

Service of Daily Prayer
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN
July 26, 2020

As We Gather

Treasures are hard to find and even harder to hold on to. Jesus describes the kingdom of God as a great treasure hidden in a field, a pearl of great price, and a net full of fish. But this treasure is one of God's own making. He esteems us His treasured possession and delivers up His own Son that we might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom without end. On earth that treasure is hidden in the dirt, found side by side among cheap trinkets, and in nets that hold good and bad fish. But one day, it will all be clear. They will be set apart and the false treasures exposed. For now, it is enough to believe His Word and trust in His promise and hold steadfast to His Son.

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

Deuteronomy 7:6–9
Because the Lord loves you, He has chosen you to be His treasured possession.

Reading

Romans 8:28–39
Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ our Savior.

Reading

Matthew 13:44–52
The kingdom of God is like a hidden treasure.

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 - Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

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 everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; 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

Matthew 13:45-46 – *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”* Indeed, Jesus redeemed us and purchased us back from sin and death with all that He had. We belong to Him now. And this is the foundation for our own generosity: imitating the out-sized generosity of Jesus.

Lectionary Summary for Next Week -

Isaiah 55:1–5; Romans 9:1–5 (6–13); Matthew 14:13–21

Christ Jesus, the Living Bread from Heaven, Feeds the Children of God

By the Gospel of *“the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever”* (**Rom. 9:5**), we are *“the children of God”* (**Rom. 9:8**), *“not because of works but because of him who calls”* (**Rom. 9:11**). Therefore, *“listen diligently”* and *“hear, that your soul may live.”* By His sacrificial death in His flesh and blood, He has made *“an everlasting covenant”* for us. Since He now calls us to Himself, we come to Him *“and eat what is good, and delight ... in rich food”* (**Is. 55:2–3**). He has come with divine compassion to save us from sin and death and to feed us with Himself. As our Lord Jesus once took bread, *“said a blessing,”* broke the loaves *“and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds”* (**Matt. 14:18–19**), He also now takes bread, blesses it by His Word to be His very body, and distributes it to His Church by the hand of His called and ordained servants. Just as *“they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces,”* there is more than enough for His whole Church to eat and to be satisfied (**Matt. 14:20**).

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