

Service of Daily Prayer

Second Sunday after Christmas

Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN - January 3, 2021

As We Gather

“Let our gladness have no end, alleluia!” (*LSB* 381:1). “Let our gladness banish sadness All throughout creation!” (*LSB* 371:1). These two songs of the Christmas season remind us that we are in glad times as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. This year, because of the way the days of the week fall immediately after Christmas Day, we are blessed by having not one but two Sundays after Christmas! Through the Holy Gospel today, we hear about our Lord Jesus when He was a young man—one who increased in wisdom and stature. Jesus was glad to be in God’s house when He was in Jerusalem. Our gladness in these special days is heightened by our being here for worship as we grow in wisdom and in stature by God’s endless grace!

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

1 Kings 3:4–15
Solomon prays to God for the gift of wisdom.

Reading

Ephesians 1:3–14
We are gifted with God’s spiritual blessings.

Reading

Luke 2:40–52

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 - Peace on Earth

Sermon

Rev. Don Coulter

Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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 God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

Then go joyfully to your work.

Stewardship Sentence

1 Kings 3:4 – *“And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.”* Now that’s a big sacrifice! But, of course, Solomon offered sacrifices in proportion to his wealth. The Lord had blessed him greatly, so his sacrifices were correspondingly large. Jesus also praised the widow’s mite, a small amount of money, but a great sacrifice in proportion to her means.

Lectionary Summary for Next Week - January 10, 2021

Genesis 1:1–5; Romans 6:1–11; Mark 1:4–11

In Holy Baptism, the Triune God Reveals Himself and Recreates Us in His Image

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). Then, as *“the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters” (Gen. 1:2),* God spoke His Word: *“‘Let there be light,’ and there was light” (Gen. 1:3).* In the same way, *“the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ” (Mark 1:1)* brings about the new creation through the waters of Baptism by the same Word and Spirit of God. When John the Baptist came, *“proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,”* Jesus also came *“and was baptized by John in the Jordan” (Mark 1:4, 9).* Although He had no sins of His own, He took His stand with sinners in His Baptism and took the sins and mortality of the world upon Himself. He was baptized into His own death, by which the heavens are opened and the Spirit is given to us. God the Father is well pleased with His beloved Son and raises Him from the dead. As we share His Baptism and are *“united with him in a death like his” (Rom. 6:5),* we also share His resurrection unto *“newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).*

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