

Service of Daily Prayer

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN - September 6, 2020

As We Gather

When His disciples wanted to know who was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, Jesus pointed to a child as an object lesson for true humility. One who assumes the posture of complete dependence—having nothing, yet needing everything—is valued by God. Our gracious Savior calls us to such humility, repentance, and faith this day. As we come before Him to receive forgiveness and new life through His very presence in His Word and at His Table, we, too, assume a posture of penitence. This posture doesn't point to ourselves and our supposed worthiness; no, it points to Jesus and His sacrifice for us, the unworthy children of the Father. As the only perfectly humble child of God, Jesus stoops to serve us today and fill us with the forgiveness we desperately need.

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 33:7–9
The watchman warns the wicked to turn from his way.

Reading

Romans 13:1–10
Love is the fulfilling of the law.

Reading

Matthew 18:1–20
Jesus calls the children of God to humility and repentance.

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 - By Grace I'm Saved

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

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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.

Benediction

Then go joyfully to your work.

Stewardship Sentence

Matthew 18:4 –“(Jesus said), ‘Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’ ” What does it mean to have childlike faith? Certainly, Jesus does not want us to have a faith that is *childish*. We are not called to ignorance or silliness. Rather, we are called to trust the way a child trusts – with complete confidence in the Father. We show that confidence in our lives when we follow His directives for our life. Father knows best, so we’ll take His advice!

Lectionary Summary for Next Week - September 13, 2020

Genesis 50:15–21; Romans 14:1–12; Matthew 18:21–35

Forgiving as the Lord Forgives Us

In settling His accounts with us, our Lord acts not with anger, but with compassion. He does not imprison us as we deserve, but He forgives all our debts and releases us (**Matt. 18:23–27**). Therefore, our Lord bids each of us to have “*mercy on your fellow servant*” and “*forgive your brother from your heart*” (**Matt. 18:33, 35**). By the Lord’s forgiveness of our sins, we are free to forgive those who sin against us, because He has been handed over to the jailers in our stead and He has paid our entire debt with His lifeblood. Whether we live or die, we “*are the Lord’s*” (**Rom. 14:8**). Since we all will “*stand before the judgment seat of God,*” we are not to

despise our brother (**Rom. 14:10**), but gladly forgive him. By the grace of God, our brother also “*will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand*” (**Rom. 14:4**). Though we daily sin against each other, the Lord intends “*to bring it about that many people should be kept alive*” (Gen. 50:20). Jesus speaks kindly by His Gospel and promises: “*I will provide for you and your little ones*” (**Gen. 50:21**).

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