

**What good is
it for
someone to
gain the
whole world,
yet forfeit
their soul?**

MARK 8:36



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
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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.

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"All Depends on Our Possessing"

LSB #732 (v. 1-3)



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant
2 He who to this day has fed me And to man - y
3 Man - y spend their lives in fret - ting O - ver tri - fles



grace and bless - ing, Though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
joys has led me Is and ev - er shall be mine.
and in get - ting Things that have no sol - id ground.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en By their God are
He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, He who dai - ly
I shall strive to win a trea - sure That will bring me



not for - sak - en And will keep a daunt - less heart.
guides and rules me Will re - main my help di - vine.
last - ing plea - sure And that now is sel - dom found.

CALL TO WORSHIP

~Hebrews 12:2, Col. 3:2 and 2 Cor. 4:18, Mark 8:36

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 perfecter 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

"Jesus Priceless Treasure"

LSB #743 (v. 1,4)



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,
4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,



Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish
Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!



Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Yearn - ing, Lord, for Thee?
Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my



naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.
Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.

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

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

LSB #422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - - tion!

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"What Is the World to Me"

LSB #730 (v. 1-2)



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure
2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the might - y



When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
Yet nev - er once re - flects That they are frail and flight - y.



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;
But what I tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He,



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me!

SERMON

"Invent or Invest?"

Mark 8:34-38

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

HYMN OF THE DAY

"What Is the World to Me"

LSB #730 (v. 3-4)



3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,



I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

~inside back cover of the LSB pew hymnal

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Draw Us to Thee"

LSB #701



1 Draw us to Thee, For then shall we Walk in Thy
2 Draw us to Thee, Lord, lov - ing - ly; Let us de -
3 Draw us to Thee; O grant that we May walk the
4 Draw us to Thee That al - so we Thy heav'n - ly
5 Draw us to Thee Un - ceas - ing - ly, In - to Thy



steps for - ev - er And has - ten on Where Thou art
part with glad - ness That we may be For - ev - er
road to heav - en! Di - rect our way Lest we should
bliss in - her - it And ev - er dwell Where sin and
king - dom take us; Let us for - e'er Thy glo - ry



gone To be with Thee, dear Sav - ior.
free From sor - row, grief, and sad - ness.
stray And from Thy paths be driv - en.
hell No more can vex our spir - it.
share, Thy saints and joint heirs make us.

~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 Life and Let It Be"

LSB #783



- 1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

- 5 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.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

LSB #685



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, And with pa - tience
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
 bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
 con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
 from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
 is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
 us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
 here with You I die; There to live with You on high.
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

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

"Christ Be My Leader"

LSB #861



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

