

Service of Daily Prayer

All Saints' Day

Athens Lutheran Church Athens, TN November 1, 2020

As We Gather

At Christmas is sung “God rest you merry, gentlemen,” with “tidings of comfort and joy.” Those tidings were made because our Lord had entered human history. We will finally realize those tidings for ourselves when we join the saints in eternal glory, they who are seen in the vision we will read from Revelation. In the meantime, in these mean times, we rely on hope to get us through each day, as St. Paul writes in the Epistle. That hope is based on our being God’s adopted children, brothers and sisters of our risen Lord Jesus. It is both comforting and joyful, no matter our circumstances. As Jesus proclaims in the Gospel’s Beatitudes, people with such hope are blessed indeed!

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

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

Versicles

In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;
in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.
My mouth is filled with Your praise,
and with Your glory all the day.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare Your praise.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Reading

Revelation 7:2–17
Saints around God’s throne know eternal salvation after having endured persecution.

Reading

1 John 3:1–3
Beloved, we ARE God's children

Reading

Matthew 5:1–12
Jesus’ followers are blessed now because of His sure promises.

Final Reading Response

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- L** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.
- C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Apostles' Creed

- C** 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.

Koine Worship Song - Jerusalem the Golden

Sermon

Rev. Don Coulter

Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** 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.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In the morning

Almighty God, merciful Father, who created and completed all things, on this day when the work of our calling begins anew, we implore You to create its beginning, direct its continuance, and bless its end, that our doings may be preserved from sin, our life sanctified, and our work this day be well pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Then go joyfully to your work.

Stewardship Sentence

Matthew 5:7 – *“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”* This is one of many Bible passages that remind us that we reap what we sow. Likewise, what God puts into us – His own love, mercy, kindness, and generosity – flows back out of us. It all starts with His self-giving.

Lectionary Summary for Next Week - November 8, 2020

Amos 5:18–24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Matthew 25:1–13

The Gospel Prepares Us for Our Heavenly Bridegroom's Coming

The Day of the Lord is *“darkness, and not light”* (**Amos 5:18, 20**) for all who trust in their own righteousness and piety. The Lord will not accept their *“burnt offerings and grain offerings,”* nor will He look upon their *“peace offerings”* (**Amos 5:22**). Instead, He desires a heart of faith that trusts in Him, which lets *“justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream”* (**Amos 5:24**) in love for the neighbor. In order for the “lamps” of our lives to burn brightly with such love, we must be filled with the “oil” of forgiveness through faith in our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ (**Matt. 25:1–4**). Therefore, as we await His coming, wisdom directs us *“to the dealers”* (**Matt. 25:9**), that is, to the ministers of His Gospel. Thus we wait upon the Lord, and we *“encourage one another with these words”* (**1 Thess. 4:18**). Waking or sleeping, we are prepared to meet Him when He comes *“with a cry of*

command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God,” and “we will always be with the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

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