

**Whoever heeds
instruction is on
the path to life,
but he who rejects
reproof leads
others astray.**

Proverbs 10:17

The Lutheran Church *of* Vestavia Hills
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 10, 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 Vathauer – 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. If you need a communion assistant to bring the Lord's Supper to you in the pew, please notify an usher.

OPENING HYMN

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

LSB #686

- 1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
 Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
 Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
 Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
 May I still Thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
 Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
 Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
 Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
 Interposed His precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
 Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
 Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
 Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
 Seal it for Thy courts above.
- 4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
 I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
 How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
 Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
 Me to realms of endless day.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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.

INTROIT

~Psalm 32:1-7

Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
**surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.**

You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

GLORIA PATRI



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

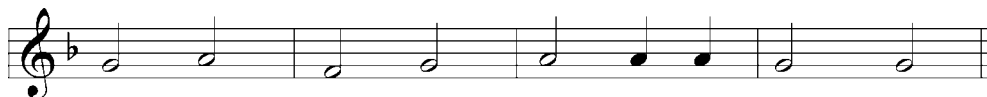


as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

KYRIE



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

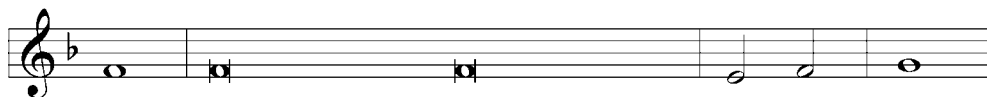


on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

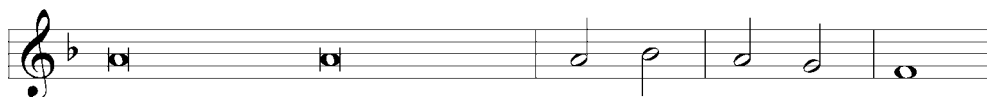
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



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,



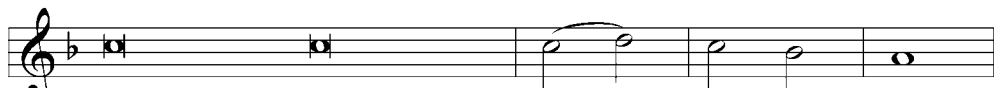
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.




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



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



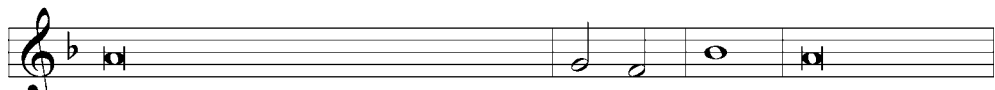
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,




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



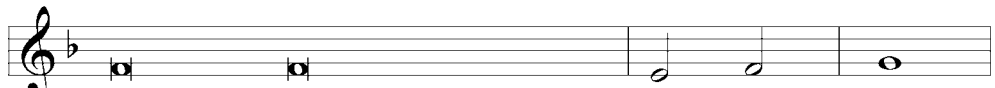
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



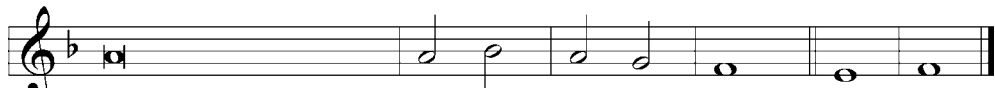
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



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



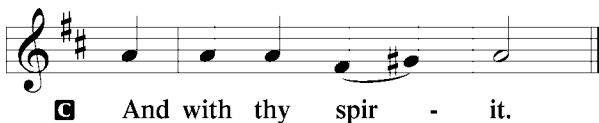
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



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

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.



O Lord, our Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as we come to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for the sake of His name.



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 33:7-9

(Ezekiel a Watchman)

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Instructions on How to Restore an Erring Believer)

¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵For each will have to bear his own load.

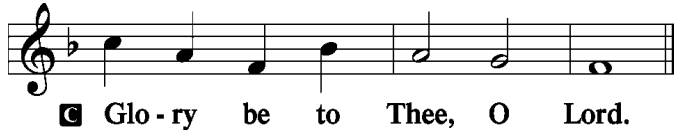
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

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

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



(When a Fellow Believer Sins Against You)

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

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

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

LSB #707

- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
 To keep His statutes still!
 Oh, that my God would grant me grace
 To know and do His will!

- 2 Order my footsteps by Thy Word
 And make my heart sincere;
 Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
 But keep my conscience clear.

- 3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
 A stricter watch to keep;
 And should I e'er forget Thy way,
 Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

- 4 Make me to walk in Thy commands—
 'Tis a delightful road—
 Nor let my head or heart or hands
 Offend against my God.

SERMON

"I Stand Corrected"

Galatians 6:1-5

Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer

OFFERING

~please sign the Record of Fellowship during the Offering

VOLUNTARY

OFFERTORY



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.



A - - - - - men.

AGNUS DEI



☐ 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.

~Please be seated for the Distribution~

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"The Lamb"

LSB #547

- 1 The Lamb, the Lamb,
 O Father, where's the sacrifice?
 Faith sees, believes
 God will provide the Lamb of price! Refrain

- ref Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
 The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

- 2 The Lamb, the Lamb,
 One perfect final offering.
 The Lamb, the Lamb,
 Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. Refrain

- 3 The Lamb, the Lamb,
 As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
 So still, His will
 On our behalf the Law to fill. Refrain

- 4 He sighs, He dies,
 He takes my sin and wretchedness.
 He lives, forgives,
 He gives me His own righteousness. Refrain

- 5 He rose, He rose,
 My heart with thanks now overflows.
 His song prolong
 Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. Refrain

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
 But You have sent Him from Your side
 To walk upon this guilty sod,
 And to become the Lamb of God. Refrain

ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
 I love the holy Lamb of God!
 O wash me in His precious blood,
 My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

2 Your Gift of love they crucified,
 They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
 The humble King they named a fraud,
 And sacrificed the Lamb of God. Refrain

3 I was so lost, I should have died,
 But You have brought me to Your side
 To be led by Your staff and rod,
 And to be called a lamb of God. Refrain

~Distribution Hymns continue on the following page~

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea
 But that Thy blood was shed for me
 And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 2 Just as I am and waiting not
 To rid my soul of one dark blot,
 To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about
 With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
 Fightings and fears within, without,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
 Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
 Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 Because Thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

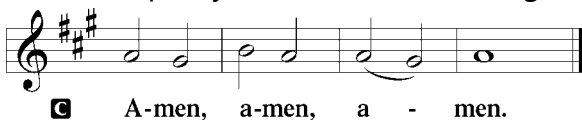
POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

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.

~the Service concludes on the following page~

CLOSING HYMN

"Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"

LSB #917 (v. 1-3)

- 1 Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.
- 2 Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.
- 3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.
- 4 Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE