

# Service of Daily Prayer

## Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN - October 18, 2020

### As We Gather

Countless times during Christ's mission in human flesh for the sins of the world, the Pharisees and others tried to test, trap, and trick Jesus, thinking He would suffer a setback to His ministry. Time and time again, Jesus in His divine wisdom and teaching would instead turn those times into a setup for teaching about many things regarding life on earth and the kingdom of heaven. We, too, face times of testing, trapping, and tricking, though not from Pharisees, but from this world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh, and often we face setbacks. We are wise to turn to the one who has set us up for forgiveness, mercy, and a new life through His own life, death, and rising. Rejoicing in His grace, in response to His love, we faithfully, "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21).

*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 45:1-7*

*The Lord uses Cyrus as an instrument of deliverance.*

### Reading

*1 Thessalonians 1*

*The Thessalonians' faith and example*

## Reading

*Matthew 22:15–22*

*Jesus tested by the Pharisees about paying taxes to Caesar*

## 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 - Christ Is Our Cornerstone

### 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

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Prayers for others and ourselves*

*Concluding prayers:*

## **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. 22:21** – “... *Then he said to them, ‘Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’*” So what is Jesus saying? Doesn’t everything belong to God? Yes, and God has a place for everything. Some of what He gives us goes to Caesar. Some must come back to the work of His Church. And some goes to support the families He has given us. All belongs to God, and He has work for us to do with what He has given us in the home, in the Church, and in society.

## **Lectionary Summary for Next Week - October 25, 2020**

Revelation 14:6–7; Romans 3:19–28; John 8:31–36 *or* Matthew 11:12–19

### ***The Son of God Has Set Us Free from Sin and Death by His Grace***

“*Wisdom is justified by her deeds*” (**Matt. 11:19**), and the true wisdom of God, Christ Jesus, the incarnate Son, justifies us by His deeds. He prepares His way by the preaching of repentance, but He has suffered the violence of the Law and voluntarily handed Himself over to violent men, in order that we may eat and drink with Him in His Kingdom and “*remain in the house forever*” (**John 8:35**). He is “*a friend of tax*

*collectors and sinners” (Matt. 11:18–19), and He has rescued us by His grace from the slavery of sin and death. By the proclamation of His eternal Gospel “to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people” (Rev. 14:6), “the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law” (Rom. 3:21), “that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Rom. 3:26). And by the hearing of that Gospel of Christ Jesus, “whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith” (Rom. 3:25), “you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31–32).*

## **Acknowledgments**

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