A photograph of a rocky coastline. In the foreground, large, reddish-brown rocks are scattered along the shore, with waves crashing against them. In the background, a lighthouse stands on a rocky outcrop to the left, and a church with a dark roof and white walls stands on a cliff to the right. The sky is filled with large, white clouds.

Wise man built his
house upon the rock

Matthew 7:24-29

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 10, 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: Ben Smith – 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.

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 10, 2025

8:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

LSB #909 (v. 1-3)



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of
3 Grant, we pray, to all Your faith - ful All the gifts they



cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; Come with all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
ask to gain; What they gain from You, for - ev - er



Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
Hear Your peo - ple as they pray; And Your full - est
With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter



help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in these walls to - day.
in Your glo - ry Ev - er - more with You to reign.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.

My God is my rock, in Whom I take refuge."

~Psalm 18:2

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of All, give us the strength to be wise. We pray that You might open our eyes to the world around us, that we will be a generation unafraid to stand on the Rock even as those around us build grand homes on the shifting sand. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"How Firm a Foundation"

LSB #728 (v. 1)

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "How Firm a Foundation" in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 29:11-13

(We Have Hope and a Future with God's Plan for Us)

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 2:17-22

(Household of God Built on Prophets and Apostles with Christ as Cornerstone)

And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

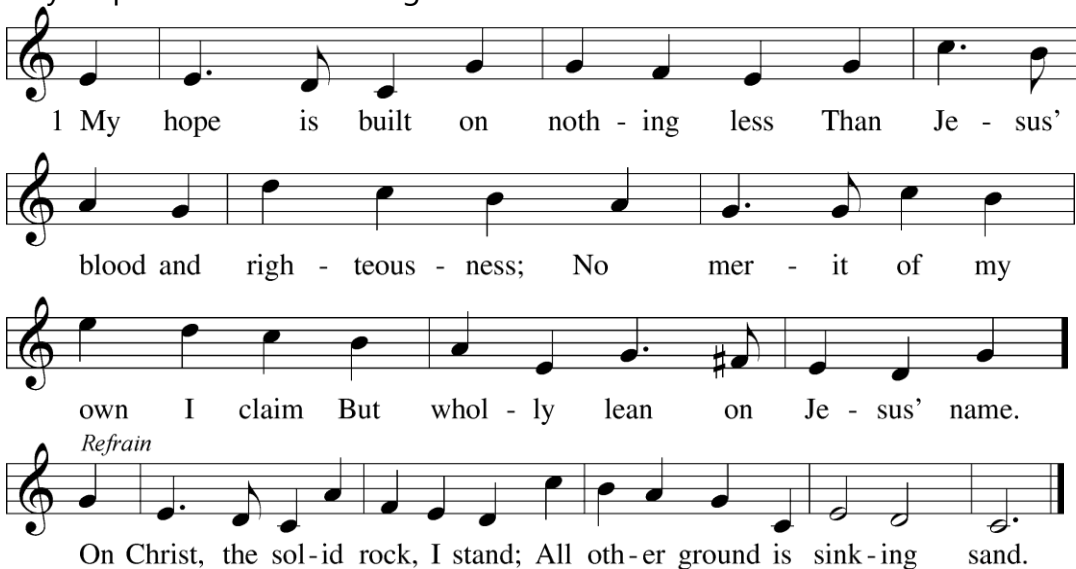
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

LSB #575 (v. 1)



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'

blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my

own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.

Refrain

On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 7:24-27

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the seventh chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

(Build Your House on the Rock)

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

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

"The Church's One Foundation"

LSB #644 (v. 1-2,5)



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

SERMON

"Building a Life"

