



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
Service of the Rite of Confirmation

10:30 a.m.

May 21, 2023

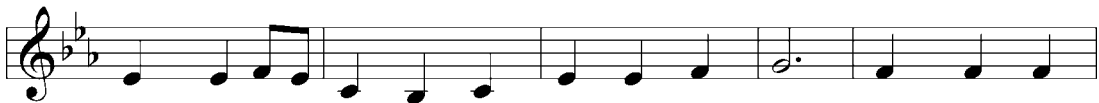
PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL 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.

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will
forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day, when all who have ran the race of faith shall receive the crown of life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Shepherd of Tender Youth"

LSB #864 (v. 1,4)



1 Shep - herd of ten - der youth, Guid - ing in
4 O ev - er be - our guide, Our shep - herd,



love and truth, Through de - vious ways; Christ, our tri -
and our pride, Our staff and song. Je - sus, O



um - phant king, We come Your name to sing
Christ of God, By Your en - dur - ing Word



And here our chil - dren bring To join Your praise.
Lead us where You have trod; Make our faith strong.

FIRST READING

Romans 5:6-11

(Christ Died for the Ungodly)

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

II Timothy 3:14-17

(Training in Righteousness)

¹⁴ As for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

“Be in Our Gathering”

*Be in our gath’ring, Spirit of All, binding in love Your chosen and called.
Be in our mission, making us whole, stirring to service and touching each soul.*

*Be in our struggles, so that we live able to differ and to forgive.
Heal our divisions with Your embrace, weaving them into Your fabric of grace.*

Spirit of God, Heavenly Dove, fill us we pray with Your goodness and love.

Fill us we pray with Your goodness and love.

*Be in our searching, humbly we pray, lighting the journey, guiding our way;
Wisdom of Ages making us one, parting the darkness, revealing The Son.*

*Be in our worship, God, to impart, patience and kindness to ev’ry heart;
Heirs to Your promise, hope yet to come, born of the knowledge that You are our home.*

Spirit of God, Heavenly Dove, fill us we pray with Your goodness and love.

Fill us we pray with Your goodness of love.

Amen, Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 10:26-33

(Jesus Invites His Disciples to Openly and Boldly Confess the Faith)

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the tenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

(Children may leave at this time for Children’s Church)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

LSB #725 (v. 1-2)



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.

SERMON

*"Unfiltered, Unedited, Uncropped, Ungodly:
Yet Still Loved by Jesus!"*

Romans 5:8

Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer

OFFERING

~can be left in the plates by the door as you exit

INDIVIDUAL CONFIRMATION

*After a personal statement of faith, each confirmand kneels
to receive a stole, blessing, and a confirmation verse*

Confirmation Class of 2023

+ Liam Hammel +

What is the purpose of the Bible?

Ephesians 2:8

+ Ella Morgan +

What does it mean that we are saved by grace alone?

Joshua 24:14-15

+ Gretchen Noon +

What does it mean to repent?

Psalms 119:105

+ Philip Norris +

What does the word "Gospel" mean? What does the Gospel mean to me?

Philippians 4:13

+ Madeline Schmidtke +

Why did God give the law?

1 Peter 2:9

+ Emma Seltz +

Why is the Bible the one and only authority for Christian teaching and living?

John 3:16

+ Ella Salmon +

What does it mean we are saved through faith alone?

Isaiah 41:10

INVITATION TO CONFESS FAITH

Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

You have been baptized and you have been taught the faith according to our Lord's invitation. The fulfillment of His bidding we now celebrate with thankful hearts, rejoicing to confess the faith into which you were baptized and which you yourselves will now confess before the Church.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts therefore to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what, in the name of the Lord, as fellow children of God in His Church, we shall now ask you:

Congregation: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?

Confirmands: I do.

Congregation: Do you believe in God the Father Almighty?

