

# Service of Daily Prayer

## First Sunday after Christmas

Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN - December 27, 2020

### As We Gather

The Gospel for the First Sunday after Christmas takes us to the temple in Jerusalem, where Jesus is brought by Mary and Joseph. In presenting Him there, they are affirming that He is dedicated to God as a firstborn son. But He is much more than a son—He is the Son. In her classic hymn text, German hymnist Elisabeth Cruciger celebrates His coming as she writes, “The only Son from heaven, foretold by ancient seers, By God the Father given, In human form appears. No sphere His light confining, No star so brightly shining As He, our Morning Star” (*LSB* 402:1). Jesus is the One in whom we see our salvation, whose light guides our way through life, and whose presence enlightens our world. With joy, we worship Him!

*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 61:10—62:3*  
*Nations will acknowledge the Chosen One of the Lord.*

### Reading

*Galatians 4:4–7*  
*At the right time, God sent His Son into the world.*

### Reading

*Luke 2:22–40*  
*Jesus is presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph.*

### 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 - Where Shepherds Lately Knelt**

**Sermon**

*Rev. Don Coulter*

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Ⓟ** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**Ⓢ** **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**

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, 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**

**Luke 2:39** – *“And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord...”* The Law of God is good. Of course, it always shows us our sins, but that is good, too! We need to be driven back to the forgiveness of Christ. And the Law also shows us the truly blessed way to live. As Mary and Joseph found their joy in a godly life, so should we see the Law as a guide for Christian living and the roadmap for saying thank you to the Lord for all His grace and mercy to us.

## **Lectionary Summary for Next Week - January 3, 2021**

1 Kings 3:4–15; Ephesians 1:3–14; Luke 2:40–52

### ***The Lord Jesus Is Found in the Temple of His Church***

The Lord Jesus *“grew and became strong”* (**Luke 2:40**); He *“increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man”* (**Luke 2:52**). As His body grew and developed, His mind also increased in knowledge and understanding. For as our brother in the flesh, that we might *“have redemption through his blood”* (**Eph. 1:7**), He lived by faith in the Word of His Father. Thus, He was catechized by His parents, who took Him up *“to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover”* (**Luke 2:41**); and when He was of age, He gave attention to the Holy Scriptures in His Father’s house (**Luke 2:46, 49**). Christ Jesus is still found in His Church, in *“the word of truth, the gospel,”* by which we are adopted by His Father and sealed with His Spirit (Eph. 1:5, 13). Thus do we gain *“an understanding mind”* to go about our vocations, discerning *“between good and evil”* (**1 Kings 3:9**). And so do we also go up to Jerusalem, to stand *“before the ark of the covenant of the Lord”* (**1 Kings 3:15**), that is, in the Holy Communion of His body and blood.

## **Acknowledgments**

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