

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills  
**CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY**  
November 12, 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](http://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](mailto:pastor@vestavialutheran.org) text: 205-201-8866  
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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.

# The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

## *Christ the King Sunday*

November 12, 2023

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

LSB #525 (v. 1-4)



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;  
2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,  
3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,  
4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.  
Whose arm those crim-son tro-phies won Which now His brow a - dorn:  
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And  
Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The  
No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But  
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.  
down - ward bend their won-d'ring eyes, At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**Amen.**

The lion has roared –

**Who will not fear?**

The Sovereign Lord has spoken –

**Who can refuse to proclaim His message?**

*~Amos 3:8*

## CONFESSION & 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.**

## ACCLAMATION OF THE KING

~Psalm 95:1-7

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;  
**let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
**let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

For the LORD is a great God,  
**and a great King above all gods.**

In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
**the heights of the mountains are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it,  
**and his hands formed the dry land.**

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
**let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

**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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, it is Your will to restore all things to Your beloved Son, Whom You anointed King of all creation. Unite all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, under the glorious and gentle rule of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

LSB #905 (v. 1)



1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy  
name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -  
glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,  
Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 49:8-12

*(Jacob Prophecies that a Future King and Kingdom Will come from His Son, Judah)*

<sup>8</sup>Judah, your brothers shall praise you;  
your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;  
your father's sons shall bow down before you.

<sup>9</sup>Judah is a lion's cub;  
from the prey, my son, you have gone up.  
He stooped down; he crouched as a lion  
and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?

<sup>10</sup>The scepter shall not depart from Judah,  
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,  
until tribute comes to him;  
and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

<sup>11</sup>Binding his foal to the vine  
and his donkey's colt to the choice vine,  
he has washed his garments in wine  
and his vesture in the blood of grapes.

<sup>12</sup>His eyes are darker than wine,  
and his teeth whiter than milk.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE READING**

Revelation 5:1-10

*(The Ascended Lord in Heaven Is Revealed as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah)*

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup>And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" <sup>3</sup>And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, <sup>4</sup>and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>5</sup>And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

<sup>6</sup>And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup>And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup>And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup>And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,  
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,

<sup>10</sup>and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,  
and they shall reign on the earth.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA VERSE

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

LSB #793 (v. 1)



1 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

Mark 13:24-27

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the thirteenth chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(The Son of Man Will Return with Power and Glory)*

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus said:] “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,



<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## CATECHISM

Apostles' Creed: Second Article

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.

*What does this mean?*

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from all eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

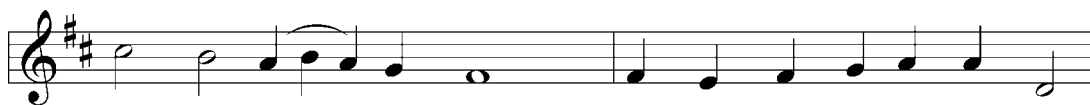
### HYMN OF THE DAY

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

LSB #633 (v. 1,3,5,8)



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,  
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;  
You have conquered in the fight,  
You have brought us life and light.  
Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days:  
Three in One, Your name we praise.  
Alleluia!

## **SERMON**

*"Christ the King: The Lion and the Lamb"*

### **Revelation 5:1-10**

Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer

## **OFFERING**

*~Please sign the Record of Fellowship during the Offering~*

## **VOLUNTARY**

## **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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

~Please be seated for the Distribution~

## DISTRIBUTION

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"O Worship the King"

LSB #804 (v. 1-4)



1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.  
2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,  
3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,  
4 Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?



O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;  
Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;  
Al - might - y, Thy pow'r hath found - ed of old,  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,  
Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.  
And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.

"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!

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

LSB #549 (v. 1-5)



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;  
2 Crown Him, ye mar-tyrs of our God, Who from His al - tar call;  
3 Ye seed of Is-rael's cho-sen race, Ye ran-somed from the fall,  
4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da-vid's line, Whom Da - vid Lord did call,  
5 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get The worm-wood and the gall,



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.  
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.  
The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.  
Go, spread your tro-phies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.  
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.  
The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.  
Go, spread your tro-phies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.

**+ NEW MEMBER RECEPTION +**

*Carol & Jerry Alldredge*

*Julia & Adam Banks*

*Sandy & Greg Banks*

*Cindy & Steve Bierman*

*Lauren & Michael*

*Michael Boudreaux*

*Carolyn Byrne*

*Abby & Zeb Dahlke*

*Charlie*

*Terri Daniel*

*Judy Dillard*

*Robin & Don Freeman*

*Amy & Don (III) Freeman*

*Mike Gafford*

*Kristen & Aaron King*

*Elizabeth, Rachel, & Rebecca*

*Shirley & Giulio Pescia*

## BLESSING

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.**

## SENDING HYMN

"Beautiful Savior"

LSB #537 (v. 1,3-4)



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd  
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines  
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -



serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.  
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE