

Service of Daily Prayer

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN - August 30, 2020

As We Gather

Some voices in our world today claim that good needs evil in order to help what is right truly express itself. The Bible takes a different view, giving us God's perspective on good and evil. That which is truly virtuous doesn't depend on evil. No, quite the opposite, that which is good—God and His love in Jesus Christ—actively dispels evil at the cross. By His resurrection from death's grave, Jesus crushes evil and guarantees that it has no power over those who trust in Him. Remaining in Christ's love, we respond to the evil in our world, even the evil that comes directly at us through the wrongdoings of our enemies, with the goodness of forgiveness. Instead of retaliating against evil ourselves, we allow our good and gracious God to respond to it, and overcome it, in our loving Savior.

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 15:15–21
The Lord gives His precious, saving words.

Reading

Romans 12:9–21
With genuine love, overcome evil with good.

Reading

Matthew 16:21–28
Jesus calls His disciples to take up their cross and follow Him.

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 - Fight the Good Fight

Sermon

Rev. Don Coulter

Time of Prayer

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

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same 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

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Then go joyfully to your work.

Stewardship Sentence

Matt. 16:26 – *“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?”* He who dies with the most toys ... is dead. But the one who trusts in the Lord, even though he dies, yet shall he live. We live out our trust in the Lord by faithfully fulfilling the roles God has given us to play in the home, church, and society as loving, generous people. Those who don't know the Lord are afraid to be generous because they think that what they give away is lost to them. But we who know the Lord know that the things of this world become true blessings when they are used for God's Kingdom.

Lectionary Summary for Next Week - September 6, 2020

Ezekiel 33:7–9; Romans 13:1–10; Matthew 18:1–20

Living as Humble Little Children of the Father

True greatness is not self-sufficient strength, but humility like that of a little child. The greatness of childlike faith receives all good things as gracious gifts from our Father in heaven. Apart from such faith, *“you will never enter the kingdom of heaven,”* but whoever is humbled like a little child will be *“the greatest in the*

kingdom of heaven” (**Matt. 18:3–4**). Though in our sin we deserve to be “*drowned in the depth of the sea*” (**Matt. 18:6**), we have instead been drowned (“buried”) with Christ in Baptism and then raised to the new, humble life of a child of God. The Lord sends His watchman to warn us with a word from His mouth, in order that we may not die in our iniquity but be turned from our pride and selfishness to live (**Ezek. 33:7–9**). Thus, we live in humility and faith before God as well as in love for our neighbor, which “*is the fulfilling of the law*” (**Rom. 13:10**). In the reverent fear of God, we do no harm to our neighbor, but we “*pay to all what is owed to them*” (**Rom. 13:7**) and we “*owe no one anything, except to love each other*” (**Rom. 13:8**).

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