

# Service of Daily Prayer

## Fourth Sunday in Advent

Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN - December 20, 2020

### As We Gather

God told King David by the prophet Nathan that He would build him a house. The mystery, however, was that He didn't mean a structure of wood and stone but an inheritance and a kingdom—the house and lineage of David. The mystery of salvation is made known only and alone through “the prophetic writings” and living Word of God in the Holy Scriptures. As we prepare to celebrate the greatest mystery of the Word made flesh, the incarnation and birth of the Son of God, Jesus, the Savior of the world, the best mystery is that God through the very telling of this story in our ears gives, works, and builds the gift of faith in the heart so that we believe it. We believe that Jesus was born for us, for me. He came down from heaven to be the only acceptable sacrifice for my sin, to redeem me, and give me eternal life through the forgiveness of my sins. O come, Emmanuel, God with us. O come, let us adore 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

*2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16*  
*The Lord's covenant with David*

### Reading

*Romans 16:25–27*  
*Doxology*

### Reading

*Luke 1:26–38*  
*The birth of Jesus foretold*

## 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 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

### Sermon

*Rev. Don Coulter*

### Time of Prayer

### 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

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **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**

**2 Samuel 7:4** – *“But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan. . .”*

Nathan thought David's idea was great, so he blessed it with the Lord's name. But, later that night, the Word of the Lord set him straight. The Word of the Lord must be the basis for what we think, say, and do in God's Kingdom – not our own desires or whims.

## **Lectionary Summary for Next Week - December 25, 2020**

Isaiah 52:7–10; Hebrews 1:1–6 (7–12); John 1:1–14 (15–18)

***The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells Among Us in the Flesh***

The Lord sends out His ministers of the Gospel to make disciples *“of all the nations,”* so that *“all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”* For the Lord has *“bared his holy arm”* in the incarnate Christ (**Is. 52:7, 10**). The child in the manger, born of the Virgin Mary, is the very Word of God, the only begotten Son of the Father, *“whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world”* (**Heb. 1:2**). As *“all things were made through him”* (**John 1:3**), so are all things redeemed and made new in Him. In His body of flesh and blood, we behold *“the radiance of the glory of God”* (**Heb. 1:3**), *“glory as of the only Son*

*from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).* He dwells among us in peace, that we might have life and light and salvation in Him. For by His Word of the Gospel, we are born again as the children of God, bearing His name and sharing His eternal life.

#### **Acknowledgments**

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