



JESUS  
RESTORES  
PETER

*The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills*  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
April 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)  
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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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

April 14, 2024

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN**

"Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"

LSB #490 (v. 1,3-4)



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er can ap -  
3 Je - sus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Je - sus  
4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing me from Him shall



pall me; Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!  
liv - ing, Pure in heart and act a - bide,  
sev - er. Nei - ther death nor pow'rs of hell



From the grave will Christ re - call me. Bright - er  
Praise to Him and glo - ry giv - ing. All I  
Part me now from Christ for - ev - er. God will



scenes will then com-mence; This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
need God will dis - pense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
be my sure de - fense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.

## INVOCATION

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**Who made heaven and earth.**

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PSALMODY

*~select verses from Psalm 51*

O Lord, open my lips,  
**And my mouth will declare your praise.**

Restore us, O God of hosts,  
**Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

I will teach transgressors your ways,  
**And sinners will return to you.**

Cast me not away from your presence,  
**And take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
**And uphold me with a willing spirit.**

Restore us, O God of hosts,  
**Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

**O Lord, open my lips,  
And my mouth will declare your praise.**

## KYRIE



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



- 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

Acts 3:13-21

*(Peter Preaches a Message of Restoration)*

The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

*(In Christ We Are a New Creation)*

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and

entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ALLELUIA VERSE



The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of three phrases of the word "Alleluia". The first phrase is "Al - le - lu - ia," with notes for Al (quarter), le (quarter), lu (quarter), and ia (quarter). The second phrase is "al - le - lu - ia," with notes for al (quarter), le (quarter), lu (quarter), and ia (quarter). The third phrase is "al - le - lu - ia." with notes for al (quarter), le (quarter), lu (quarter), and ia (quarter). The staff ends with a double bar line.

**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### HOLY GOSPEL

John 21:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(Resurrected Lord Restores Peter after He Rejected Jesus)*

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.



Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

*~inside back LSB pew hymnal cover*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### HYMN OF THE DAY

"The Day of Resurrection"

LSB #478 (v. 1-3)



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil That we may see a - right  
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, Let earth its song be - gin,



The pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The pass - o - ver of God.  
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light  
Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.



From death to life e - ter - nal, From sin's do - min - ion free,  
And, lis - t'ning to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;



Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.  
His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.  
For Christ the Lord has ris - en, Our joy that has no end!

## SERMON

*"By Grace Your Failures Refine You, Not Define You"*

**John 21:1-17**

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

## OFFERING

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

## VOLUNTARY

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## LORD'S PRAYER

*~inside back LSB pew hymnal cover*

## SANCTUS



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

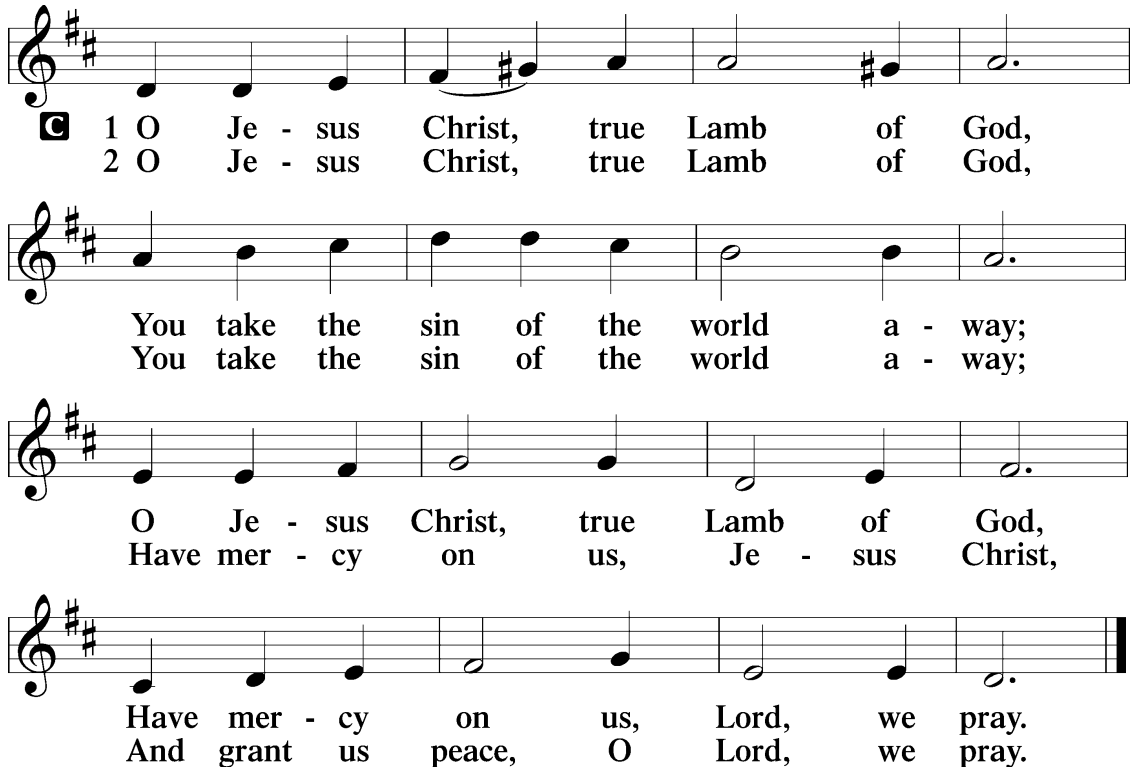
## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

### AGNUS DEI



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*~Please be seated for the Distribution~*

### DISTRIBUTION

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"He's Risen, He's Risen"

LSB #480



1 He's ris - en, He's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;  
2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry  
3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,  
4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
△ 5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



He o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate, true Word.  
The Lord of cre - a - tion was nailed to the tree.  
And death, hell, and Sa - tan He van - quished, His foes.  
Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.  
Pro - claim the blest tid - ings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song  
In Sa - tan's do - main did the hosts shout and jeer,  
The con - quer - ing Lord lifts His ban - ner on high;  
For all our trans - gres - sions His blood does a - tone;  
Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:



And earth, sea, and moun - tain their prais - es pro - long.  
For Je - sus was slain, whom the e - vil ones fear.  
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nev - er - more die.  
Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are His own.  
With Fa - ther and Spir - it He ev - er shall reign.

~Distribution Hymns Continue on the Following Page~

# DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

## "In Thee Is Gladness"

LSB #818



1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,  
2 Since He is ours, \_\_\_\_\_ We fear no pow - ers, Not of



sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of  
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -



heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou  
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the



wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -  
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -



cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are  
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing  
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him



To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!  
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

LSB #633 (v. 1-4,7)



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal  
7 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy! This a -



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - umphant go  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love  
lone can sin de - stroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!  
New - born souls in You to be. Al - le - lu - ia!

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

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

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

LSB #461 (v. 1-2,8)



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -  
8 He lives, all glo - ry to His name! He lives, my



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who  
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious  
Je - sus, still the same; Oh, the sweet joy this



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.  
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.  
sen - tence gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**