



The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills  
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
July 30, 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](http://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](mailto:pastor@vestavialutheran.org) text: 205-201-8866  
 PASTOR EMERITUS: The Reverend Clifford Hellmers – [vestluth@juno.com](mailto:vestluth@juno.com) 205-422-4951  
 VICAR: Matthew Vathauer – [vicar@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:vicar@vestavialutheran.org)  
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 CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Leigh Walter – [lwalter@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:lwalter@vestavialutheran.org)  
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 BOOK KEEPER: Melanie Goodson - [bookkeeper@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:bookkeeper@vestavialutheran.org)  
 ADOPTED MEDICAL MISSIONARIES - Arianna and David Shirk, Madeline & Annabelle - [shirkdavid@gmail.com](mailto: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. If you need a communion assistant to bring the Lord's Supper to you in the pew, please notify an usher.

# The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 30, 2023

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

"What Is the World to Me"

LSB #730 (v. 1,3-4)



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure  
3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers  
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!  
Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.  
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;  
I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:  
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!  
My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!  
Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

## CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**Amen.**

Once you were not a people,

**But now you are God's people.**

Once you had not received mercy,

**But now you have received mercy.**

You are a chosen people,

**You are a chosen race.**

A royal priesthood,

**A people for His own possession.**

So that we may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness.

**So that we might proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us into His marvelous light.**

Once you were not a people,

**But now you are God's people.**

Once you had not received mercy,

**But now you have received mercy.**

*~select verses from 1 Peter 2*

## 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

*~select verses from Psalm 96*

Give thanks to the LORD for He is good.

**His loves endures forever.**

Give thanks to the God of gods.

**His love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

**His love endures forever.**

To Him Who alone does great wonders,

**His love endures forever.**

## GLORIA PATRI



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

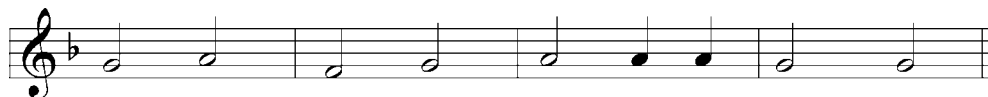


as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## KYRIE



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

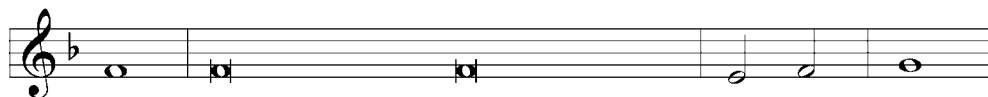


on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

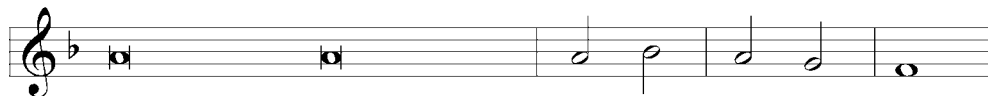
## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



**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 -

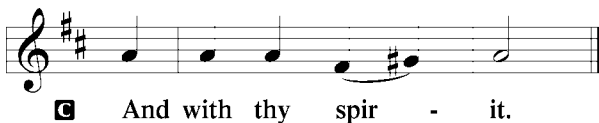
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

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.



O God, You make Your power known by showing mercy. Grant us Your grace always to enjoy Your heavenly Treasure, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

*(Israel a Treasured Possession)*

<sup>6</sup>For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup>but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

<sup>9</sup>Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



*(Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God)*

<sup>28</sup> We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

<sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

<sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

<sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 13:44-46

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



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

*(Parable of the Hidden Treasure and Pearl of Great Value)*

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup>who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

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

"Jesus Priceless Treasure"

LSB #743 (v. 1,4,6)



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,  
4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,



Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish  
Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!



Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Yearn - ing, Lord, for Thee?  
Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer  
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my



naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.  
Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.

- 6 Hence, all fear and sadness!  
For the Lord of gladness,  
Jesus, enters in.  
Those who love the Father,  
Though the storms may gather,  
Still have peace within.  
Yea, whate'er  
I here must bear,  
Thou art still my purest pleasure,  
Jesus, priceless treasure!

**SERMON**

*"The Treasure's Treasure"*

**Matthew 13:44**

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 -



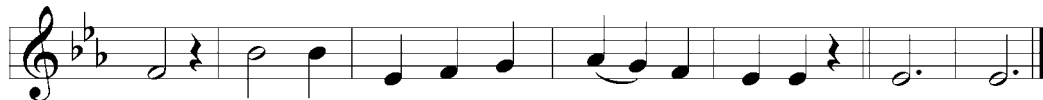
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



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,



bles - ed is He, bles - 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

Musical notation for the Agnus Dei. It consists of five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (half), G4 (half). A square box containing the letter 'C' is positioned below the first note (G4). 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." The final note of the fifth staff is a G4 with a sharp sign (#) above it.

*~Please be seated for the Distribution~*

## DISTRIBUTION

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

LSB #637



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,  
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,  
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;  
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;  
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,  
With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,  
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.  
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.  
As in this feast of love You bless us now.



"I Come, O Savior to Thy Table"

LSB #618



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and  
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners  
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I  
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my  
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -  
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in -  
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt  
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -  
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:  
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.  
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:  
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.  
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

*Refrain*



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

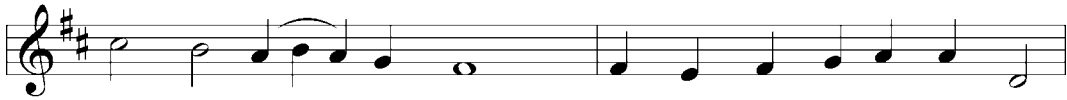
~Distribution Hymns continue on the following page~

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

LSB #633 (v. 1-4)



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—  
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



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. May Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Your name.

**Amen.**

**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

"All Depends on Our Possessing"

LSB #732 (v. 1-4)



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant  
2 He who to this day has fed me And to man - y  
3 Man - y spend their lives in fret - ting O - ver tri - fles  
4 When with sor - row I am strick - en, Hope a - new my



grace and bless - ing, Though all earth - ly wealth de - part.  
joys has led me Is and ev - er shall be mine.  
and in get - ting Things that have no sol - id ground.  
heart will quick - en; All my long - ing shall be stilled.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en By their God are  
He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, He who dai - ly  
I shall strive to win a trea - sure That will bring me  
To His lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der Soul and bod - y



not for - sak - en And will keep a daunt - less heart.  
guides and rules me Will re - main my help di - vine.  
last - ing plea - sure And that now is sel - dom found.  
I sur - ren - der, For on God a - lone I build.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE