



The Lutheran Church *of* Vestavia Hills
65th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

February 4, 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
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
VICAR: Matthew Vatthauer – 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. 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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PRELUDE

"Festival Prelude"

arr. S.D. Wolff

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Lift High the Cross"

LSB #837 (v. 1-4,6)

Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.



1 Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our Cap-tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri-um-phant sign,
3 All new-born sol-diers of the Cru-ci-fied
4 O Lord, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree,

Refrain



Our king vic-to-rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con-qu'ring ranks com-bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom-ised, draw us all to Thee.

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

~Third Article of the Creed

"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins.

The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth.

And keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

This is most certainly true. Amen."

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

PSALMODY

~Psalm 84: 122:1

O Lord, how lovely is Your dwelling place.

**I was glad when they said to me,
Let us go into the house of the LORD.**

Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere.

**I was glad when they said to me,
Let us go into the house of the LORD.**

How my soul yearns, even faints for the courts of the Lord.

**I was glad when they said to me,
Let us go into the house of the LORD.**

O Lord, how lovely is Your dwelling place.

**I was glad when they said to me,
Let us go into the house of the LORD.**

**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

Lord of the Church, Your people have been served by You and have served You in this place for many years in many ways. We thank You for these brothers and sisters who join in our work and witness. Unite us in mission and praise, that with one voice and one heart and one confession we may glorify you both in our witness and in our worship; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN

"Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear"

LSB #908



1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, And through Your
2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; Your Word grants
3 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the



Word to me draw near; Let me Your Word e'er pure re -
heal - ing from my sin; Your Word has pow'r to guide and
Spir - it, Three in One, Shall glo - ry, praise, and hon - or



tain; Let me Your child and heir re - main.
bless; Your Word brings peace and hap - pi - ness.
be Now and through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

(This Epistle Lesson was read at the 50th Anniversary of LCVH)

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹You, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

"Ever Faithful, Ever Sure"

*Praise, O praise our God and King;
Hymns of adoration sing;
For His mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

*Praise Him that He made the sun
Day by day His course to run;
For His mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

*And the silver moon by night,
Shining with her gentle light;
For His mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

*Praise Him that He gave the rain
To bring forth the golden grain;
For His mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

Congregation joins in singing:

**Praise God from Whom all blessing flow;
Praise Him all creature here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

*Glory to our bounteous King;
Glory let creation sing;
For His mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever faithful, ever faithful, ever sure.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

(This Gospel Lesson was read at the first worship service of LCVH in 1959)

⁷So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

LSB #909 (v. 1-2,4)



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; Come with all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
Hear Your peo - ple as they pray; And Your full - est
Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and



help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in these walls to - day.
one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The Lord God in His goodness has blessed us with 65 years of mission and ministry as The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills. We are a remembering people, and it is good that we remember that God has chosen us, baptized us, and brought us together as the Church of Christ in this place. As remembering people, we look back at all the great and saving acts of God: the Creation, the Flood, the Covenant, the Exodus, the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the Church.

We are a remembering people, but we are also a people of this day, brought together by God to be a holy fellowship of believers: the Body of Christ, sharing, caring, working in the world, and living in the hope of the world to come.

Our eyes look back with thanksgiving. Our eyes look forward in hope.

Therefore, with thanksgiving for the past and hope for the future, let us dedicate ourselves and our lives to the mission which God gives us as the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.

Almighty God, we give You thanks for the work You have done in this place. We give You thanks for Your love and faithfulness. When we called on Your name, You made Your presence known to us. When we prayed, You heard us. When we preached Your Word and administered Your Sacraments, You were in our midst. You have accepted our humble sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving. You have listened to our confessions and forgiven our sins. And You have sent Your Holy Spirit to heal and comfort our hurts, our sorrows, our infirmities, and our losses. Continue to

empower us with Your Spirit, O Lord, that we might proclaim Your Gospel to all people.

We dedicate our lives to Your service.

Help us to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ in all that we do and say.

We dedicate our lives to Your service.

Show us how we might give care and support the needy and shower mercy on the broken and forlorn.

We dedicate our lives to Your service.

Show us new ways of loving one another and those around us.

We dedicate our lives to Your service.

Break down those barriers which divide us, and make us all one in Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Renew us by the Spirit, given at our baptisms, so that we might be challenged to move beyond any apathy and all anxieties of inadequacy.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Grant that we may continually grow in the Spirit and in the ministry that You give us as members of Your royal priesthood, the priesthood of all believers, so that we may carry out our mission of service and love.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Continue to comfort, heal, and lift up the broken and afflicted among us.
By the promise of Your presence, bring us Your healing love.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Bring us at last to the joy of Your eternal kingdom, where, with the faithful of this church who have gone before us and with all Your saints, we may evermore praise Your name.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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 HYMNS

"Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

LSB #912



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,
3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

"Speak, O Lord"

solo: Janelle Sierra

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word.

Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness,

That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.

Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.

Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.

Words of power that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us:

Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.

And by grace we'll stand on Your promises; and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.

Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Amen, amen, amen.

"Built on the Rock"

LSB #645 (v. 1-2,4)



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
 2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
 4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how



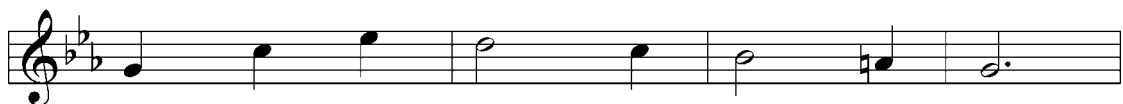
stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
 High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His
 God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
 tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
 sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
 ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove
 us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
 Choos - es to live with us in love,
 Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
 Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.
 And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.

"Voices Raised to You We Offer"

LSB #795



1 Voic - es raised to You we of - fer; Tune them, God, for
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise You; Earth and sky Your
3 Christ, the song of Love in - car - nate, Touch - ing earth with
4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, Kin - dle faith with -



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts You lend us,
heav - en's grace, For Your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;



For Your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
We re - turn to You to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
For Your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
Through our hands Your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to You we sing!
Al - le - lu - ia! God, Cre - a - tor, source of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, Re - deem - er, Lord of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, Help - er, breath of life!

5 How can any praise we offer
Measure all the thanks we owe?
Take our hearts and hands and voices—
Gifts of love we can bestow.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Triune God, to You we sing!

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

"The Church's One Foundation"

LSB #644 (v. 1-2,5)



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.

5 Yet she on earth has union
 With God, the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion
 With those whose rest is won.
 O blessèd heav'nly chorus!
 Lord, save us by Your grace
 That we, like saints before us,
 May see You face to face.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Gloria"

S.D. Wolff



We thank the following for sharing their talents with today:

Trumpets: James Zingara & Steve Roberts

Horn: James Baker

Trombone: Colby Kunkel

Flute: Melissa Phillips

