

Daily Prayer  
Fifth Midweek Lenten Service  
Athens Lutheran Church, Athens, TN  
March 24, 2021  
Return to the Kingdom of God

In the conclusion of his First Letter to his co-worker Timothy, Paul encourages his young friend with a shared vision of what is to come as God fulfills all things. He writes of “the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will display at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:14–15). As Jesus stood before Pilate, who seemed to have the full authority of life and death over Him, our Savior knew who He was and what His kingdom was and is and will be. “My kingdom is not of this world,” Jesus stated (John 18:36a). With the psalmist, we affirm, “The Lord will reign forever” (Psalm 146:10). The very best and most blessed time under His gracious kingship is yet to be!

*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**

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,  
**the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Joyous light of glory:  
**of the immortal Father;  
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.**  
**We have come to the setting of the sun,  
and we look to the evening light.**  
**We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:**  
**You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.**  
**O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.**

**Reading**

*Isaiah 53:1–3*

## Reading

*1 Timothy 2:1–7*

## Reading

*John 18:28–38*

## Final Reading Response

*LSB 247*

- P** 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 - What Wondrous Love Is This

## 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.

## Collects

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C** And let my cry come to You.

## Collect of the Day

- P** Almighty God, Your kingdom is not like the kingdoms of this world. Instead of force, You reign by grace; instead of corruption, You reign by

the truth; instead of favoritism, You reign by serving all. Help us not to fall into the ways of the kingdoms of this world, but to welcome Your gracious reign in our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Collect for Lent**

**P** Faithful God, through the ancient prophets You call us to return to You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Let these Lenten days be a time when, remembering how You relentlessly return to us in mercy, we return also to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Collect at Evening**

**P** As the darkness of nighttime comes, remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been of old. Remember not our transgressions of the day. And raise us up in the morning ready to serve in Your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Collect for Peace**

**P** Merciful God, as the kingdoms of this world rage and spite, through it all You remain constant in bringing calm to troubled hearts. Grant peace in our nation, peace in our community, and peace in our homes; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Evening Prayer**

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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.**

### **Acknowledgments**

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