

Faith at Work



The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
LABOR DAY WEEKEND
September 3, 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
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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. Please notify an usher if you need a communion assistant to bring the Lord's Supper to you in the pew.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

September 3, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF INVOCATION

"With the Lord Begin Your Task"

LSB #869 (v. 1-2,4-5)



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.
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.
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,
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.
You at last the joy will share In the man - sions yon - der.

~the hymn continues on the following page~

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.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father, grant Your mercy and grace to Your people in their many and various callings. Give them patience, and strengthen them in their Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to their neighbor in Christ's name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

LSB #783 (v. 1-2)



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;



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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15

(Man Works as God's Caretaker of Creation)

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 3:17-24

(Do Everything in the Name of Jesus)

¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

¹⁸Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest

they become discouraged. ²²Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

"From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

LSB #816 (v. 1)

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies Let the Cre - a - tor's

praise a - rise; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung Through ev - 'ry land by

ev - 'ry tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

(Parable of the Talents)

¹⁴“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, 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

SERMON HYMN

"Voices Raised to You We Offer"

LSB #795 (v. 1-2,4-5)



1 Voic - es raised to You we of - fer; Tune them, God, for
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise You; Earth and sky Your
4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, Kin - dle faith with -



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts You lend us,
in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;



For Your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
We re - turn to You to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
Through our hands Your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to You we sing!
Al - le - lu - ia! God, Cre - a - tor, source of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, Help - er, breath of life!

- 5 How can any praise we offer
Measure all the thanks we owe?
Take our hearts and hands and voices—
Gifts of love we can bestow.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Triune God, to You we sing!

SERMON

"Faith at Work"

Genesis 2:15

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

OFFERING

~please sign the Record of Fellowship during the Offering

VOLUNTARY

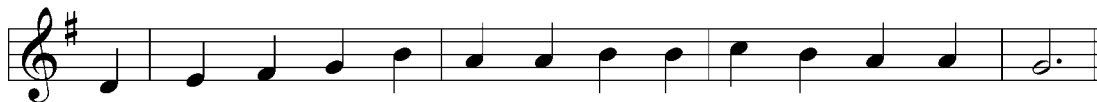
OFFERTORY

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"

LSB #781 (v. 1-2)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

~inside back cover of the LSB pew hymnal

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

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

LSB #790



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
 All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
 Let the Amen
 Sound from His people again;
 Gladly forever adore Him!

"Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices"

LSB #811 (v. 1-4)



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es To praise my
 2 O all you pow'rs that He im - plant - ed, A - rise, keep
 3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der That dance for
 4 All crea - tures that have breath and mo - tion, That throng the



God with thou - sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
 si - lence now no more; Put forth the strength that God has
 joy in sum - mer air, You mead - ow grass - es, bright and
 earth, the sea, the sky, Come, share with me my heart's de -



joic - es, Would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs To all, wher -
 grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore. O soul and
 slen - der, You flow'rs so fra - grant and so fair, You live to
 vo - tion, Help me to sing God's prais - es high. My ut - most



ev - er I might be, What great things God has done for me.
 bod - y, join to raise With heart - felt joy our Mak - er's praise.
 show God's praise a - lone. Join me to make His glo - ry known.
 pow'rs can nev - er quite De - clare the won - ders of His might.

"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

LSB #851



1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our
 4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
 free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your
 hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
 sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You
 Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful
 You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py
 deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your
 stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of



and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
 all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.
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~

SENDING HYMN

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

LSB #738 (v. 1-3)



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,



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:



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,



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.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE