

Service of Daily Prayer

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN - August 2, 2020

As We Gather

Happiness and contentment are hard to find. Even with our abundance of possessions and opportunity, our hearts remain restless for things new and different, for the promise of something better. Paul reminds us that contentment does not come from having everything we desire, but with faith in the Lord, who is gracious and merciful and supplies all our needs. Today, we hear the terrible news of John the Baptist's martyrdom and a crowd restless with hunger. In the midst of it all, Jesus shows forth grace to rest our fears and satisfy us with all we need. We pray that we learn to trust in the Lord and to find contentment and peace in His grace sufficient for all things.

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 55:1–5
Come, all who hunger and thirst, and the Lord will satisfy you with all that you need.

Reading

Romans 9:1–13
Paul anguishes over the people of Israel.

Reading

Matthew 14:13–21
Jesus feeds the five thousand, and all were satisfied.

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.

The First Article

Creation

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

Koine Worship Song - Grant Peace, We Pray, In Mercy Lord

Sermon

Rev. Don Coulter

Time of Prayer

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

Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in

willing obedience; 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 and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Then go joyfully to your work.

Stewardship Sentence

Matt. 14:17-18 – *“They said to him, ‘We have only five loaves here and two fish.’ And he said, ‘Bring them here to me.’ ”* When the disciples held on to the five loaves and two fish, that’s exactly what they had. But when they handed them over to the Lord, the multitudes were fed. Apart from Jesus all we do and all we have is nothing. But, in Jesus, all we do and have is blessed to be used by the Lord for His gracious work.

Lectionary Summary for Next Week - August 9, 2020

Job 38:4–18; Romans 10:5–17; Matthew 14:22–33

Christ the Crucified Comes to Save Us by the Word of Faith

The Lord who *“laid the foundation of the earth”* (**Job 38:4**) is the Author and Giver of life who governs all things by His Word. His wisdom and power are beyond our understanding, except as He reveals Himself in the incarnate Word, Christ Jesus. He

has “*entered into the springs of the sea*” and “*walked in the recesses of the deep*” (**Job 38:16**), and He draws near to us in mercy. We have been “*a long way from the land, beaten by the waves*” and tossed about by hostile winds (**Matt. 14:24**). In our mortality and sinful unbelief, we do not always recognize the Lord Jesus. But as we cry out in fear, He speaks tenderly to us, “*Do not be afraid,*” and He reaches out His hand to save us (**Matt. 14:27, 31**). “*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved*” (**Rom. 10:13**), and now we call upon Him in faith, because we have heard “*through the word of Christ*” (**Rom. 10:17**). “*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*” (**Rom. 10:8**).

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