

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

February 25, 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



<u>TO OUR GUESTS:</u> 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.



<u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u> 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.



<u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH and NURSERY</u> 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.



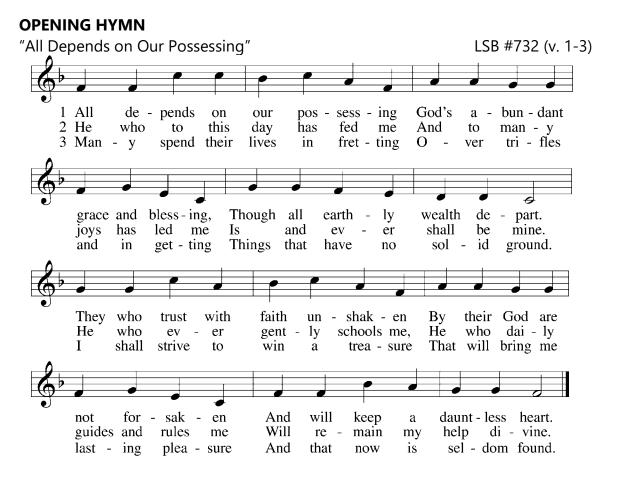
<u>COMMUNION</u> We invite all baptized Christians who acknowledge their sinfulness, trust in Christ as their Savior, and who recognize the real presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the bread and wine to join us at the Communion table. The practice of our congregation is to place the bread into the 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 Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS



In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross.

For we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is eternal.

For what is seen is temporal, but what is unseen is eternal.

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

What good is it for one to gain the world, yet forfeit their soul?

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

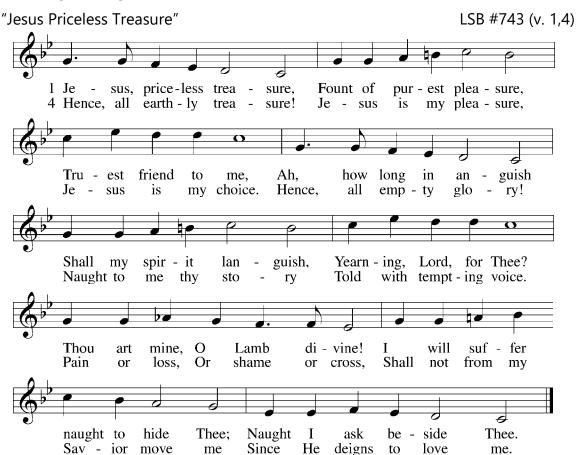
Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father, You have called us to be Your children and heirs of Your gracious promises. Give us the Holy Spirit that we put away all coveting and the inordinate love of the things of this passing world. Remove from our hearts the ungodly pursuit of all passing things that we seek first the kingdom of Your Son and trust in His righteousness and so find a peace that passes all human understanding, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING 1 John 2:15-17

(Do Not Love the World)

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM (10:30 a.m.)

arr. S. Nordmeyer

"To Follow Jesus"

I am resolved to follow Jesus along this path that points to Calvary.

Though the cross may cost me ev'rything, I hear Him call, "come follow Me."

Where He leads me, I will go, though the way takes me through the unknown.

Such celebrating is awaiting with my Savior in that heavenly home.

I am resolved to follow Jesus. Where He leads me I will go.

I am resolved to follow Jesus, through sorrows dark and deeper than the sea.

I'll cling to Him when hope falls silent. He whispers still, "Come, follow Me."

I am resolved to follow Jesus, when day is done and this life ebbs away.

He'll be with me as I cross over, and at last, I'll see Him face to face.

Where He leads me, I will go, though the way takes me through the unknown.

Such celebrating is awaiting with my Savior in that heavenly home.

I am resolved to follow Jesus. Where He leads me I will go.

SECOND READING Romans 12:1-2

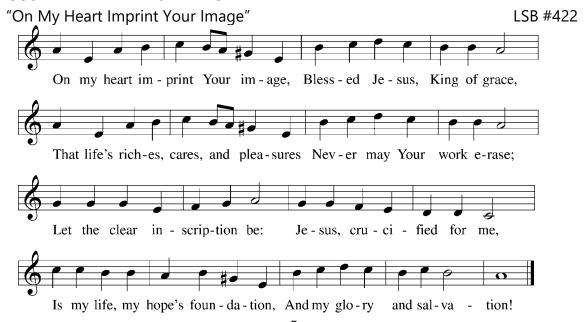
(Do Not Conform to this World; Be Transformed by Christ)

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PREPARATION VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL Mark 8:34-38

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the eighth chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(What Does It Profit a Man to Gain the Whole World and Forfeit His Soul?)

