

He is not here

RISEN

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE
April 9, 2023



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
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

April 9, 2023

PRELUDE

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!

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good;

and His mercy endures forever.

CONFESSION

Let us now confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father, asking Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Almighty God, merciful Father, we confess to You all of our sins and failures. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We sin daily and indeed deserve nothing but Your punishment. With sorrow-filled hearts we turn to You, asking for mercy and forgiveness because of the merits of Your Son, our Crucified and Risen Savior, Jesus. Amen.

God has forgiven us all of our sins! Jesus Christ has taken our sin to the cross and shed His blood for our forgiveness. Through our Baptism we have risen with Him to new life, now and forever. Rejoice in this good news. Each day celebrate His love and victory. Live each day as Easter people!

Amen.

PSALMODY

~select verses from Psalm 118

The LORD is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation.

Glad songs of salvation
are in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,
**the right hand of the LORD exalts,
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"**

I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.



HYMN OF PRAISE

"This Is the Feast"

LSB #155



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*



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

O God, You gave Your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by His glorious resurrection You delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin so that we may live with Him forever in the joy of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 12:1-6

¹You will say in that day:

"I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.

²"Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation."

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:

"Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.

⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

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?"

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

LSB #463 (v. 1)



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!

Of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!

At the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." ⁸So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

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.

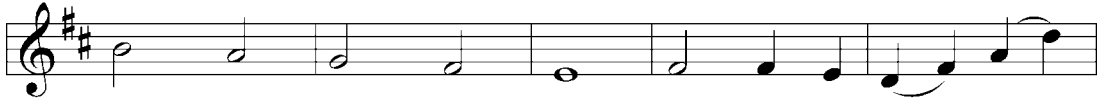
HYMN OF THE DAY

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

LSB #461 (v. 1-4)



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

SERMON

"He Lives to Silence All My Fears"

Rev. Clifford Hellmers, Pastor Emeritus

HYMN OF THE DAY

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

LSB #461 (v. 5,8)

- 5 He lives to silence all my fears;
 He lives to wipe away my tears;
 He lives to calm my troubled heart;
 He lives all blessings to impart.
- 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!

OFFERING *~may be left in the collection plates at the rear of the sanctuary as you exit*

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.

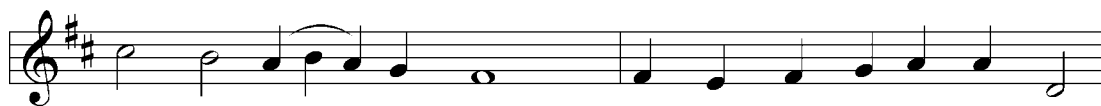
THE COMMUNION HYMN

"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.

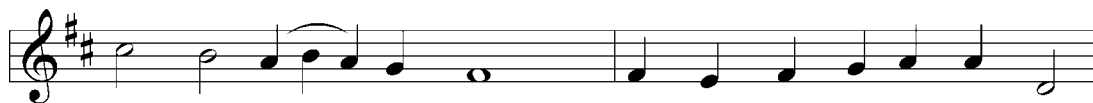
THE COMMUNION HYMN

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

LSB #633 (v. 3-4)



3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; 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.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

LSB #525 (v. 1,4)



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.

EASTER DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

