

Service of Daily Prayer
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN
March 21, 2021

As We Gather

The ancient name for today, the Fifth Sunday in Lent, is Judica, the Latin behind “vindicate” in the Introit. This Sunday prepares us for next Sunday’s review of the Passion. Only in Christ are we truly vindicated. But the emphasis is on our response to God’s love and forgiveness. In today’s Gospel, Jesus inverts the usual triangle of power into an upside-down pyramid of service. The greatest in God’s kingdom, the position sought by His disciples in the Gospel, is now at the bottom, serving everyone above. Jesus is describing Himself! In contrast to priests who repeatedly pray for others and offer sacrifices also for their own sins, Jesus was a one-time priest, offering Himself as the sacrifice while being sinless. In this new covenant, promised in the Reading from Jeremiah, we know of our Lord’s great love, now written in our hearts. From the inside out, our desire is to return Christ’s sacrificial, forgiving love by serving one another in His name.

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

Jeremiah 31:31–34
A new covenant is coming, written on people’s hearts.

Reading

Hebrews 5:1–10
Jesus was both one-time priest and sacrifice, dying for all.

Reading

Mark 10:32–45
Jesus teaches about true greatness.

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 - Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

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, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Then go joyfully to your work.

Stewardship Sentence

Zechariah 9:9 – *“Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”*

No king ever rode to war like this. But no king had ever come to wage battle by dying. In His Passion, our Lord Jesus gives everything He has and is; He does this to bring us from death to life and to make us His own people. And He also does all this to show us an example of self-giving love for us to follow.

Lectionary Summary for Next Week - March 28, 2021

John 12:12–19 (Palm Sunday Procession); Zechariah 9:9–12; Philippians 2:5–11; Mark 14:1–15:47 *or* Mark 15:1–47 *or* John 12:20–43

The Son of David Ascends His Throne and Reigns in Love from His Cross

The Son of David comes in gentle humility, *“sitting on a donkey's colt,”* yet as the King of Israel *“in the name of the Lord”* (**John 12:13–15**). He comes to be lifted up in glory on the cross in order to cast out *“the ruler of this world”* and draw all people to Himself (**John 12:23–32**). The Church is thus called to *“rejoice greatly,”* because her King comes with salvation, and *“he shall speak peace to the nations”* (**Zech. 9:9–10**). As He is anointed *“beforehand for burial”* (**Mark 14:8**), He also ascends His royal throne as *“the King of the Jews”* by way of His Passion (**Mark 15:2, 17–19, 26**). He goes *“as it is written of him,”* wherefore *“you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power”* (**Mark 14:21, 62**). For the glory of God

is love, which crescendos in the humble obedience and voluntary self-sacrifice of the Son of God for the salvation of sinners. So, God the Father has “*highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name*” (**Phil. 2:9**), that He might reign over us in love with the forgiveness of His cross.

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