

# Service of Daily Prayer

## Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Athens Lutheran Church    Athens, TN    November 15, 2020

### As We Gather

We read today about three servants. Two were good and faithful. One was evil and faithless. Two enter into the joy of their master. One does not. Our Lord has entrusted us with many good and gracious gifts and sends us into the world to make disciples and multiply the gifts we have received. Yet, it is not our own work that leads us into the joy of our Master; rather, it is our Master's work on our behalf. Jesus' saving work of death and resurrection brings us into the joy of our Master.

*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

*Zephaniah 1:7–16*  
*The Day of the Lord is near.*

### Reading

*1 Thessalonians 5:1–11*  
*Let us live as children of the light.*

### Reading

*Matthew 25:14–30*  
*The parable of the talents*

### 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 - When God the Spirit Came

### 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

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; 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**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Then go joyfully to your work.*

## **Stewardship Sentence**

**Matthew 25:30a** – *“And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness.”* Why did the worthless servant act the way he did? Because of what he believed about the Master. He didn't trust or love the Master. So, his actions did not demonstrate love and trust but rather hate and mistrust. It's the same with us, but in reverse. Since we know our Lord God to be faithful and kind, we desire to serve Him and render faithful service with what He has given us.

## **Lectionary Summary for Next Week - November 22, 2020**

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24; 1 Corinthians 15:20–28; Matthew 25:31–46

### ***By the Cross of Christ, We Enter the Kingdom of Our God and Father***

When the crucified and risen Lord Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead, *“he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats”* (**Matt. 25:32**). *“To those on his right,”* who have been crucified and raised with Him through repentance and faith in His Gospel, He will grant the blessed kingdom of His Father (**Matt. 25:34**). Having been justified by His grace, they live unto righteousness in Him (**Matt. 25:35–40**). But *“those on his left,”* who trust in themselves and despise their neighbor, will depart *“into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels”* (**Matt. 25:41**). Until that day, the Lord searches for His sheep *“as a shepherd seeks out his flock”* (**Ezek. 34:11–12**). Through His preaching of repentance, He disciplines the proud sheep and goats, *“the fat and the strong,”* but through the preaching of forgiveness He rescues the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak and feeds *“the lean sheep”* (**Ezek. 34:16, 20**). In this way, He destroys the power of death in the children of Adam by His cross, so that *“in Christ shall all be made alive”* by His resurrection (**1 Cor. 15:20–26**).

## **Acknowledgments**

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