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. *Refrain* Re - joice! Re - joice!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

And the nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

The sun will be no more your light by day,
but the Lord will be your everlasting light!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only begotten Son, that at His coming we may worship Him in spirit and truth, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB #349 (v. 1)



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

(The King of Peace Is Coming)

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,

and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,

and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;

and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;

their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,

and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹They shall not hurt or destroy

in all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD

as the waters cover the sea.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM (10:30 a.m.)

J. M. Martin/J. P. Williams

"Waiting for a King"

Waiting for a King; when will He come?

Waiting for a King; God's holy One.

Will the world be ready? Is His advent near?

Waiting for a King; when will He appear?

*Waiting for a King; when will He come?
Waiting for a King; God's only Son.
Will the world receive Him? Will He stand alone?
Waiting for a King to come and take His throne.*

*In the fullness of time the Prince of Peace will come,
The promised Messiah, God's chosen One.
For those who are righteous, hope will be restored.
Their eyes will be opened, eyes will be opened,
Eyes will be opened; they will know the Lord.*

*Waiting for a King, ruling in might.
Waiting for a King to shine in our night.
Will the world be ready when He comes to stay?
Waiting for a King; will this be the day?*

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 2:14-18

(Christ Is Our Peace)

¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MAGNIFICAT—"Song of Mary"

"My Soul Rejoices"

LSB #933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:8-14

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

*(Each Week We Hear One of the "Four Songs of Christmas":
Today we Listen to the "Song of the Angels")*

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THEME HYMN

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

LSB #366 (v. 1-2,4)



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
And ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

SERMON

Sermon Series: "Royal Names for a Royal Child"

Part 4: Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

~Please sign the Record of Fellowship during the Offering~

VOLUNTARY

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.

~Please be seated for the Distribution~

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (10:30 a.m.)

LCVH Adult Choir

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

LSB #368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

~the Distribution Hymns continue on the following page~

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

LSB #367



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
Ye have seen His na - tal star.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.



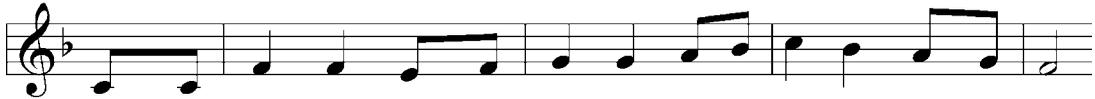
Refrain
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

LSB #393



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

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.

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

CLOSING HYMN

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

LSB #388

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain

Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

TODAY between services in the Fellowship Hall
No sign up required, all are welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Friday, December 23rd, 6:00 p.m.—Candlelight Service
Saturday, December 24th, 4:00 p.m.—Family Candlelight Service
Saturday, December 24th, 7:30 p.m.—Festival Candlelight Service
(Prelude Music for the Festival Service begins at 7:00 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 25th, 10:00 a.m.
(one service only, no Children or Adult Sunday School)

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP

Saturday, December 31st, 6:00 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 1st, 10:00 a.m.
(one service only, no Children or Adult Sunday School)

