



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
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BOOK KEEPER: Melanie Goodson - bookkeeper@vestavialutheran.org
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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

PALM SUNDAY

April 2, 2023



PRELUDE

"Allegro" (arr. S.D. Wolff)

Trumpet: Sam Ardivino

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALM SUNDAY GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit ✠ be with you all.

And with your spirit.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Let us pray.

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen.

THE PALM SUNDAY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵"Say to the daughter of Zion,
'Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

¹²And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. ¹³He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

RESPONSE

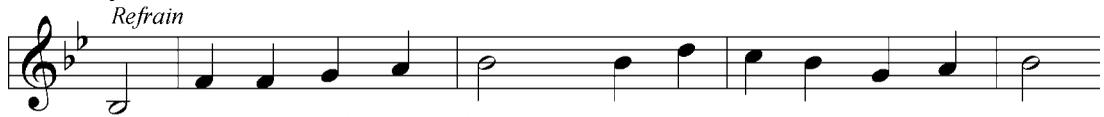
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"All Glory Laud and Honor"

LSB #442 (v. 1-4)



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To You, Re-deem - er, King,



To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the King of Is - rael And Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;
- 4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;



Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.
And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.
Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.
To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.

Refrain

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

O God, when we could not come to You because of our lost condition, You came to us in the person of Your only Son, Jesus Christ. He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death on the cross, that we might behold You and again feel Your embrace. Father in heaven hear us now as we confess our sins to You.

O God, we approach Your throne of mercy because we know we are sinners. We stand accused by Your Law. Our thoughts have been rebellious and impure and have not focused on You. Our words have been unkind and unholy, and have failed to tell of Your love. Our deeds have been erroneous and selfish and we have not served You and others as we ought. Forgive us and help us to live as Your people for Jesus' sake.

For your sake, Jesus, the Son of God, came into this world to give His life, to pay the price for your sin. Because your King came and died for you, you are forgiven. God daily and richly forgives us our sins and grants us new life through His Spirit. Lord, be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, You have poured out upon us Your never ending love by giving Your Son Jesus Christ into death for us. He emptied Himself and became obedient even to the death of the cross. Give us grace to share in His suffering and death so that we may be united with Him in His resurrection. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

Zechariah 9:9-10

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE (8:00 a.m.)

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

LSB #525 (v. 1)



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

"Shout Out the Glory of the Lord"

(R. Thornhill & S. Nordmeyer)

*Reach for a palm, lift high a psalm. Shout out the glory of the Lord!
Lay down your heart, let worship start. Shout out the glory of the Lord!
Sing hosanna, blessed is the One Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ring hosanna, hail David's Son. Long live the King forevermore.*

*This is the day, make straight the way.
Shout out the glory of the Lord, hosanna.
Shout out the glory of the Lord!*

*All glory, laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One.
The King and Blessed One.*

*Bring gifts of praise, loud anthems raise. Shout out the glory of the Lord!
One mighty voice, sing and rejoice. Shout out the glory of the Lord!
Sing hosanna, blessed is the One Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ring hosanna, hail David's Son. Long live the King forevermore.*

*This is the day, make straight the way.
Shout out the glory of the Lord, hosanna.
Shout out the glory of the Lord!*

EPISTLE

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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 (8:00 a.m.)

SERMON HYMN

"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

LSB #441 (v. 1-3)



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! All the
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The an - gel



tribes ho - san - na cry. O Sav - ior meek, pur -
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, Thy tri - umphs
ar - mies of the sky Look down with sad and



sue Thy road, With palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
won - d'ring eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.