Confirmands: Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Congregation: **Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?**

Confirmands: *Yes, I believe 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. On 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 shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

Congregation: **Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?**

Confirmands: *Yes, 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.*

Congregation: **Do you believe the inspired Scriptures to be the written Word of God and confess the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to be faithful and true to the Scriptures?**

Confirmands: *I do.*

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

Confirmands: *I do.*

Pastor: Do you desire to be a member of the Lutheran Church and of this congregation?

Confirmands: *I do.*

Pastor: Do you sincerely intend to conform all your life to God's word, to receive regularly His grace and forgiveness in Holy Communion, and serve Him continually in faith, word, and deed as He enables you?

Confirmands: I do.

Pastor: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

Confirmands: I do.

WELCOME INTO CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP

Upon this your profession and promise, I invite and welcome you, as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation, to share with us in all the gifts our Lord has for His Church and to live them out continually in His worship and service. He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

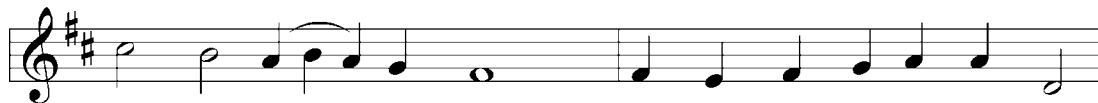
COMMUNION PREPARATION VERSE

"At the Lamb's High Feast"

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.

(Please be seated for the Distribution)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS AND SONGS

"How Firm a Foundation"

LSB #728



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose
4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.



What more can He say than to you He has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!
Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.

5 "Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne."

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS AND SONGS (continued)

"We Gather at Your Table, Lord"

Adult Choir

"Seek Ye First"

LSB #712



1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God, And His
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and
3 Man does not live by bread a - lone, But by



right - teous - ness. And all these things shall be
ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be
ev - 'ry word That pro - ceeds from the



add - ed un - to you! Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
mouth of the Lord, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

"Draw Us to Thee"

LSB #701



1 Draw us to Thee, For then shall we Walk in Thy
 2 Draw us to Thee, Lord, lov - ing - ly; Let us de -
 3 Draw us to Thee; O grant that we May walk the
 4 Draw us to Thee That al - so we Thy heav'n - ly
 5 Draw us to Thee Un - ceas - ing - ly, In - to Thy



steps for - ev - er And has - ten on Where Thou art
 part with glad - ness That we may be For - ev - er
 road to heav - en! Di - rect our way Lest we should
 bliss in - her - it And ev - er dwell Where sin and
 king - dom take us; Let us for - e'er Thy glo - ry



gone To be with Thee, dear Sav - ior.
 free From sor - row, grief, and sad - ness.
 stray And from Thy paths be driv - en.
 hell No more can vex our spir - it.
 share, Thy saints and joint heirs make us.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from ear to the heart, from the heart to daily life, that as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

Adult Choir

"A Psalm of Benediction"

May our God be gracious and bless us.

May His face shine down upon us,

That His way may be known on the earth as it is in heaven.

May the saving grace of our Father be known among the nations;

So with gladness and joy they will sing with the saints in heaven.

God is great! God is good! May His light shine before us.

Amen, amen, amen, amen!

God is great! God is good!

May His light shine before us.

Amen, amen, amen!

Amen, 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.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

LSB #922 (v. 1-3)



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing, Nev-er a-lone.
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Clos-er to Me;



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, Joy-ful and free. Here My



love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you Mine for-ev-er.
heard My dear Son's sto-ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo-ry.
Spir-it's pow-er filled you; Here His ten-der com-fort stilled you.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.
Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Joy-ful and free.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*All are invited to a reception in the fellowship hall for our new Confirmands
before returning to the sanctuary for the voters meeting*



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 5th – 9th

9:00 a.m. – noon

**JOIN US JUNE 5th – 9th FOR A WEEK OF OUT OF THIS WORLD FUN!
(4K THRU RISING 6th GRADERS)**

REGISTER NOW!

Participants and Volunteers can register using the following link:

