



Easter

You are looking for Jesus....

He has risen!

MARK 16:6 (NIV)



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

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9, 2023

PRELUDE

"Easter Medley"

arr. S. Tucker

CALL TO WORSHIP

~1 Corinthians 15

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

O death, where is your victory?

Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is your sting?

Death is swallowed up in victory.

The sting of death is sin, the power of sin is the law.

**But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our
Lord Jesus Christ.**

Let us shout Alleluia! For we are an Easter people!

And Alleluia is our song!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

LSB #457 (v. 1,2,4)



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise e - ter - nal as His love; Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In the darkness of Good Friday we were reminded of the darkness of our sins.

O Lord, we have sinned against You by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved with our hearts, souls, and minds. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. It is we who nailed You to the cross. It is we who placed You in the grave. O Lord, our precious Savior, forgive us and bring Your Easter light to the darkness of sinful hearts.

The apostle Paul wrote: "He was delivered to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification." Jesus died on the cross and we are forgiven. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day so that we might rise on the last day and have eternal life.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This Is the Feast"

LSB #155

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

Let us pray:

Almighty God the Father, through Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

Amen.

OLD TESTAMANT READING

Job 19:23-27

(Our Redeemer Lives)

²³"Oh that my words were written!
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!
²⁴Oh that with an iron pen and lead
they were engraved in the rock forever!
²⁵For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
²⁶And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God,
²⁷whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

K. Getty & E. Cash

"Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!"

*How can it be the One who died, has born our sin through sacrifice,
To conquer every sting of death? Sing, sing Hallelujah!*

*For joy awakes as dawning light, when Christ's disciples lift their eyes.
Alive, He stands, their Friend and King. Christ, Christ, He is risen!*

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Oh! Sing hallelujah!

Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed: Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

*Where doubt and darkness once had been, they saw Him and their hearts believed.
But blessed are those who have not seen, yet sing hallelujah!*

*Once bound by fear, now bold in faith, they preached the truth and pow'r of grace.
And pouring out their lives they gained life, life everlasting!*

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Oh! Sing hallelujah!

Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed: Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

*The pow'r that raised Him from the grave now works in us to pow'r f'lly save!
He frees our hearts to live His grace. Go, tell of His goodness!*

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Oh! Sing hallelujah!

Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed: Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 15:51-55

(We Will All Be Changed on the Last Day)

⁵¹Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

LSB #463 (v. 1-2)



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
Sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!



Of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



At the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

(The Resurrection)

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.



GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

LSB #463 (v. 4)



4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



All your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



Now He lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

LSB #465 (v. 1-2,4)



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And



praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed!



He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
 He is liv - ing!" Now still He comes to give us
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our



clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 life And by His pres - ence stills all
 Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!" Al - le -
 strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing! Al - le -
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

SERMON

"Now You Know the Rest of the Story"

Job 19:23-27

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

OFFERING

~please sign the Record of Fellowship during the Offering

VOLUNTARY

"Cross of Christ"

arr. C. Foss

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.

INVITATION TO THE MEAL

We give thanks to You, Heavenly Father, for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, who was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By His death, He has destroyed death, and by His rising to life again, He has restored us to everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

HYMN OF PREPARATION

"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.

-Announcement for Communion Distribution-

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"This Joyful Eastertide"

LSB #482



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and
2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the
3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son



sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill
slum - ber Till trump from east to west



Has sprung to life this mor - row:
My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:
Shall wake the dead in num - ber:

Refrain



Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,



Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

"Let the Trumpet Sound"

Adult Choir
LCVH Handbell Choir
Trumpet

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"

LSB #475



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice and sing! Now is the tri-umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to
3 Praise we in songs of vic-to-ry That love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris-en Lord, And sing to-day with



of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
strew His way; Let all the world re-joice and say:
can-not die, And sing with hearts up-lift-ed high:
one ac-cord The life laid down, the life re-stored:



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Merciful Father, in this Sacrament, we have tasted and seen that You are good! The blessings of the first Easter Day have been given to us again on this Easter Day! Help us to go out from this worship service and share the hope You have placed within us with the people You have placed around us. We pray this 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 us and keep us.

The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The LORD look upon us with favor and ✠ give us peace.

Amen.

~the service continues on the following page~

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

LSB #461 (v. 1-2,6-8)



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com-fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.

- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

- 8 He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

EASTER DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Allegretto"

arr. S. D. Wolff



THANK YOU

Ruth Johnson—organ & choir director
Trumpets—Sam Ardovino, Amy Summersett
Trombones—Mark Foster, Luke Foster
Flutes—Melissa Phillips, Grace Pickard
Piano—Joshua McKinnis
Cello—Payton Ahlemeyer
Bass Guitar—Todd Pickard
LCVH Adult Choir
LCVH Handbell Choir

to those who donated Easter Lilies:

Carol Barber
Mary & Hal Fuglaar
Alma & John Gaertner
Jackie & Allan Geisler
Myra & Mike Grund
Carolyn & Ben Hogan
Mary & Matt Lembke
Sharon & Don Meyer
Paulette Molloy
Wendy & Todd Pickard
Linda & John Schoen
Tammy & Gary Schoenfeldt
Leigh & Mark Walter