

Service of Daily Prayer

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Athens Lutheran Church Athens, TN November 22, 2020

As We Gather

Today is the Last Sunday of the Church Year. This Sunday is traditionally filled with themes of Christ's roles as King and Judge. But consider these words from Psalm 95: "We are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand." We are God's chosen sheep. He is our Shepherd. We follow Him as He goes to seek the lost, bring back the stray, and bind up the injured.

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

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24
God will search for His sheep.

Reading

1 Corinthians 15:20–28
The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Reading

Matthew 25:31–46
The separation of the sheep and the goats

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 - The King of Love, My Shepherd Is

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.

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, 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 and Benediction

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Then go joyfully to your work.

Stewardship Sentence

Matthew 25:44 – *“Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ ”* With this parable Jesus once again emphasizes that our good works come from who we are, not the other way around. Sheep do sheep works, and goats do goat works. So, first things first. If we want to live more faithfully, let us come to Jesus, receive His gifts, and ask him to increase our faith.

Lectionary Summary for Next Week - November 29, 2020

Isaiah 64:1–9; 1 Corinthians 1:3–9; Mark 11:1–10 *or* Mark 13:24–37

The Lord Jesus Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us

Although we pray that God *“would rend the heavens and come down”* (**Is. 64:1**), that He would take vengeance against our enemies, we ourselves *“have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment”* (**Is. 64:6**). We have continued in our sins for *“a long time, and shall we be saved?”* (**Is. 64:5**). Yet, the Lord does not punish us in anger. He comes in voluntary meekness and humility to save us by His grace. Just as He once came into Jerusalem to sacrifice Himself for us upon the cross (**Mark 11:4–8**), He still comes to His Church with the fruits of His Passion. By His ministry of the Gospel, we are *“enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge,”* and so He will *“sustain you to the end”* (**1 Cor. 1:5, 8**). Although *“heaven and earth will pass away,”* His words *“will not pass away”* (**Mark 13:31**). As He sends disciples to call us to Himself in the fellowship of His Church, so will He *“send out the angels”* to gather us and all of His elect *“from the ends of the earth”* to Himself in heaven forever (**Mark 13:27**).

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