Matthew 7:24-27

Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer

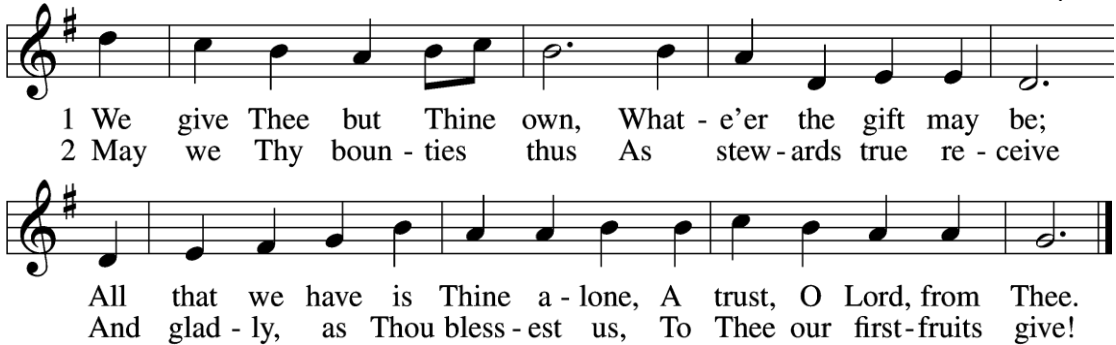
OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

OFFERTORY

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"

LSB # 781 (v. 1-2)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive

All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

~please be seated for the Distribution~

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

LSB #919



- 1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace
- 2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,
- 3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;
- 4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

~this hymn continues on the following page~

5 Abide with Your protection
 Among us, Lord, our strength,
 Lest world and Satan fell us
 And overcome at length.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
 Among us with Your love;
 Grant steadfastness and help us
 To reach our home above.

"Built on the Rock"

LSB #645



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
 2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His
 4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how
 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the



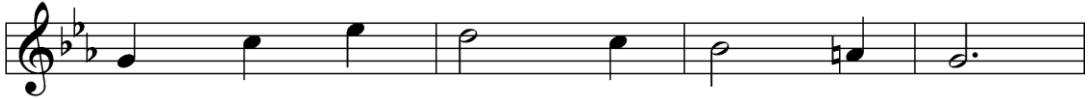
stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
 High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His
 own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
 God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's
 church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
 tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
 grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -
 sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives
 faith may come Where Christ His mes - sage is bring -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove
tion. Were we but two His name to tell,
us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim
ing: "I know My own; My own know Me.



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
Choos - es to live with us in love,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,
You, not the world, My face shall see.



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.
With all His grace and His fa - vor.
And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.
My peace I leave with you. A - men."

~Distribution Hymns continue on the following page~

"Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head"

LSB #647



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Church's head, You are her one foun -
 2 O Lord, let this Your lit - tle flock, Your name a - lone con -
 3 Help us to serve You ev - er - more With hearts both pure and
 4 And for Your Gos - pel let us dare To sac - ri - fice all



da - tion; In You she trusts, be - fore You bows, And
 fess - ing, Con - tin - ue in Your lov - ing care, True
 low - ly; And may Your Word, that light di - vine, Shine
 trea - sure; Teach us to bear Your bless - ed cross, To



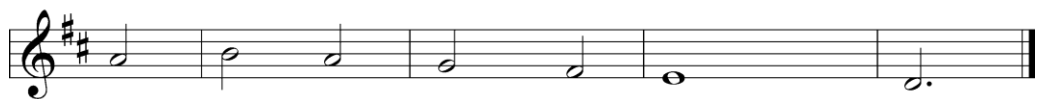
waits for Your sal - va - tion. Built on this rock se - cure,
 u - ni - ty pos - sess - ing. Your sac - ra - ments, O Lord,
 on in splen - dor ho - ly That we re - pen - tance show,
 find in You all plea - sure. O grant us stead - fast - ness



Your Church shall en - dure Though all the world de -
 And Your sav - ing Word To us, Lord, pure re -
 In faith ev - er grow; The pow'r of sin de -
 In joy and dis - tress, Lest we, Lord, You for -



cay And all things pass a - way.
 tain. Grant that they may re - main
 stroy And e - vils that an - noy.
 sake. Let us by grace par - take



O hear, O hear us, Je - sus!
 Our on - ly strength and com - fort.
 O make us faith - ful Chris - tians.
 Of end - less joy and glad - ness.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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.

~the service concludes on the following page~

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

LSB #912



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,
△ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