³⁴And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? ³⁷For what can a man give in return for his life? ³⁸For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

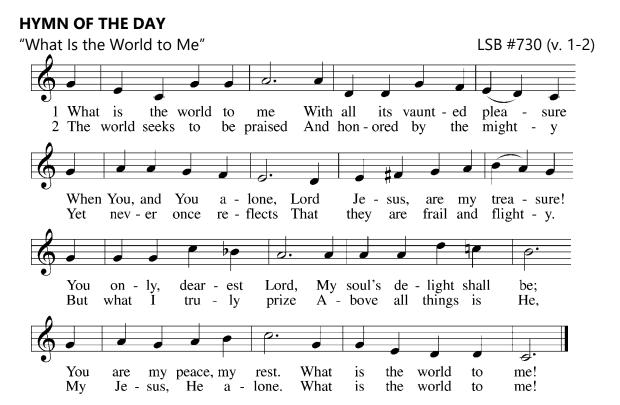
NICENE CREED

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

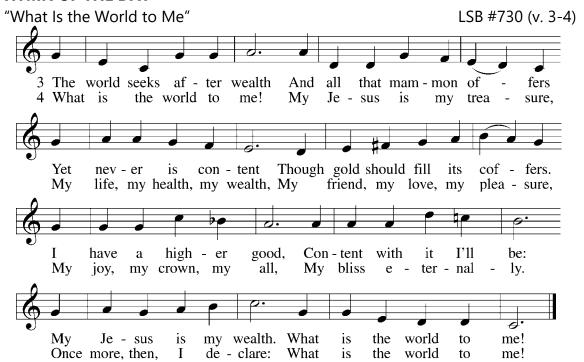


"Invent or Invest?"

Mark 8:34-38

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

HYMN OF THE DAY



OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

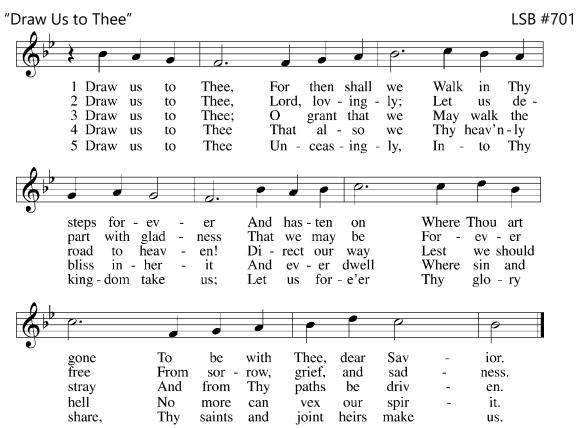
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

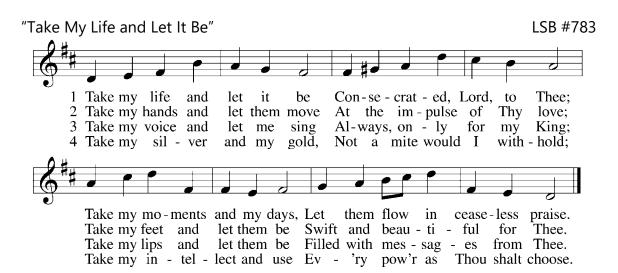


~Distribution Hymns continue on the following page~

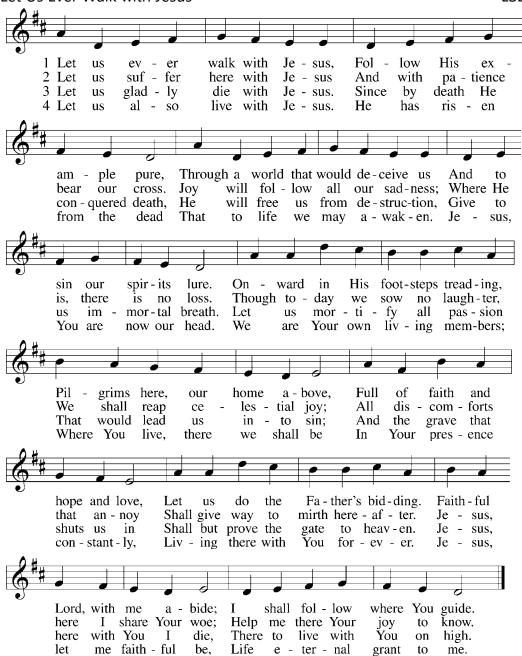
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

"O Come to Me, the Master Said" (10:30 a.m.)

LCVH Adult Choir



- Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;
 Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.
- Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
 Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given yourself to us in this holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. May Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Your name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

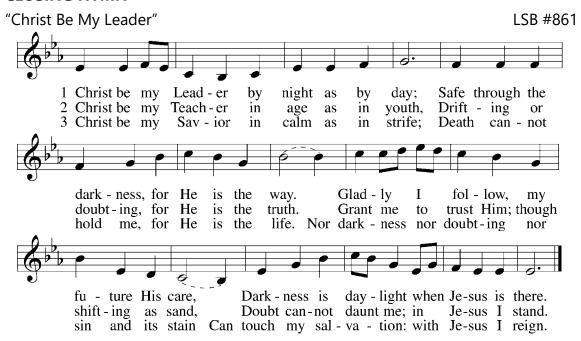
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

~the Service concludes on the following page~

CLOSING HYMN



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

