



The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF SUNDAY
August 20, 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: Matthew Vatthauer – 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.

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PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"Shepherd of Tender Youth"

LSB #864 (v. 1,4-5)



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.

5 So now, and till we die,
Sound we Your praises high
And joyful sing:
Infants and all the throng,
Who to the Church belong,
Unite to swell the song
To Christ, our king!

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.

PSALMODY

~ select verses from Psalm 71, 119, 145

Let each generation tell its children of Your mighty acts;

Let them proclaim Your power.

They shall speak of the might of Your awesome deeds,
and I will declare Your greatness.

Your faithfulness extends to every generation.

They shall pour forth the fame of Your abundant goodness
and I will sing aloud of Your righteousness.

Your faithfulness extends to every generation.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim Your might to another generation,
Your power to all those to come.

Your faithfulness extends to every generation.

Let each generation tell its children of Your mighty acts;

Let them proclaim Your power.

His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Father Welcomes"

LSB #605

Refrain



Fa - ther wel-comes all His chil - dren To His fam - 'ly



through His Son. Fa - ther giv - ing His sal - va - tion,



Life for - ev - er has been won.



1 Lit - tle chil - dren, come to Me, For My king - dom
2 In the wa - ter, in the Word, In His prom - ise,
3 Let us dai - ly die to sin; Let us dai - ly



is of these. Life and love I have to give,
be as - sured: Those who are bap - tized and be - lieve
rise with Him, Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,



Mer - cy for your sin.
Shall be born a gain.
Live in the peace of God.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious Father, Your Son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. Bless and guide the children of Your Church by Your Holy Spirit, that they may grow in the knowledge of Your Word. Grant that they may serve You well, developing their talents not for their own sakes but to Your glory. Protect them from all danger, giving Your holy angels charge over them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

(Parents Are to Teach God's Word Faithfully to Their Children)

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 13:11, 14:20

(Maturing in Our Christian Faith)

¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

²⁰Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PREPARATION HYMN

"Jesus Loves Me"

LSB #588

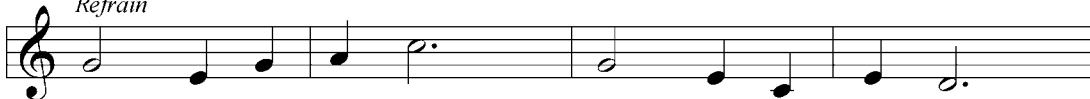


1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.

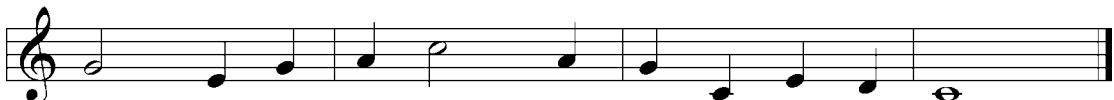


Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.
He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the eighteenth chapter.



(Let the Little Children Come to Me)

¹⁵Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

LSB #725



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God 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
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

SERMON

"Childlike Faith"

Luke 18:15-17

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

OFFERING

~please sign the Record of Fellowship during the Offering

VOLUNTARY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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 pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

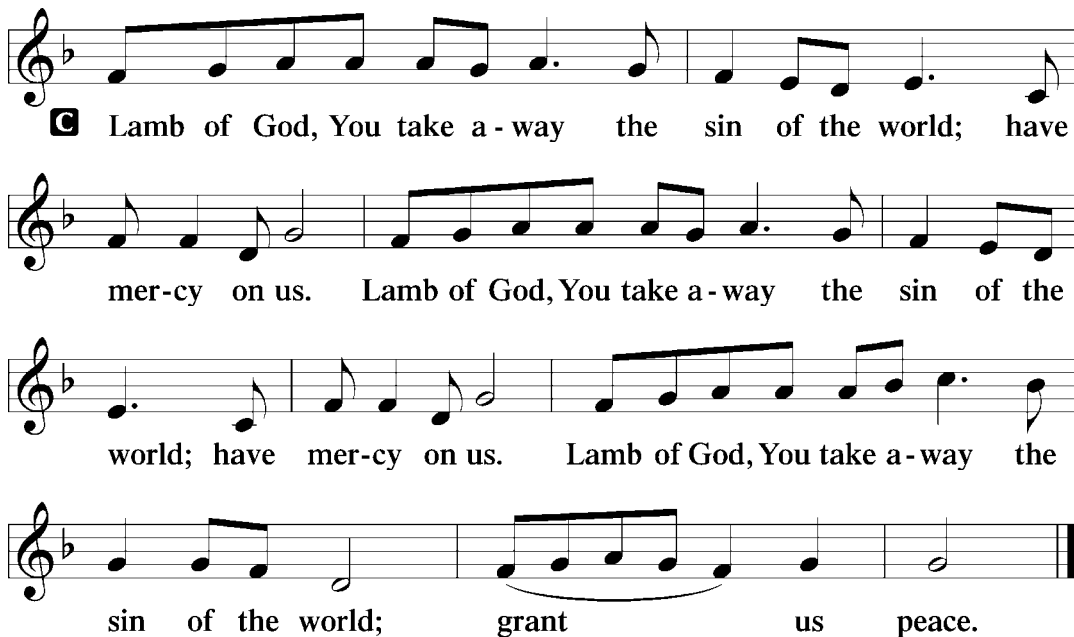
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI



☐ Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

~Please be seated for the Distribution~

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"I Love to Tell the Story"

All God's People Sing #128

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do. *Refrain*

Refrain:

I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word. *Refrain*

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

I love to tell the story, of how, from heav'n above
Our Lord and Savior Jesus was sent to show God's love
To ev'ry sinful creature upon this earthly place
How Christ, the gift from heaven, is God's great gift of grace. *Refrain*

~Distribution Hymns continue on the following page~

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

All God's People Sing #117

He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole-wide world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the wind and the rain in His hands,
He's got the sun and the moon in His hands,
He's got the wind and the rain in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the tiny little baby in His hands,
He's got the tiny little baby in His hands,
He's got the tiny little baby in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got you and me, brother, in His hands,
He's got you and me, sister, in His hands,
He's got you and me, brother, in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

"Father, I Adore You"

All God's People Sing #94

Father, I adore You,
Lay my life before You.
How I love You.

Jesus, I adore You,
Lay my life before You.
How I love You.

Spirit, I adore You,
Lay my life before You.
How I love You.

"God Is So Good"

All God's People Sing #107

God is so good, God is so good,
God is so good He's so good to me.

He cares for me, He cares for me,
He cares for me, He's so good to me.

I'll do His will, I'll do His will,
I'll do His will, He's so good to me.

He loves me so, He loves me so,
He loves me so, He's so good to me.

He answers prayer, He answers prayer,
He answers prayer, He's so good to me.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths received the holy Sacrament, we may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.

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.

POSTLUDE