

Service of Daily Prayer

Reformation Day

Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN - October 25, 2020

As We Gather

To the consternation of His opponents, Jesus announced that those who abide in His Word know the truth, which sets them free. And the truth, Paul points out in the Epistle, is that God has declared us justified, not guilty under His Law, because of His gracious gift of faith in Christ. That gift frees us from fearing God's righteous wrath; we are confident that the Lord of hosts is with us. Sure of His presence and protection, we need not fear the forces of nature, the conflicts of people and nations, and the wiles of the devil. Rather, in all that we think, say, and do, we are free to respond to the angelic invitation we hear today: "fear God and give Him glory . . . and worship Him who made heaven and earth" (Revelation 14:7).

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

Revelation 14:6–7
An angel announces the time for judgment.

Reading

Romans 3:19–28
We need not fear the Law's accusation, for we are justified by grace.

Reading

Matthew 11:12–19
He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

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 - A Mighty Fortress

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 gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayers:

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.

Benediction (Aaronic)

Then go joyfully to your work.

Stewardship Sentence

October 25 – Reformation Day

John 8:36 – “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” Today we celebrate Reformation Day! Luther is rightly remembered as a champion of the Gospel, but he also called himself “the apostle of good works.” For only in being set free by the Gospel can we do good works. Jesus has set us free, and His blood covers over our sins. We stand before God as His beloved children, and we are invited to live our lives to His glory for the good of His kingdom.

Lectionary Summary for Next Week – All Saints' Day

Revelation 7:(2–8) 9–17; 1 John 3:1–3; Matthew 5:1–12

Saints Are Blessed in the Eternal Presence of Christ

“A great multitude ... from all tribes and peoples and languages” cry out, *“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne” (Rev. 7:9–10)*. Faith-filled saints from every place and time with unified voices eternally magnify the Lamb of God. As His beloved children, we, too, *“shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2)*. Joined with the throng of angels and myriad saints, we shall *“serve him day and night in his temple” (Rev. 7:15)*. In our earthly tension vacillating between saint and sinner, faith and doubt, sacred and profane, we earnestly seek Jesus to calm our fears, comfort our spirits and forgive our sins. The Holy Spirit, through faith in Christ, propels us forward to our eternal home, fortifying us in Word and Sacrament. In the midst of our constant struggle as believers, we need to be blessed. And so we are.

The poor in spirit, the meek, the hungry, the thirsty, the merciful, the pure and the persecuted are all blessed, and we will most certainly inherit the kingdom of heaven (**Matt. 5:1–12**).

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