

Service of Daily Prayer
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN
July 12, 2020

As We Gather

Plants in God's good earth respond to the showers He sends, producing plants for pasture and crops for harvest. In the psalm, David says it is as if "the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy." It is all natural, and so is our producing fruit for God as His Word works through us. That God works through us sinners is all grace; if we but hear the Word and let the Spirit give us understanding, a bountiful harvest will follow. Jesus likens it to seeds producing yields of up to a hundredfold. But we are no mere plants, as Paul points out in the Epistle. Because we have been adopted by our heavenly Father, we are brothers and sisters of Christ, the children of God, calling out to Him, "Abba! Father!" Our growth in faith is indeed by the grace of God, and to Him belongs all the credit for the bountiful harvest He reaps through us.

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 55:10–13
God's Word accomplishes His plans as surely as rain gives growth to plants.

Reading

Romans 8:12–17
Because the Spirit leads us, we know we are children of God.

Reading

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23
Whoever hears the Word and understands it will produce a great harvest for God in spite of worldly opposition.

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 - Lord of Glory, You Have Brought Us

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

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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

Romans 8:12 – *“So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.”* We owe the flesh, the world, and the devil nothing at all. We are not debtors to these enemies; we are freed by the blood of Christ. We are joyful servants in Christ's kingdom – servants that He calls friends. We share our Lord's plans and purposes, and this gives direction and purpose to our lives.

Lectionary Summary for Next Week - July 19, 2020

Isaiah 44:6–8; Romans 8:18–27; Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

The Word of the Gospel Bestows the Righteousness of Christ and Brings Forth Faith
The good Seed, which is *“the Son of Man,”* Jesus Himself (**Matt. 13:37**), brings forth a harvest of faith and bears good fruits in *“the sons of the kingdom”* (**Matt. 13:38**). Whatever is sown apart from His Word is of the devil, who plants the weeds of unbelief and sin, even among the people of God. Thankfully, the Lord is patient and He does not uproot the weeds, lest the plants also be destroyed. He lets *“both grow together until the harvest”* (**Matt. 13:30**), while He continues to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins. Thus, He preserves His Church in righteousness, because He alone is *“the King of Israel and his Redeemer”* (**Is. 44:6**). Since all things are in His gracious care and keeping, *“fear not, nor be afraid”* (**Is. 44:8**). For *“the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God”* (**Rom. 8:19**), and in this hope we also wait with patience. Though we do not yet see it, *“the Spirit helps us in our weakness”* (**Rom. 8:26**) and, in truth, *“the sufferings of this*

present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us”
(Rom. 8:18).

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