



They will see the  
Son of Man  
coming in clouds  
with great power and  
glory.

The Lutheran Church *of* Vestavia Hills  
**LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR**  
November 26, 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  
PASTOR EMERITUS: The Reverend Clifford Hellmers – [vestluth@juno.com](mailto:vestluth@juno.com) 205-422-4951  
VICAR: Matthew Vatthauer – [vicar@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:vicar@vestavialutheran.org)  
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ADOPTED MEDICAL MISSIONARIES - Arianna and David Shirk, Madeline & Annabelle - [shirkdavid@gmail.com](mailto: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.

# PRELUDE / WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

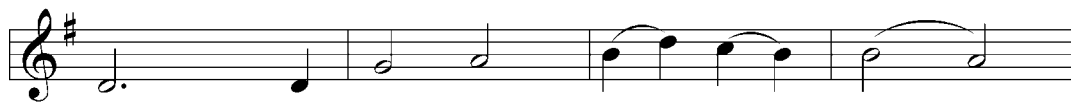
## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"

LSB #336 (v. 1-2,4)



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him  
4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;  
Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;  
High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



Swell the tri - umph of His train:  
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
Claim the king - dom as Thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.  
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

## CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**Amen.**

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead.

**Whose Kingdom will have no end. Amen.**

*~Nicene Creed*

## 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.**

## RESPONSIVE READING FOR THE END TIMES

~1 Thessalonians 4

For The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command.

**He will come with the voice of an archangel,  
and with the sound of the trumpet of God.**

And the dead in Christ will rise first.

**He will come with the voice of an archangel,  
and with the sound of the trumpet of God.**

Then we who are alive, who are left,  
will be caught up together with them in the clouds.

**He will come with the voice of an archangel,  
and with the sound of the trumpet of God.**

To meet the Lord in the air, so that we will always be with the Lord.

**He will come with the voice of an archangel,  
And with the sound of the trumpet of God.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and merciful God, it is Your gift that we offer You true and faithful worship. Prepare us to recognize Your Son when He comes again, receiving from His hand the joy of eternal life. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# HYMN OF PRAISE

"O Worship the King"

LSB #804 (v. 1-2)



1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.  
2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,



O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;  
Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

# OLD TESTAMENT READING

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14

*(Daniel's Vision of the End Times)*

<sup>9</sup>As I looked,  
thrones were placed,  
and the Ancient of days took his seat;  
his clothing was white as snow,  
and the hair of his head like pure wool;  
his throne was fiery flames;  
its wheels were burning fire.

<sup>10</sup>A stream of fire issued  
and came out from before him;  
a thousand thousands served him,  
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;  
the court sat in judgment,  
and the books were opened.

<sup>13</sup>I saw in the night visions,  
and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man,  
and he came to the Ancient of Days  
and was presented before him.

<sup>14</sup>And to him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him;  
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
which shall not pass away,  
and his kingdom one  
that shall not be destroyed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM** (10:30 a.m.)

arr. D. Angerman

*"Before the Throne of God Above"*

*Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea,  
A great High Priest whose name is love, who ever lives and pleads for me.*

*My name is graven on His hands. My name is written on His heart.  
I know that while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.*

*When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there who made an end of all my sin.*

*Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;  
For God, the Just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,  
To look on Him and pardon me.  
Behold Him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace!  
One with Himself, I cannot die. My soul is purchased by His blood.  
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,  
With Christ my Savior and my God.  
One with Himself, I cannot die. My soul is purchased by His blood.  
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,  
With Christ my Savior and my God.  
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God.*

## **EPISTLE READING**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

*(The Coming Day of the Lord's Return)*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



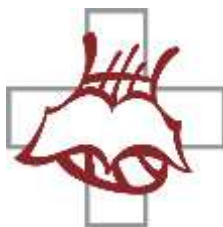
## ALLELUIA VERSE

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

LSB #821 (v. 1)



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the  
scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the  
tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.  
Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der  
like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of  
ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."



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

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(The Second Coming of the Son of Man on the Clouds)*

<sup>30</sup>Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup>And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

<sup>35</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>36</sup>“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup>As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup>Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. <sup>45</sup>“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? <sup>46</sup>Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

"Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"

LSB #680



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -  
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the  
 3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the  
 4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the  
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head  
 prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree  
 ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee  
 won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise  
 dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the  
 All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the  
 Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the  
 Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the  
 Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the  
 rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the  
 sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the  
 sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the  
 ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
 sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.  
 liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.  
 won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.  
 splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

## **SERMON**

*"As in the Days of Noah"*

**Matthew 24:37**

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

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

LSB #802



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—  
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;  
In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;  
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree  
All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.  
Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.  
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

"Jesus Is Our King" (10:30 a.m.)

LCVH Adult Choir

"Christ the Eternal Lord"

LSB #829



1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, Whose prom - ise here we claim,  
2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word To ev - 'ry pass - ing age,  
3 Christ the re - deem - ing Son, Who shares our hu - man birth,  
4 Christ the un - fad - ing Light Of ev - er - last - ing day,



Whose gifts of grace are free - ly poured On all who name Your name;  
Whose time - less teach - ings still are heard Set forth on Scrip - ture's page;  
And by His death sal - va - tion won For ev - 'ry child of earth;  
Our Morn - ing Star in splen - dor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;



With thank - ful - ness and praise We stand be - fore Your throne,  
Trans - form our thought and mind, En - light - en all who read,  
In - spire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love a - broad,  
That light of truth You give To ser - vants as to friends,



In - tent to serve You all our days And make Your glo - ry known.  
With - in Your Word by faith to find The bread of life in - deed.  
That all may hon - or Christ to - day And fol - low Him as Lord.  
Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief jour - ney ends.

- 5 Christ the ascended King  
Exalted high above,  
Whose praise unending ages sing,  
Whom yet unseen we love;  
When mortal life is past  
Your voice from heaven's throne  
Shall call Your children home at last  
To know as we are known.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

"Spread the Reign of God the Lord"

LSB #830



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might - y Word;  
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,  
3 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, Who, to save our hu - man race  
4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev - 'ry - where His crea - tures call To His heav'n - ly ban - quet hall.  
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.  
And to pay re - bel - lion's price, Gave Him - self as sac - ri - fice.  
Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work - ing both to will and do.

- 5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;  
Ripe the promise of its yield.  
But the reapers, oh, how few  
For the work there is to do!
- 6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,  
Rouse to action heart and mind;  
Let the gath'ring nations all  
See Your light and heed Your call.



## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

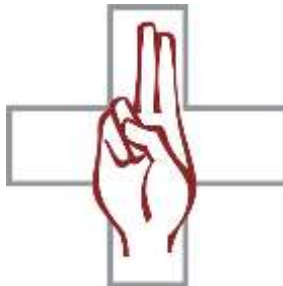
Lord Jesus, as we begin the Advent Season next Sunday and prepare for Your first coming in Bethlehem, we long towards Your second coming and the fulfillment of every promise! Give us a heart, Lord, that looks for Your coming on a daily basis through Your Word and Sacrament. Help us to live with anticipation and expectation of Your return; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **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

"Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"

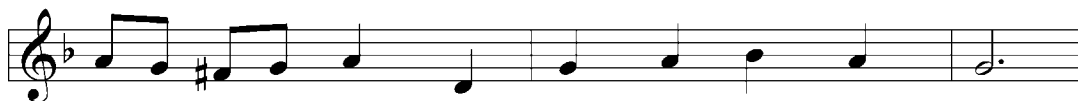
LSB #813 (v. 1,3,6)



1 Re - joice, O pil - grim throng! Re - joice, give  
3 With all the an - gel choirs, With all the



thanks, and sing; Your fes - tal ban - ner  
saints on earth Pour out the strains of



wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.  
joy and bliss, True rap - ture, no - blest mirth.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

6 At last the march shall end;  
The wearied ones shall rest;  
The pilgrims find their home at last,  
Jerusalem the blest. Refrain

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## **ADVENT MIDWEEK SCHEDULE**

### **November 29th**

- 6:00 p.m. -- Fellowship Meal  
*(Urban Cookhouse turkey, ham, cheddar pasta, & broccoli salad)*  
6:30 p.m. -- Children's Choir Practice  
6:45 p.m. -- Worship Service  
*(Hanging of the Greens following the service)*  
7:30 p.m. -- Adult Choir Practice

### **December 6th**

- 6:00 p.m. -- Fellowship Meal  
*(chili, bread, & salad)*  
6:30 p.m. -- Children's Choir Practice  
6:45 p.m. -- Worship Service  
7:30 p.m. -- Adult Choir Practice

### **December 13th**

- 6:00 p.m. -- Fellowship Meal  
*(HoneyBaked Ham sandwiches & chips)*  
6:45 p.m. -- Worship Service  
7:30 p.m. -- Adult Choir Practice

### **December 20th**

- 6:00 p.m. -- Fellowship Meal  
*(Jim 'N Nicks BBQ pork, macaroni, & baked beans)*  
6:45 p.m. -- Worship Service  
7:30 p.m. -- Adult Choir Practice

## **SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS**

### **December 10<sup>th</sup>**

Children's Christmas Program during late service

### **December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Senior Ministry Dirty Santa and Christmas Luncheon at 11:30 a.m.

### **December 17<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Brunch between worship services

*\*No Sunday School or Bible Classes this day so everyone can attend!*

### **December 24<sup>th</sup>**

*\*there will be no morning worship services*

### **Christmas Eve Services:**

4:00 p.m. -- Family Candlelight Service with communion

7:00 p.m. -- Prelude Music begins

7:30 p.m. -- Festival Candlelight Service with communion

### **December 25<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Day Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

### **December 31<sup>st</sup>**

New Year's Eve Day Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

*\*there will be a single worship service this Sunday*