



EVEN THE HAIRS OF YOUR
HEAD ARE ALL NUMBERED

MATT. 10:30

The Lutheran Church *of* Vestavia Hills
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
June 25, 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 will resume in the Fall.



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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 25, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

LSB #904



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Lord, Praise to You and



all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till Your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we may trust Your Word,



Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach - ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing Your prais - es yon - der.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Amen.

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.

Before you were born I set you apart.”

~Jeremiah 1:5

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

O almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Amen.

RESPONSE

~ Psalm 139:13-18

For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
**Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.**

My frame was not hidden from you,
**when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**

Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
**the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there were none of them.**

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.

GLORIA PATRI



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

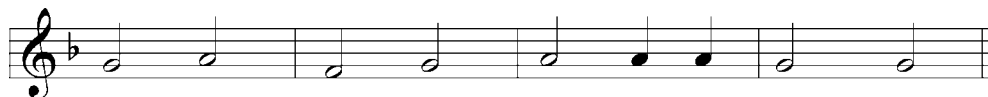


as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

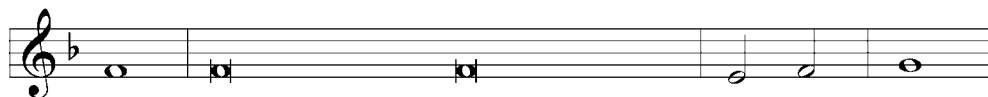


on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

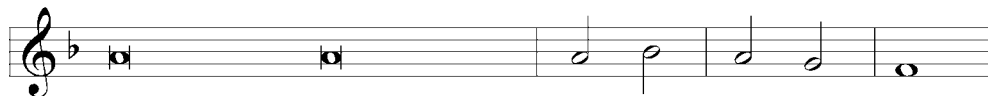
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -

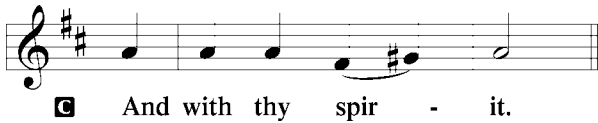
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.



Almighty God, You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 139:1-12

(Search Me, O God)

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

³You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

⁹If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"

¹²even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 8:26-27

(The Lord Searches Our Heart)

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 10:26-33

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



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

(Even the Hairs on Your Head Are Numbered)

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 be to Thee, O Christ.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

LSB #738



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

SERMON

"Encouragement for the Discouraged"

Matthew 10:26-33

Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer

OFFERING

~please sign the Record of Fellowship during the Offering

VOLUNTARY

OFFERTORY



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PEACE OF THE LORD

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



AGNUS DEI

A musical score for 'AGNUS DEI' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time, consisting of five staves of music. The lyrics are: 'O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.' Each staff begins with a square box containing a 'C' symbol. The melody is written in treble clef. The first staff ends with a fermata over the final G. The second staff has a quarter rest at the beginning. The third staff has a quarter rest at the beginning. The fourth staff ends with a fermata over the final G. The fifth staff has a quarter rest at the beginning and ends with a fermata over the final G.

~Please be seated for the Distribution~

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

LSB #783



- 1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

"With the Lord Begin Your Task"

LSB #869



1 With the Lord be - gin your task; Je - sus will di - rect it.
2 Let each day be - gin with prayer, Praise, and ad - o - ra - tion.
3 With your Sav - ior at your side, Foes need not a - harm you;
4 If your task be thus be - gun With the Sav - ior's bless - ing,



For His aid and coun - sel ask; Je - sus will per - fect it.
On the Lord cast ev - 'ry care; He is your sal - va - tion.
In His prom - is - es con - fide, And no ill can harm you.
Safe - ly then your course will run, Toward the prom - ise press - ing.



Ev - 'ry morn with Je - sus rise, And when day is end - ed,
Morn - ing, eve - ning, and at night Je - sus will be near you,
All your trust and hope re - pose In the might - y Mas - ter,
Good will fol - low ev - 'ry - where While you here must wan - der;



In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him com - mend - ed.
Save you from the tempt - er's might, With His pres - ence cheer you.
Who in wis - dom tru - ly knows How to stem dis - as - ter.
You at last the joy will share In the man - sions yon - der.

5 Thus, Lord Jesus, ev'ry task
Be to You commended;
May Your will be done, I ask,
Until life is ended.
Jesus, in Your name begun
Be the day's endeavor;
Grant that it may well be done
To Your praise forever.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

"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.

+ PLACEMENT OF CHURCH COUNCIL AND ELDERS +

BENEDICTION

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.



■ A - men, a - men, a - men.

CLOSING HYMN

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

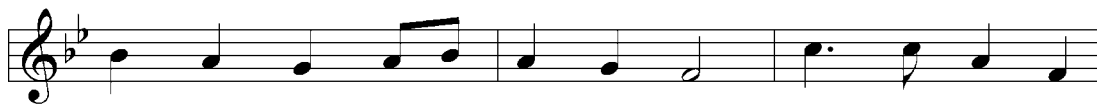
LSB #924



1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling



joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE