



And
Be Kind
to one another,
tender hearted,
forgiving each other,
just as
GOD
also in
Christ
forgave you

EPHESIANS 4:32

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
MOTHER'S DAY
May 14, 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
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DIRECTOR OF MOTHER'S DAY OUT: Brooke Heisler – bheisler@vestavialutheran.org
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Leigh Walter – lwalter@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.

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

OBSERVANCE OF MOTHER'S DAY

May 14, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"O Father, All Creating"

LSB #858 (v. 1,3-4)



1 O Fa - ther, all cre - at - ing, Whose wis - dom, love, and pow'r
3 O Spir - it of the Fa - ther, Breathe on them from a - bove,
4 Un - less You build it, Fa - ther, The house is built in vain;



First bound two lives to - geth - er In E - den's pri - mal hour,
So search - ing in Your pure - ness, So ten - der in Your love
Un - less You, Sav - ior, bless it, The joy will turn to pain.



To - day to these Your chil - dren Your ear - liest gifts re - new:
That, guard - ed by Your pres - ence And kept from strife and sin,
But noth - ing breaks the u - nion Of hearts in You made one;



A home by You made hap - py, A love by You kept true.
Their hearts may heed Your guid - ance And know You dwell with - in.
The love Your Spir - it hal - lows Is end - less love be - gun.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

A woman of faith opens her mouth with wisdom,

and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

~Proverbs 31:26

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

INTROIT

Since we live by the Spirit,

Let us keep in step with the Spirit.

For the fruit of the Spirit is:

**Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, and self-control.**

As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,

Clothe yourself with kindness.

Kind words are like honey,

Sweet to the soul and healthy to the body.

Since we live by the Spirit,

Let us keep in step with the Spirit.

KYRIE



☐ Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Visit, O Lord, the homes in which Your people dwell, and keep all harm and danger far from them. Grant that we may dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels, sharing eternally in Your blessing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

(A Woman of Noble Character)

- ¹⁰ An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.
¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.
¹² She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.
¹³ She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.
¹⁴ She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar.
¹⁵ She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens.
¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
¹⁷ She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.
¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.
¹⁹ She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.
²⁰ She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.
²¹ She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet.
²² She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.
²³ Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.
²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.
²⁵ Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.
²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
²⁷ She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
²⁹ "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."
³⁰ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 4:29-32

(Be Kind to One Another)

²⁹Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 12:46-50

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twelfth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

(Jesus' Mother and Family)

⁴⁶While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. ⁴⁸But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CATECHISM

~The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

LSB #700 (v. 1-2)

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

- 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

SERMON

"One Simple Word"

Proverbs 31:26

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

LSB #700 (v. 3-4)

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
 Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
 Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
 Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
 Glory in Thy perfect love.

4 Finish then Thy new creation,
 Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
 Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
 Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
 Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

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.

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!


WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE


The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.


AGNUS DEI



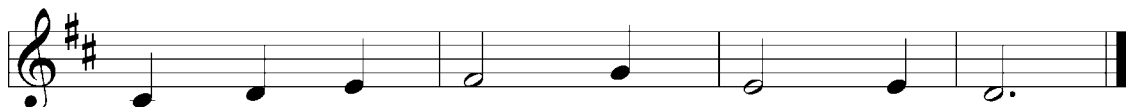
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

~Please be seated for the Distribution~

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Oh That I Had a Thousand Voices"

LSB #811



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es To praise my
2 O all you pow'rs that He im - plant - ed, A - rise, keep
3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der That dance for
4 All crea - tures that have breath and mo - tion, That through the



God with thou - sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
si - lence now no more; Put forth the strength that God has
joy in sum - mer air, You mead - ow grass - es, bright and
earth, the sea, the sky, Come, share with me my heart's de -



joic - es, Would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs To all, wher -
grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore. O soul and
slen - der, You flow'rs so fra - grant and so fair, You live to
vo - tion, Help me to sing God's prais - es high. My ut - most



ev - er I might be, What great things God has done for me.
bod - y, join to raise With heart - felt joy our Mak - er's praise.
show God's praise a - lone. Join me to make His glo - ry known.
pow'rs can nev - er quite De - clare the won - ders of His might.

- 5 Creator, humbly I implore You
To listen to my earthly song
Until that day when I adore You,
Together with the angel throng
And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing
Eternal anthems to my King.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

LSB #803



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais - ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di - vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

"Beautiful Savior"

LSB #537



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
flow'rs of bloom-ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright-er, Je - sus shines
God and Son of Man! Glo-ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -



serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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, with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

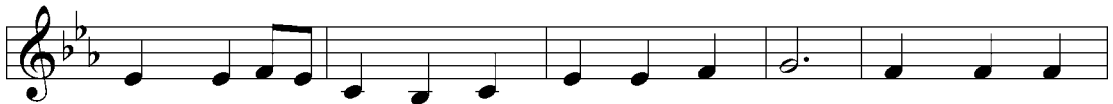
The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Christ Be My Leader"

LSB #861



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord

Thanks be to God.

