

Service of Daily Prayer
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN
July 19, 2020

As We Gather

We are among the many who have struggled to believe in a world where it seems our enemies triumph and our own wills fail us. But the promises of God are not only for the present. They point us to that which is to come. To know the Lord is to know His promises without having seen them fulfilled. Gathering around His Word and Table, we meet those promises. His voice speaks of what will be, and in the flesh and blood of Christ, we taste the future that will come by His power and promise. To know the Lord in this way is to enjoy comfort in trial and to have hope that will endure the tests that come.

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 44:6–8
Is there a God besides the Lord?

Reading

Romans 8:18–27
The sufferings of this present age are not worth comparing to the glory waiting to be revealed.

Reading

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43
Then the righteous shall shine like the sun.

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 - What Wondrous Love Is This

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, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; 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

Rom. 8:18 – *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”* It is very easy to get caught up in the present and lose track of our ultimate destiny in the Kingdom of God. St. Paul encourages us to keep eternity in mind. This certainly has an application to our support for the Gospel. If we keep our focus on “the glory to be revealed,” we will see our tithes and offerings in a new light.

Lectionary Summary for Next Week -

Deuteronomy 7:6–9; Romans 8:28–39; Matthew 13:44–52

The Son of God Has Redeemed Us for Himself with His Holy and Precious Blood

The Lord our God has chosen us to be “his treasured possession,” not because of any strength in us, but solely “*because the Lord loves*” us (**Deut. 7:6–8**). He is faithful, and He “*keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments*” (**Deut. 7:9**). He has searched for us and found us in love, and He has bestowed on us “*great value*” by the great price that He has paid on the cross (**Matt. 13:45–46**). In His joy, He has redeemed us by His cross and gathered us into His Kingdom by the Gospel. Now we are “*hidden in a field,*” covered by the cross and subject to the persecution of the world (**Matt. 13:44**), not for destruction, but “to be conformed to the image of his Son” (**Rom. 8:29**). Since we “*are called according to his purpose*” (**Rom. 8:28**), and because Christ Jesus died, rose again and lives to intercede for us “*at the right hand of God*” (**Rom. 8:34**), there is nothing in all

creation that can separate us from “*the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (**Rom. 8:39**).

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