

Service of Daily Prayer  
Second Sunday of Easter  
Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN  
April 11, 2021

Though Easter is a season and not merely a Sunday, it can be hard to sustain the enthusiasm when attendance drops on “low Sunday.” That said, the source of our joy is not in the size of the crowd but the greatness of the gift that Christ has given us. We have the forgiveness of sins, and where there is forgiveness for our sins, there is also life and salvation. We are held captive to fear, to the guilt of our sin, and to the power of death until Christ enters our locked rooms, shows Himself to us, and we, by the power of the Holy Spirit, rejoice in our Lord and God.

*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.**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

### 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

*Acts 4:32–35*

*The believers were of one heart and soul.*

### Reading

*1 John 1:1–2:2*

*If we sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ.*

### Reading

*John 20:19–31*

*Blessed are those who have not heard and yet believe.*

- P** 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 - This Joyful Eastertide

#### 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

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

## **Benedicamus**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Then go joyfully to your work.*

## **Stewardship Sentence**

**John 20:19** – “*Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’*” The peace we have in Jesus is what makes a life of good works possible. Since we know that it is Jesus who saved us – not our works – we are now free to do good works. Good works shouldn’t be done out of self-interest but for the right reasons – out of thanksgiving toward God and love for our neighbors.

## **Lectionary Summary for Next Week - April 18, 2021**

Acts 3:11–21; 1 John 3:1–7; Luke 24:36–49

### ***The Preaching of Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins Makes Us Pure***

The risen Lord Jesus taught His disciples “*that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead*” and “*that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations*” (**Luke 24:46–47**). Therefore, St. Peter preaches repentance and forgiveness to the people of Jerusalem. As he proclaims that Jesus fulfilled all that “*God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets*” (**Acts 3:18**), he also convicts the people of their sin, because they “*delivered over and denied*” this Lord Jesus and “*killed the Author of life.*” Yet God “*glorified his servant Jesus*” and raised Him from the dead (**Acts 3:13–15**). St. Peter calls the

people to repent, so that their *“sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord”* (Acts 3:19–20). Through this forgiveness of sins and by faith in this forgiveness, the Father shows His love for us in order that *“we should be called children of God; and so we are”* (1 John 3:1). Thus, we hope in Him and are made pure even *“as he is pure,”* because *“he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin”* (1 John 3:3, 5).

### **Acknowledgments**

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