

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 27, 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

HYMN OF INVOCATION

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

LSB #909 (v. 1-2,4)



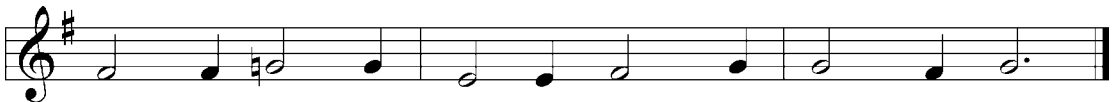
1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; Come with all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
Hear Your peo - ple as they pray; And Your full - est
Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and



help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in these walls to - day.
one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION OF SINS 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 18

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,

my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,

my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,

and I am saved from my enemies.

For who is God, but the LORD?

And who is a rock, except our God?—

The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,

and exalted be the God of my salvation—

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,

my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,

my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

LSB #912 (v. 1)



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

(Look to the Rock from Which You Were Built)

¹"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.

³For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴"Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 2:17-22

(Church Is Built on the Foundation of the Apostles and Prophets)

¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PREPARATION HYMN

"Church of God, Elect and Glorious"

LSB #646 (v. 1,4)



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, Ho - ly
4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, Be the



na - tion, cho - sen race; Called as God's own
peo - ple, He in - tends; Strong in faith and



spe - cial peo - ple, Roy - al priests and heirs of
swift to an - swer Each com - mand your Mas - ter



grace: Know the pur - pose of your call - ing,
sends: Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing



Show to all His might - y deeds; Tell of love that
Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer; Give your lives in



knows no lim - its, Grace that meets all hu - man needs.
joy - ful ser - vice— Sing His praise, His love de - clare.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

(On This Rock I Will Build My Church)

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

~inside back cover of the LSB pew hymnal

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN

"Built on the Rock"

LSB #645 (v. 1,3-4)



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His
4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how



stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -
sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
tion. Were we but two His name to tell,
us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
With all His grace and His fa - vor.
And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.

SERMON

"Built on the Rock"

Matthew 16:18

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

~please be seated for the Distribution~

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Glorious Things of You Are Spoken"

LSB #648



1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y
2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, Spring - ing from e -
3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, See the cloud and
4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a



of our God; He whose word can - not be bro - ken Formed you
ter - nal love, Well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters And all
fire ap - pear For a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, Show - ing
mem - ber am, Let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will



for His own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges found - ed,
fear of want re - move. Who can faint while such a riv - er
that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner
glo - ry in Your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain plea - sures,



What can shake your sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's
Ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace, which like the
Light by night and shade by day, Safe they feed up -
All their boast - ed pomp and show; Sol - id joys and



walls sur - round - ed, You may smile at all your foes.
Lord, the giv - er, Nev - er fails from age to age.
on the man - na Which God gives them on their way.
last - ing trea - sures None but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

"Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head"

LSB #647



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Church's head, You are her one foun -
 2 O Lord, let this Your lit - tle flock, Your name a - lone con -
 3 Help us to serve You ev - er - more With hearts both pure and
 4 And for Your Gos - pel let us dare To sac - ri - fice all



da - tion; In You she trusts, be - fore You bows, And
 fess - ing, Con - tin - ue in Your lov - ing care, True
 low - ly; And may Your Word, that light di - vine, Shine
 trea - sure; Teach us to bear Your bless - ed cross, To



waits for Your sal - va - tion. Built on this rock se - cure,
 u - ni - ty pos - sess - ing. Your sac - ra - ments, O Lord,
 on in splen - dor ho - ly That we re - pen - tance show,
 find in You all plea - sure. O grant us stead - fast - ness



Your Church shall en - dure Though all the world de -
 And Your sav - ing Word To us, Lord, pure re -
 In faith ev - er grow; The pow'r of sin de -
 In joy and dis - tress, Lest we, Lord, You for -



cay And all things pass a - way.
 tain. Grant that they may re - main
 stroy And e - vils that an - noy,
 sake. Let us by grace par - take



O hear, O hear us, Je - sus!
 Our on - ly strength and com - fort.
 O make us faith - ful Chris - tians.
 Of end - less joy and glad - ness.

"The Church's One Foundation"

LSB #644



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us,
May see You face to face.

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 us 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 on you in favor and ✠ give you peace.

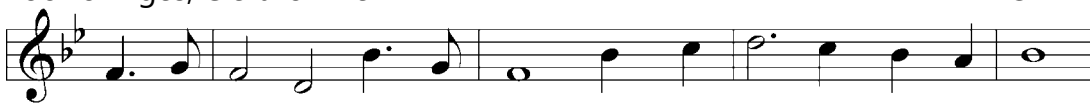
Amen.

~the service continues on the following page with the Recessional Hymn~

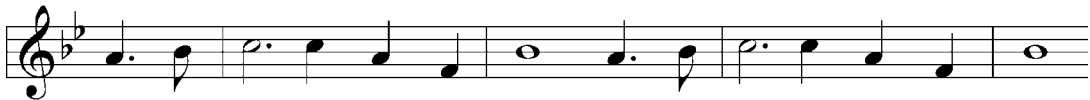
RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

LSB #761



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE