

He charged them that they should tell
no man what things they had seen
till the Son of man were
risen from the dead.

Mark 9:9

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 11, 2024

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

"Alleluia! Let Praises Ring!"

LSB #822



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! To God the Fa -
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to the Lamb
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to the Ho -
4 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to our tri -



ther let us bring Our songs of ad - o - ra - tion.
of God we sing, In whom we are e - lect - ed.
ly Ghost we sing For our re - gen - er - a - tion.
une God we sing; Blest be His name for - ev - er!



To Him through ev - er - last - ing days Be wor - ship, hon -
He bought His Church with His own blood, He cleansed her in
The sav - ing faith in us He wrought And us un - to
With an - gel hosts let us a - dore And sing His prais -



or, pow'r, and praise, Whose hand sus - tains cre - a - tion.
that bless - ed flood, And as His bride se - lect - ed.
the Bride-groom brought, Made us His cho - sen na - tion.
es ev - er - more For all His grace and fa - vor!



Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;
Ho - ly, ho - ly Is our u - nion And com - mu - nion.
Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Joy e - ter - nal, Bliss su - per - nal;
Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;



Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry.
His be - friend - ing Gives us joy and peace un - end - ing.
There is man - na And an end - less, glad ho - san - na.
Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry!

+ 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 service continues on page 3 with the Prayer of the Day~

INVOCATION (8:00 a.m.)

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

Amen.

OPENING PSALMODY (8:00 a.m.)

~Psalm 50

From Zion, perfect in beauty,

God shines forth.

The Mighty One, God, the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth

from the rising of the sun to where it sets.

Our God comes
and will not be silent

He summons the heavens above.

From Zion, perfect in beauty,

God shines forth.

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

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.

Almighty God in his mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son, You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud, You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"

LSB #336 (v. 1)

- 1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for ev'ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Kings 2:1-12

(Elijah Taken Up to Heaven)

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." ¹⁰And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM (10:30)

R.E. Schram

"Heart in Praise"

*I lift up my heart in praise to You. I lift up my heart in praise to You.
Of all creation You are King; to You my praises I will sing.
I lift up my heart in praise to You.*

*I lift up my heart in praise to You.
For the sun and moon and stars of light, Your faithful care both day and night,
I lift up my heart in praise.*

*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to the throne your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore your praises sing!
I lift up my heart in praise to You. I lift up my heart in praise to you.*

*For nature's beauty that I see; Your constant love that rescues me,
I lift up my heart in praise. I lift up my heart in praise.
I lift up my heart in praise to You, in praise to You.*

EPISTLE READING

2 Peter 1:16-18

(Eyewitnesses of the Transfiguration)

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE



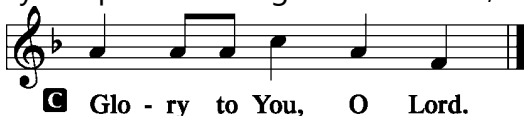
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-9

(The Transfiguration of our Lord)

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the ninth chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." ⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here"

LSB #414



1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy
2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy
3 Ful - fill - er of the past And
4 Be - fore we taste of death, We
5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet



glo - ry fills the night; Thy face and gar - ments,
beau - ty to be - hold Where Mo - ses and E -
hope of things to be, We hail Thy bod - y -
see Thy king - dom come; We long to hold the
we may not re - main; But since Thou bidst us



like the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.
li - jah stand, Thy mes - sen - gers of old.
glo - ri - fied And our re - demp - tion see.
vi - sion bright And make this hill our home.
leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

SERMON

"Figuring Out the Transfiguration"

Mark 9:2-9

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

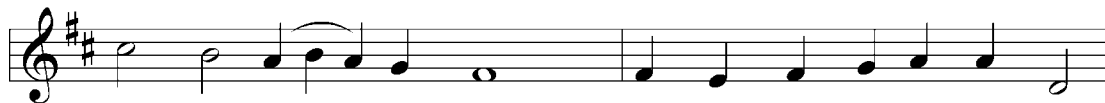
AGNUS DEI

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

LSB #633 (v. 1,2)



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory”

1 Swiftly pass the clouds of glory,
 Heaven’s voice, the dazzling light;
Moses and Elijah vanish;
 Christ alone commands the height!
Peter, James, and John fall silent,
 Turning from the summit’s rise
Downward toward the shadowed valley
 Where their Lord has fixed His eyes.

2 Glimpsed and gone the revelation,
 They shall gain and keep its truth,
Not by building on the mountain
 Any shrine or sacred booth,
But by following the Savior
 Through the valley to the cross
And by testing faith’s resilience
 Through betrayal, pain, and loss.

3 Lord, transfigure our perception
 With the purest light that shines,
And recast our life’s intentions
 To the shape of Your designs,
Till we seek no other glory
 Than what lies past Calv’ry’s hill
And our living and our dying
 And our rising by Your will.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

"Shine, Jesus, Shine" (10:30 a.m.)

Adult Choir

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

LSB #477



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:
2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
See the an - cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re - treat;
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic - tim For the world's sal - va - tion bled—
Once He died, and once was bur - ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor - ship and a - dore.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

"Beautiful Savior"

LSB #537



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
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
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
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, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

BURYING THE ALLELUIA

"Alleluia" means "Praise God!" Transfiguration Sunday is the last time we sing our "Alleluias" until Christ's glorious resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday. With the arrival of Lent this week, starting with Ash Wednesday, we now transition from a time of praise to a forty-day journey of solemn repentance leading to the cross. In Lent we "bury" or refrain from singing songs of praise until we proclaim Easter morning: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

CHOIR ANTHEM (10:30 a.m.)

arr. H.H. Hopson

"Sing We Hallelujah"

Sing we hallelujah, sing we, praise the Lord, hallelujah.

Sing we hallelujah, sing we, praise the Lord forever.

Praise the Lord with blasting trumpets, praise the Lord with lute and harp.

Sound the cymbals, dance and sing for joy!

Sing we hallelujah, sing we, sing forevermore.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord.

Sing we hallelujah, sing we, praise the Lord, hallelujah.

Sing we hallelujah, sing we, praise the Lord forever.

God is great in deeds of mercy, ever faithful, ever sure.

All on earth and all in heaven join to praise the Lord.

Sing we hallelujah, sing we, sing forevermore.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord.

Sing we hallelujah, sing we, sing forevermore.

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

"Alleluia, Song of Gladness"

LSB #417



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, Voice of joy that
2 Al - le - lu - ia, thou re - sound - est, True Je - ru - sa -
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways Be our song while
4 There - fore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, bless - ed



can - not die; Al - le - lu - ia is the an - them
lem and free; Al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er,
here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia, our trans - gres - sions
Trin - i - ty, At the last to keep Thine Eas - ter



Ev - er raised by choirs on high; In the house of
All thy chil - dren sing with thee, But by Bab - y -
Make us for a while for - go; For the sol - emn
With Thy faith - ful saints on high; There to Thee for -



God a - bid - ing Thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
lon's sad wa - ters Mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.
time is com - ing When our tears for sin must flow.
ev - er sing - ing Al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

~We thank Jim Zingara for playing the trumpet for us this morning~



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
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 CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Leigh Walter – lwalter@vestavialutheran.org
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 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.