



The Lutheran Church *of* Vestavia Hills

**THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

January 14, 2024



## 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)  
VICAR: Matthew Vatthauer – [vicar@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:vicar@vestavialutheran.org)  
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Ruth Johnson – [ruthinbham@gmail.com](mailto:ruthinbham@gmail.com)  
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BOOK KEEPER: Melanie Goodson - [bookkeeper@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:bookkeeper@vestavialutheran.org)  
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.

*The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills*

**The Baptism of Our Lord**

January 14, 2024

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN**

“All Christians Who Have Been Baptized”

LSB # 596 (v. 1,3-4)



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap-tized, Who know the God of  
3 But all of that was washed a-way— Im-merged and drowned for-  
4 In Bap-tism we now put on Christ— Our shame is ful-ly



heav-en, And in whose dai-ly life is prized The name of  
ev-er. The wa-ter of your Bap-tism day Re-stored a-  
cov-ered With all that He once sac-ri-ficed And free-ly



Christ once giv-en: Con-sid-er now what God has done, The  
gain what-ev-er Old Ad-am and his sin de-stroyed And  
for us suf-fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now



gifts He gives to ev-'ry-one Bap-tized in-to Christ Je-sus!  
all our sin-ful selves em-ployed Ac-cord-ing to our na-ture.  
makes us ho-ly, right, and good Be-fore our heav'n-ly Fa-ther.

**+ HOLY BAPTISM +**

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

**Julia Banks**

**We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, to work with us in His Kingdom.**

*~the 10:30 a.m. service continues on page 4 with the Response~*

**INVOCATION (8:00 a.m.)**

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

**Amen.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (8:00 a.m.)**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

**the God of glory thunders,**

**the Lord, over many waters.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,

**ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;

**worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.**

The voice of the Lord is powerful;

**the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;

**The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;**

May the Lord give strength to His people!

**May the Lord bless His people with peace!**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

**the God of glory thunders,**

**the Lord, over many waters.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (8:00 a.m.)**

Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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.**

## RESPONSE

"All Who Believe and Are Baptized"

LSB #601



1 All who be-lieve and are bap-tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;  
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.  
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Through Christ's re-demp-tion they shall stand A - mong the glo-rious,  
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -



heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.  
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father, at the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 1:1-5

*(Spirit Hovering Over the Waters)*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 6:1-11

*(United with Christ in Baptism)*

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

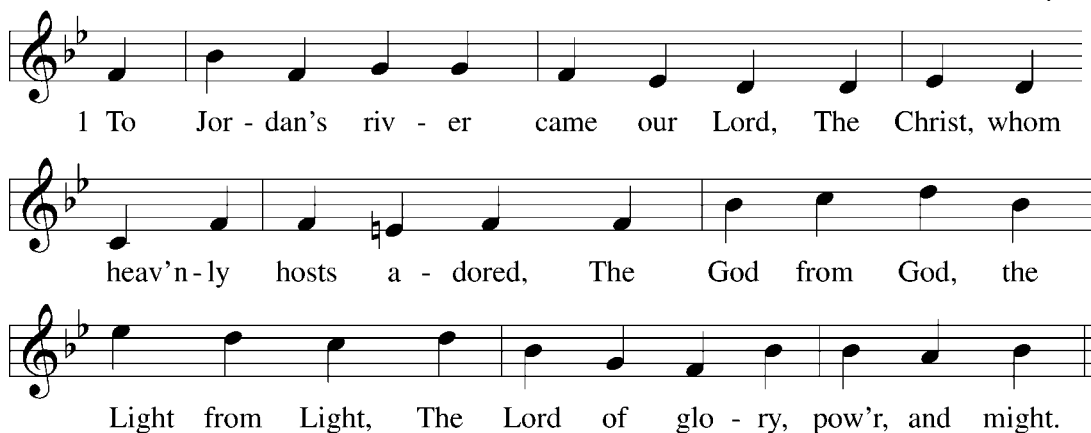
<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL PREPARATION VERSE**

LSB #405 (v. 1,5)



1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The Christ, whom  
heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The God from God, the  
Light from Light, The Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.

5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight  
Anointed Christ in glorious sight  
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall  
To save the world and free us all.



The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

*(The Baptism of Jesus by John)*

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**



## CATECHISM

"Sacrament of Holy Baptism: Third Part"

*How can water do such great things?*

**Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." ~Titus 3:5-8**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

# HYMN OF THE DAY

"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

LSB #594 (v. 1-2,4)



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap - tized  
2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap - tized  
4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness: I am bap - tized



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,  
in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er:  
in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's  
Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y  
To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in



trea - sures man - y? I have one worth  
con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism  
dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance



more than an - y That brought me sal -  
did re - lease me In a dear for -  
bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!  
giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?  
strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.

## SERMON

*"Jesus Stands Shoulder to Shoulder with Sinners"*

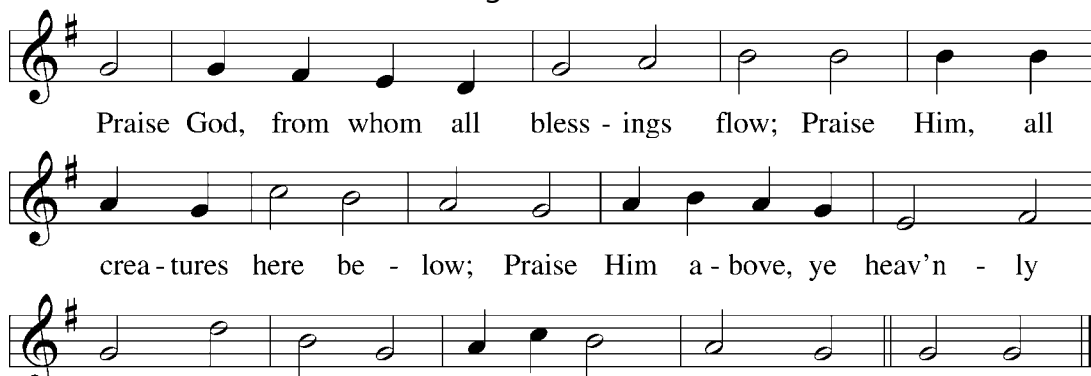
### Mark 1:9

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

## DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow"

LSB #805



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly  
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## OFFERING

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

## PRAYERS 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

### PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

*~please be seated for the Distribution~*

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Baptized into Your Name Most Holy"

LSB #590



1 Bap-tized in - to Your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther, Son, and  
2 My lov - ing Fa - ther, here You take me To be hence-forth Your  
3 My faith - ful God, You fail me nev - er; Your prom - ise sure - ly  
4 All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it all, O



Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,  
child and heir. My faith - ful Sav - ior, here You make me  
will en - dure. O cast me not a - way for - ev - er  
Lord, from me. Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly;



A - mong Your saints, Your cho - sen host. Bur - ied with Christ and  
The fruit of all Your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it,  
If words and deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I  
Help me Your faith - ful child to be! Let noth - ing that I



dead to sin, Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.  
com - fort me When threat-'ning clouds a - round I see.  
come de - filed; For - give, lift up, re - store Your child.  
am or own Serve an - y will but Yours a - lone.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

### "O Blessed Spring"

LSB #595



1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us  
2 Through sum-mer heat of youth-ful years, Un - cer - tain  
3 When au-tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their  
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our  
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to  
faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing  
heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will  
last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take  
this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -



be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.  
rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.  
move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.  
wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.  
vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

*~Distribution Hymns Continue on the Following Page~*

"See This Wonder in the Making"

LSB #593 (v. 1-2,4)



1 See this won - der in the mak - ing: God Him -  
2 Mir - a - cle each time it hap - pens As the  
4 Here we bring a child of na - ture; Home we



self this child is tak - ing As a lamb safe in His  
door to heav-en o - pens And the Fa - ther beams, "Be-  
take a newborn crea - ture, Now God's pre - cious son or



keep - ing, His to be, a - wake or sleep - ing.  
lov - ed, Heir of gifts a king would cov - et!"  
daugh - ter, Born a - gain by Word and wa - ter.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouth received the holy Sacrament, we may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

LSB #922 (v. 1,3-4)



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.  
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Clos - er to Me;  
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, Joy - ful and free. Here My  
I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.  
Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here His ten - der com - fort stilled you.  
Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing— You are My own.  
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.  
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE