

Service of Daily Prayer  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN  
March 14, 2021

**As We Gather**

Look out! There were snakes biting the Israelites, sent by God as punishment for complaining about the manna, that miraculous food He gave on the way to the Promised Land. But look up! See the bronze serpent Moses put on a pole. Everyone who looked up at the serpent will live. The serpent was a type of Christ, a parallel symbol in the Bible. We, too, have snakes—our discontent with God’s daily blessings and lack of faith in His promises. But as we look up in faith to Jesus, the Christ on the cross, we shall be saved. That faith is a gift of God in His grace. Jesus is the center of the gracious Good News. We are God’s workmanship, and now He holds the door open as we walk through, looking up to Jesus.

*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**

*Numbers 21:4–9*  
*Israelites who look up to the bronze serpent live.*

**Reading**

*Ephesians 2:1–10*  
*We are saved by grace.*

**Reading**

*John 3:14–21*  
*All who look up to Jesus on the cross will be saved.*

## Final Reading Response

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- 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.

## The Third Article

*Sanctification*

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.

*What does this mean?*

**I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

**In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.**

**In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.**

**On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.**

**This is most certainly true.**

## Koine Worship Song - Glory Be to Jesus

### 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, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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**

**Ephesians 2:10** – *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* Even the good we do in this world is a gift from God, prepared beforehand for us to do. And this too is a gift! For isn't doing good also a good thing for the one who does it? So from first to last, from the Lord's free salvation given to us to the good works He's prepared for us to walk in, it is all a gift of God's grace.

## **Lectionary Summary for Next Week - March 21 2021**

Jeremiah 31:31–34; Hebrews 5:1–10; Mark 10:(32–34) 35–45

*In the Holy Sacraments, We Share the Glory of the Cross of Christ*

Jesus catechizes His disciples in the way of the cross, revealing that He will be condemned and put to death “*and after three days he will rise*” (**Mark 10:33–34**). But the Twelve do not understand. Instead, they argue among themselves about who will be the greatest, with James and John requesting the places of honor on either side of Jesus in His glory. However, Jesus has come to make Himself the “*slave of all*” and “*to give his life as a ransom for many*” (**Mark 10:43–45**). He shares the true glory of His cross with all who are baptized with His Baptism and with those who drink His cup of salvation, the New Testament in His blood (**Mark 10:39**). By these Holy Sacraments, the Lord makes Himself known to all His people, forgiving their sins “*from the least of them to the greatest*” (**Jer. 31:33–34**). Though He is the very Son of God, “*he learned obedience through what he suffered*” and so became our great High Priest, that we may enter His glory by the way of His sacrifice (**Heb. 5:8–10**).

### **Acknowledgments**

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