



The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
July 20, 2025



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: Peder Saethre – 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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

LSB #791 (v. 1,3-4)

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from
△ 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Lord, Praise to You and

all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we may trust Your Word,

Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach - ings,
Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -

sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.
Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing Your prais - es yon - der.

INVOCATION

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

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.

LITANY

We remember Mary and Martha, sisters who welcomed Jesus into their home.

Help us to understand the balance of devotion and service.

Mary, who sat at Your feet, O Lord, listening to Your Word.

May we seek Your presence and listen to Your Word.

Mary, who chose the "better part" that would not be taken away.

Give us the priority to be attentive to Your Word.

Martha, who welcomed Jesus with practical service and hospitality.

May we find joy in serving You through acts of love and kindness.

Martha, who was troubled by many things and distracted.

Help us to serve with a spirit of grace and love, not anxiety.

For those who are overwhelmed by the busyness of life, like Martha...

Grant them rest and guidance.

For those who long to find rest in Your presence, like Mary...

Open their hearts to seek first the kingdom of God.

For those who are struggling to balance service and rest...

Give them the wisdom and discernment.

Let us go forth with Your love in our hearts and Your mercy in our hands.

Amen.

KYRIE



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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



C 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-shipped 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

O heavenly Father, Your Son Jesus Christ enjoyed rest and refreshment in the home of Mary and Martha of Bethany: Give us the will to love You, open our hearts to hear You, and strengthen our hands to serve You and others for His sake; Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 18:1-10

(Abraham and Sarah Show Hospitality to Angel of the Lord)

And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Colossians 1:15-19

(The Preeminence of Christ)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For 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. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And 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. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 10:38-42

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

(Mary and Martha)

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered

her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

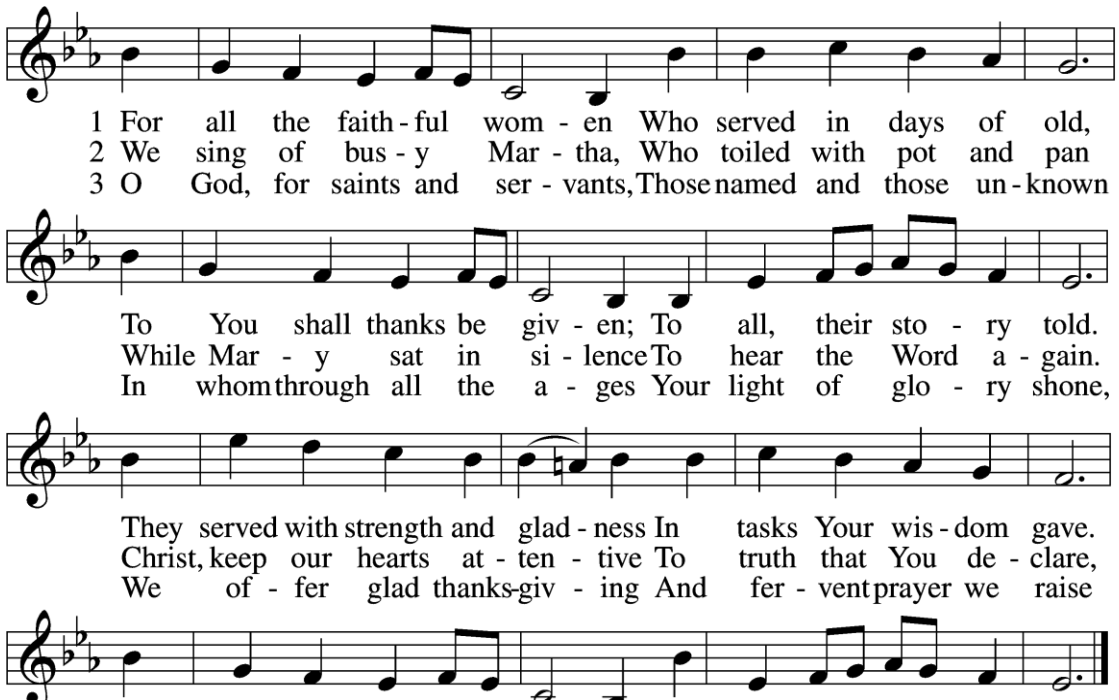
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"For All the Faithful Women"

LSB #855 (v. 1-3)



1 For all the faith-ful wom - en Who served in days of old,
2 We sing of bus - y Mar - tha, Who toiled with pot and pan
3 O God, for saints and ser - vants, Those named and those un - known

To You shall thanks be giv - en; To all, their sto - ry told.
While Mar - y sat in si - lence To hear the Word a - gain.
In whom through all the a - ges Your light of glo - ry shone,

They served with strength and glad - ness In tasks Your wis - dom gave.
Christ, keep our hearts at - ten - tive To truth that You de - clare,
We of - fer glad thanks-giv - ing And fer - vent prayer we raise

To You their lives bore wit - ness, Pro - claimed Your pow'r to save.
And strength-en us for ser - vice When work be - comes our prayer.
That, faith - ful in Your ser - vice, Our lives may sing Your praise.

SERMON

"To Serve Is Good, but to Be Served Is Better"

Luke 10:38-42

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

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

LSB #641



You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart With gift of fin-est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.



1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They know and
 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to You Our praise and
 3 Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of
 4 The mys - t'ry of Your pres - ence, Lord, No mor - tal
 5 You give Your - self to us, O Lord; Then self - less



heed his voice; So when You call Your
 grat - i - tude That You should count us
 Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one
 tongue can tell: Whom all the world can -
 let us be, To serve each oth - er



fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - joice.
 wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
 loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
 not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
 in Your name In truth and char - i - ty.

~Distribution Hymns Continue on the Following Page~

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

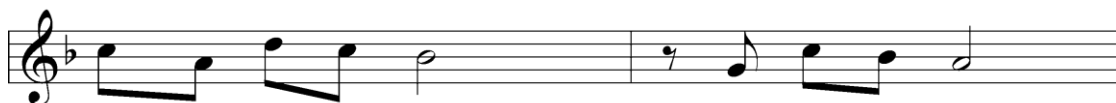
"What Is This Bread"

LSB #629



1 What is this bread?
 2 What is this wine?
 3 So who am I,
 4 Yet is God here?
 5 Is this for me?

Christ's bod - y
 The blood of
 That I should
 Oh, yes! By
 I am for -



ris - en from the dead:
 Je - sus shed for mine;
 live and He should die
 Word and prom - ise clear,
 giv - en and set free!

This bread we break,
 The cup of grace
 Un - der the rod?
 In mouth and soul
 I do be - lieve



This life we take,
 Brings His em - brace
 My God, my God,
 He makes us whole—
 That I re - ceive

Was crushed to pay for our re -
 Of life and love un - til I
 Why have You not for - sak - en
 Christ, tru - ly pres - ent in this
 His ver - y bod - y and His



lease.
 sing!
 me?
 meal.
 blood.

O taste and see—
 O taste and see—
 O taste and see—
 O taste and see—
 O taste and see—

the Lord is peace.
 the Lord is King.
 the Lord is free.
 the Lord is real.
 the Lord is good.

"Just as I Am, without One Plea"

LSB #570 (v. 1-4)



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not To rid my
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
 soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
 heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Grant us, Lord, the Spirit to hear Your Word and to know the one thing needful, so that we who without You cannot do anything that is good, by You will be able to choose the good portion; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

LSB #738 (v. 1-2,4)



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.
heard My dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo - ry.
Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.
Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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