

# Service of Daily Prayer

## Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Athens Lutheran Church Athens, TN November 8, 2020

### As We Gather

We hear today the extremely encouraging words from the apostle Paul concerning our everlasting life. Paul tells us, “We will always be with the Lord.” What comforting words! What encouraging words! You have the assurance that when Jesus returns, you will spend everlasting life in His gracious presence.

*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

*Amos 5:18–24*  
*The day of the Lord is coming.*

### Reading

*1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*  
*We will always be with the Lord.*

### Reading

*Matthew 25:1–13*  
*The parable of the ten virgins.*

### 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.**

## **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 - Just As I Am**

### **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**

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, 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 and Benediction

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Then go joyfully to your work.*

## Stewardship Sentence

**Matthew 25:4** – “... *but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.*” Why did they take flasks of oil with them? Because they listened to the bridegroom’s words and believed what He told them. Our actions always start with and flow from our beliefs. What do your actions in the realm of financial stewardship say about what you believe?

## Lectionary Summary for Next Week - November 15, 2020

Zephaniah 1:7–16; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11; Matthew 25:14–30

### ***God’s Gift of Forgiveness Engenders Our Forgiveness of Others***

The Day of the Lord is “*near and hastening fast,*” and it will be “*a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation*” (**Zeph. 1:14, 15**). The Lord will search out and punish “*the men who are complacent*” concerning His Word, “*who fill their master’s house with violence and fraud*” (**Zeph. 1:9, 12**). Then all their works and efforts will be for nothing: “*Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them*” (**Zeph. 1:13**). But those who fear, love and trust in the Lord are “*good and faithful*” stewards of His property (**Matt. 25:21**). They live by faith in His free gift of forgiveness, and they multiply His goods in the loving forgiveness of their neighbor, and “*the master of those servants*” settles His accounts with them by the gracious reckoning of His Gospel (**Matt. 25:19**). Likewise, “*God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (**1 Thess. 5:9**). Therefore, let us also “*put on the breastplate of faith and love*” in our dealings with one another (**1 Thess. 5:8**).

### **Acknowledgments**

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