

Service of Daily Prayer  
Third Sunday in Lent  
Athens Lutheran Church - Athens, TN  
March 7, 2021

**As We Gather**

When the Israelites were encamped by Mount Sinai, just out of slavery in Egypt and far from the Promised Land, God wisely gave them the Ten Commandments. They are engraved in our historic churches and capitol buildings. Their perfect demands require a Savior for us. Jesus was so jealous for God's Law that He cleansed the temple before cleansing us of our sin by giving the temple of His body. In His wisdom, God did what we could not: He kept His own Law for us and then chose us to be the Body of Christ today. None of us has kept the commandments; we and our spiritual ancestors reflect our weaknesses in faith and action. But in the process, God's wisdom shows forth: When we are weak, He is strong. Today is a day to boast about God's grace and His Son, Christ crucified, the power and wisdom of 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.**

**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**

*Exodus 20:1–17*  
*The Ten Commandments*

**Reading**

*1 Corinthians 1:18–31*  
*The foolish wisdom of God*

## Reading

*John 2:13–22*

*Jesus drives the money-changers from the temple.*

## Final Reading Response

*LSB 238*

- 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.**

## The Second Article

*Redemption*

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.

*What does this mean?*

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,**

**who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,**

**that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,**

**just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**

**This is most certainly true.**

## Koine Worship Song - He Stood Before the Court

## 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**

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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**

**John 2:16** – *“And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.”* The Lord's House is not a place to sell, but a place to receive and a place to give. It's not a place for our schemes and plans. Instead the Church is a place for the Lord's gracious giving and our faithful sacrifices in response.

### **Lectionary Summary for Next Week - March 14, 2021**

Numbers 21:4–9; Ephesians 2:1–10; John 3:14–21

***Jesus Is Lifted Up on the Cross so that We May Look to Him and Live***

The people sinned by speaking “*against God and against Moses,*” and the Lord called them to repentance by sending fiery serpents, which “*bit the people, so that many people of Israel died*” (**Num. 21:4–6**). When the people confessed their sin, the Lord provided a means of rescue from death. He instructed Moses to “*make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole,*” so that “*if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live*” (**Num. 21:8–9**). Thus, God sent His Son into the world, in the likeness of our sin and death, and lifted Him up on the pole of the cross, that whoever looks to Him in faith “*may have eternal life*” (**John 3:14–16**). By His cross, “*the light has come into the world,*” not for condemnation, but “*that the world might be saved through him*” (**John 3:17–19**). While we “*were dead in the trespasses and sins*” in which we once lived (**Eph. 2:1**), God loved us, calling us to repentance and raising us up with Christ to live “*with him in the heavenly places*” (**Eph. 2:4–6**).

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