

Service of Daily Prayer

Christmas Day

Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN - December 25, 2020

As We Gather

Glory is the theme of both John's account and Luke's familiar details of the Savior's birth. They are not mutually exclusive but speak of the same event. The surprise is that glory is not where we would have expected it or what we would have expected it to be. Hidden in the manger is the Word made flesh, the same creating Word that spoke all things into being. Hidden in the flesh of a baby is the glory of the God who becomes His people's Savior. Hidden in the faith that trusts this Word are eyes to see and ears to hear the glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. In the Word made flesh, God has displayed His glory, and that glory appeared in order to give us the right to become the children of God.

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

Isaiah 52:7-10

Reading

Hebrews 1:1-12

Reading

John 1:1-18

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.

Koine Worship Song - Joy to the World

Sermon

Rev. Don Coulter

Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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 God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Concluding prayers:

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

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Then go joyfully to your work.

Stewardship Sentence

John 1:12 – *“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”* What a joy to be called the children of God! We have a Father who cares for us and loves us. Therefore we have no need to fear. For perfect love casts out fear. And with our fear set aside, we are free to serve the Christ who has become flesh and made His dwelling among us.

Lectionary Summary for Next Week - December 27, 2020

Isaiah 61:10–62:3; Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:22–40

The Time Has Fully Come for Redemption and Purification through Jesus Christ, Our Lord

“When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,” born of the woman, *“to redeem those who were under the law”* (**Gal. 4:4–5**). Therefore, *“according to the Law of Moses,”* Mary and Joseph *“brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord”* (**Luke 2:22**). There He was received and taken up into the arms of Simeon, who was righteous and devout, *“waiting for the consolation of Israel”* (**Luke 2:25**). Simeon praised God and blessed the parents by confessing the cross for which this child was appointed. *“At that very hour,”* old and faithful Anna, who had watched, prayed and worshiped in the temple for so long, came up and *“began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem”* (**Luke 2:38**). The Lord causes *“righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations”* (**Is. 61:11**). We also *“greatly rejoice in the Lord,”* because this child has clothed us *“with the garments of salvation,”* covered us *“with the robe of righteousness”* and called us *“by a new name”* (**Is. 61:10; 62:2**).

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