

Service of Daily Prayer
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN
July 5, 2020

As We Gather

Rest is elusive; as each day ends, we must confess with Paul in today's Epistle that we had "the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out." In our tiredness, the mirror shows that we are wretched indeed. But Zechariah wrote of a day when the battle would be over, thanks to a coming king, who would set the prisoners free. His description points us to Jesus on Palm Sunday; His death and resurrection have set us free from our bondage to sin. His compassion for us shows in His prayer of thanksgiving to our heavenly Father. In our Savior, we find the rest we need each day. Compared to the failing struggle we engage in daily, His yoke is easy, His burden is light. As David wrote in the psalm, "The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down." He gives rest for the soul!

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

Zechariah 9:9–12
Through the prophet, the Lord promises an end to spiritual warfare.

Reading

Romans 7:14–25a
Unable to stop sinning, Paul finds deliverance only in Jesus Christ.

Reading

Matthew 11:25–30
Jesus invites His hearers to come to Him for true rest.

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 - God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

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

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; 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.

Then go joyfully to your work.

Stewardship Sentence

Matt. 11:28 – *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* Jesus has come to do the work so that we might have rest from burdens and labors we are not capable of bearing. He frees us from sin, death, and the demands of the Law. In that peace and rest of Jesus we find a new purpose. His light yoke, which is no burden to bear, is a joy.

Lectionary Summary for Next Week - July 12, 2020

Isaiah 55:10–13; Romans 8:12–17; Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

The Preaching of the Word of Christ Bears the Good Fruits of Faith and Love
As “the rain and the snow come down from heaven” and “water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout” (**Is. 55:10**), so the Word of God accomplishes the purpose for which He speaks it, granting joy and peace through the forgiveness of sins and producing the fruits of faith and love in those who are called by His name. Christ Jesus, the incarnate Word, has established the name of the Lord as “an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off” (**Is. 55:13**). He opens our ears to hear, our minds to understand and our hearts to believe His Word, lest the evil one come and snatch it away. He thus transforms our rocky hearts into good soil, which clings to the Gospel and “indeed bears fruit” (**Matt. 13:23**). He is Himself the firstfruits of all who “have received the Spirit of adoption as sons” (**Rom. 8:15**). Thus being “led by the Spirit of God,” we are not afraid, but we cry out in faith to our Father in heaven (**Rom. 8:14–15**). For as we suffer with Christ, the beloved Son, so shall we “also be glorified with him” (**Rom. 8:17**). *f the Lord shall be saved”* (Acts 2:21).

Acknowledgments

Morning from Lutheran Service Book

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