SERMON

"Crown Me or Crucify Me"

Matthew 21:1-13

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

OFFERING

~please sign the Record of Fellowship during the Offering

OFFERTORY

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



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

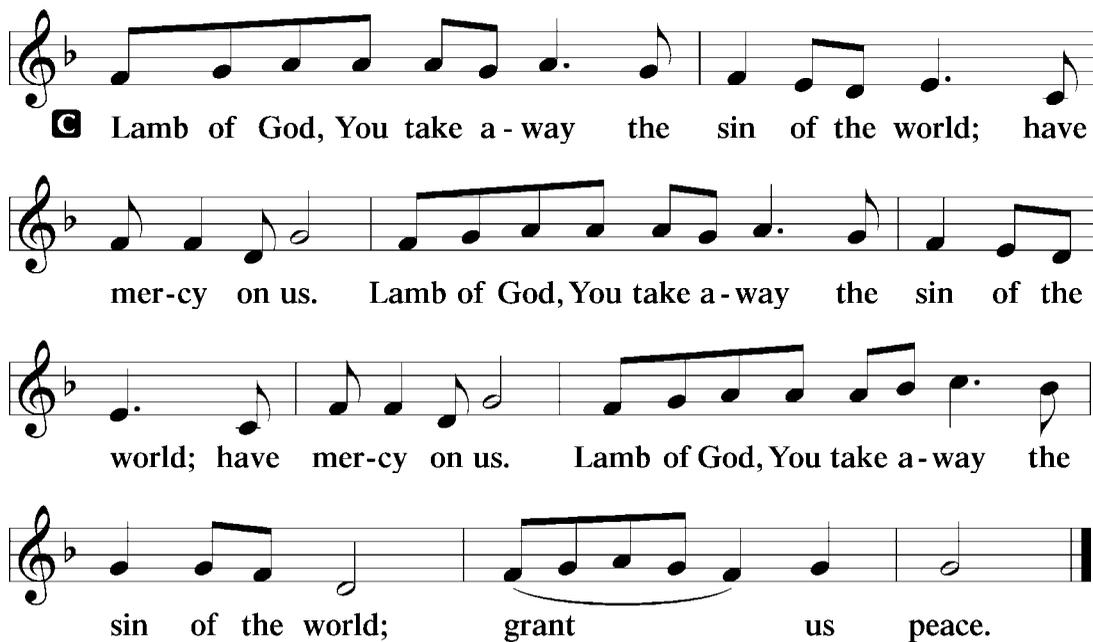
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"No Tramp of Soldiers Marching Feet"

LSB #444



1 No tramp of sol - diers' march - ing feet
 2 And yet He comes. The chil - dren cheer;
 3 What fad - ing flow'rs His road a - dorn;
 4 Now He who bore for mor - tals' sake



With ban - ners and with drums, No sound of mu - sic's
 With palms His path is strown. With ev - 'ry step the
 The palms, how soon laid down! No bloom or leaf but
 The cross and all its pains And chose a ser - vant's



mar - tial beat: "The King of glo - ry comes!"
 cross draws near: The King of glo - ry's throne.
 on - ly thorn The King of glo - ry's crown.
 form to take, The King of glo - ry reigns.



To greet what pomp of king - ly pride
 A - stride a colt He pass - es by
 The sol - diers mock, the rab - ble cries,
 Ho - san - na to the Sav - ior's name



No bells in tri - umph ring, No cit - y gates swing
 As loud ho - san - nas ring, Or else the ver - y
 The streets with tu - mult ring, As Pi - late to the
 Till heav - en's raf - ters ring, And all the ran - somed



o - pen wide: "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"
 stones would cry "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"
 mob re - plies, "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"
 host pro - claim "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

"Hosanna to the King Who Comes!" (10:30 a.m.)

Adult Choir
Cello: Payton Ahelmeyer
Drums: Melissa Phillips

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

LSB #549 (v. 1-5)



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
2 Crown Him, ye mar-tyrs of our God, Who from His al - tar call;
3 Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed from the fall,
4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid Lord did call,
5 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get The worm-wood and the gall,



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your tro - phies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your tro - phies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.

"O Worship the King"

LSB #804 v. (1-4)



1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
4 Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?



O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;
Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
Al - might - y, Thy pow'r hath found - ed of old,
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; 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 upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his favor upon you and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

LSB #443



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed Mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing;



Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang.
The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing And chant - ing clear and loud.
For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav'n our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, Close fold - ed to His breast,
The Lord of earth and heav - en Rode on in low - ly state
Oh, may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice



The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.
Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid - ding wait.
And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Sinfonia"

arr. C. Callahan