



The Prayer Of David

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
October 22, 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.

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STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

October 22, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF INVOCATION

"We Praise You, O God"

LSB #785



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

"Honor the Lord with the firstfruits of all your increase.

Honor the Lord with all your possessions."

~Proverbs 3:9

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

Gracious God, all that we have comes from You: our bodies and minds, our strength and intelligence, our time and abilities, our energy and possessions. Guide us from the temptation to use these gifts only for our personal benefit. Make us willing to use them joyfully in service to You and to Your people, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

RESPONSE

"For the Fruits of His Creation"

LSB #894



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.



For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done. In our
For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the



plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
world - wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
won - ders that as - tound us, For the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, Thanks be to God.
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

*(King David's Prayer as the Israelites Present
Their Offerings to Build the Temple)*

¹⁰Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever.

¹¹Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. ¹²Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

¹⁴"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM (10:30 a.m.)

J.M. Martin

"Give Me a Grateful Heart"

Give me a grateful heart that moves in humble praise.

Lord, give a heart that beats Your goodness and Your grace.

Lord, let me show Your love and faithfulness each day.

Give me a grateful heart, give me a grateful heart, give me a grateful heart, O God.

In the time of storm, in the shadows of the night,

There flows a perfect peace sent from Your throne above.

When the morning breaks, when Your blessings I can see,

In a never-ending stream, more than I could ever dream.

I find the fullness of Your perfect love.

*Yet, I ask for one thing more, give me a grateful heart, O Lord. Give me a grateful heart.
 Give me a grateful heart that moves in humble praise.
 Lord, give a heart that beats Your goodness and Your grace.
 Lord, let me show Your love and faithfulness each day.
 Give me a grateful heart, give me a grateful heart, give me a grateful heart, O God.
 Give me a grateful heart, give me a grateful heart, give me a grateful heart, O God.*

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

(Honor God with Your Body)

¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

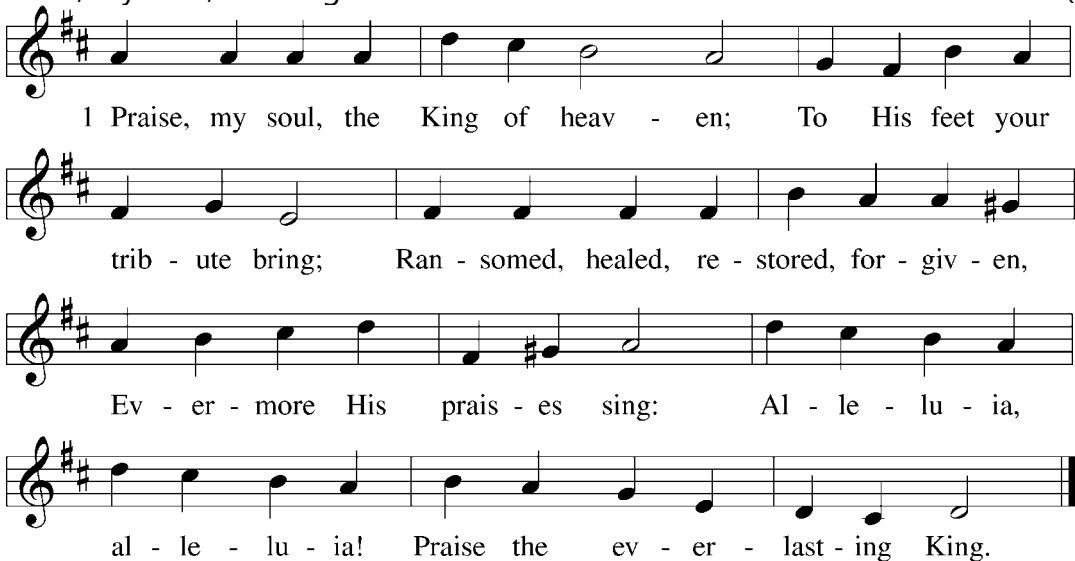
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PREPARATION HYMN

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

LSB #793 (v. 1)



I Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To His feet your
 trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 Ev - er - more His prais - es sing; Al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:19-21

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

(Where Your Treasure Is, There Your Heart Will Be Also)

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

tune: Beach Spring

God, whose giving knows no ending,
From Your rich and endless store:
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, Grave's shattered door,
Gifted by You, we turn to You,
Offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever,
Gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing
Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom,
Races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants,
Fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure, too, You have entrusted,
Gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the Gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
Serving You by loving all.

SERMON

"Stewardship: More than Giving; It's about Living"

1 Chronicles 29:10-14

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

"Be Thou My Vision"

UMH #451

Be thou my vision, O Lord, of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

"All Things Are Yours, My God" (10:30 a.m.)

LCVH Adult Choir

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

UMH #92 (v. 1-2,4-6)

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thy church, that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Offering upon every shore her pure sacrifice of love;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given,
For that great, great love thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

"Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices"

LSB #811



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.

5 Creator, humbly I implore You
To listen to my earthly song
Until that day when I adore You,
Together with the angel throng
And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing
Eternal anthems to my King.

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

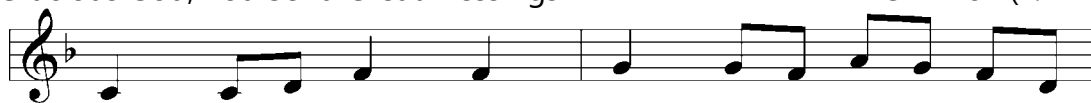
The LORD bless You and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;
The LORD look on you in favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

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

SENDING HYMN

"Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings"

LSB #782 (v. 1-2,4)



1 Gra - cious God, You send great bless - ings
2 By Your Word You formed cre - a - tion
4 Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, may our car - ing



New each morn - ing all our days. For Your mer - cies
Filled with crea - tures large and small; As we tend that
Bear the im - print of Your grace; With the Son and



nev - er end - ing, For Your love we of - fer praise.
end - less trea - sure May our care en - cir - cle all.
Ho - ly Spir - it, Praise be Yours in ev - 'ry place!

Refrain



Lord, we pray that we, Your peo-ple Who Your gifts un - num-bered claim,



Through the shar-ing of Your bless-ings May bring glo-ry to Your name.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE