

Service of Daily Prayer

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN October 11, 2020

As We Gather

“Come to the table.” In our daily experiences, there is no invitation that is more readily received and fully appreciated. To be at the table is to be assured of nourishment and refreshment. In Psalm 23, we are told of a table that is prepared under challenging circumstances. Yet, even there, the cup of God’s blessing overflows. Our gathering for worship and our coming to the Table of the Lord is a weekly experience of overflowing blessing filled with signs of God’s gracious presence. We rejoice that we are invited to His amazing table!

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

Isaiah 25:6–9
The Lord will bring salvation to His people.

Reading

Philippians 4:4–13
Encouragement for joyful Christian living

Reading

Matthew 22:1–14
The parable about the wedding feast

Final Reading Response

LSB 238

- 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.**

The Sacrament of the Altar

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Where is this written?

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."

Who receives this Sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

Worship Song - I Hear the Savior Calling

Sermon Kingdom People Produce Kingdom Fruit

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, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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

Matt. 22:5 – “*But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business.*” The invitation to join God in His feast and in His work is easily ignored. The rest of life seems so much more pressing, and we always think there will be another time when we can catch back up with God. But what joys are we missing when we set aside God’s invitation to join Him in His plans and purposes? What inheritance are we trading for the world’s bowl of pottage?

Lectionary Summary for Next Week - October 18, 2020

Isaiah 45:1–7; 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10; Matthew 22:15–22

We Are Recreated in the Image of God by the Cross of Christ

Plotting against Jesus, the Pharisees attempted “*to entangle him in his words*” by asking about the payment of taxes to Caesar (**Matt. 22:15**). The Lord pointed to coins required for the tax, and He answered that we should “*render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s*” (**Matt. 22:21**). But if coins bearing the image of Caesar should be rendered to him, then man — who is made in the image of God — must be rendered to the Lord. That tax is paid for us by the Lord Jesus, the image of God in the flesh, by His self-offering on the cross. And from His cross, as the Lord’s anointed, He reigns as the true Caesar over all nations “*from the rising of the sun and from the west*” (**Is. 45:6**). The Lord once called and anointed Cyrus “*to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings*” (**Is. 45:1**). Now by the preaching of the Gospel, “*in power and in the Holy Spirit*” (**1 Thess. 1:5**), foreigners from all over the world are “*turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God*” (**1 Thess. 1:9–10**).

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