



January 28, 2024

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

*God writes His Word on our Lives, building us into a Family engaged
in Spirit-filled Service.*



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Elder of the Month: Barney Ross

Scripture reader: Laura Ringer

Coffee & Fellowship:

Sunday Counters: Sandy Mathson & Cindy or Charlie Helms

Pre-Service Music: This is time to turn our hearts & minds toward God in preparation of worship.

Instrumental Prelude

Dr. Lev Ryabinin

Choir Anthem

Dr. Youngmi Kim Director

Welcome

Invocation

Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Congregational Hymn # 682 v1-2,4-5

“God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets’ Sons”



1 God of the proph - ets, bless the proph - ets' sons;
2 A - noint them proph - ets, men who are in - tent
4 A - noint them kings, yes, king - ly kings, O Lord.
5 Make them a - pos - tles, her - alds of Your cross;



E - li - jah's man - tle o'er E - li - sha cast.
To be Your wit - ness - es in word and deed,
A - noint them with the Spir - it of Your Son.
Forth let them go to tell the world of grace.



Each age its sol - emn task may claim but once;
Their hearts a - flame, their lips made el - o - quent,
Theirs not a jew - eled crown, a blood - stained sword;
In - spired by You, may they count all but loss



Make each one no - bler, strong - er than the last.
Their eyes a - wake to ev - 'ry hu - man need.
Theirs, by sweet love, for Christ a king - dom won.
And stand at last with joy be - fore Your face.

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

R: ¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

R: ¹Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. ⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have

knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21–28

R: The Holy Gospel according to St Mark chapter 1

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

R: ²¹They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean

spirits, and they obey him.”²⁸ And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn # 842

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
Free - ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

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.

Offering

To Our Guests: We do not charge for any of our services. All our services, programs, and expenses are freely supported by the gifts and offerings of our members. As our guests, you have not been invited for what you can give, but for what God can give you. The Offering is collected at the door when you enter.

Prayer of the Church

* Prayer of The Church

(After the pastor ends each petition with, "Lord in Your Mercy, the congregation responds with, "Hear our prayer.")

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

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.

Congregational Hymn # 819 v1-2,4-5

"Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre -
2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made, In mer - cy He is
4 He nev - er shall for - sake His flock, His cho - sen gen - er -
5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, Give God the praise and



a - tion, The God of love who un - der - stood
keep - ing. By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
a - tion; He is their ref - uge and their rock,
glo - ry. Let all who know His pow'r pro - claim



Our need for His sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our
His eye is nev - er sleep - ing. With - in the king - dom
Their peace and their sal - va - tion. As with a moth - er's
A - loud the won - drous sto - ry. Cast ev - 'ry i - dol



souls He fills And ev - 'ry faith - less mur - mur stills:
of His might All things are just and good and right:
ten - der hand, He leads His own, His cho - sen band:
from its throne, For God is God, and He a - lone:



To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!

Announcements

The Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God

+

Post-service Music

+

GOD'S BLESSINGS to all those celebrating birthdays this week:

- January 29 Walter Krause
- January 30 Jaye McCrea
- January 30 Margaret Ringer
- January 30 Dick Schneider
- January 31 Greg Hardesty
- Feb 1 Ralph Kunz
- Feb 3 Carol Campbell
- Feb 3 Kayleen Ringer

and anniversaries

- No Anniversaries this week

Best wishes!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Today	Voters Meeting	After Worship
Tuesday	Women's Bible Class	10 am
Wednesday	ZOOM Bible Class	No Bible Class
Saturday	Episcopal worship	5 pm
Sunday	Bible Class (In Person)	9 am
Sunday	Choir Rehearsal	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am

Sunday Morning Bible Class Many people who are great by the world's standards expect to be served by others. Not our Lord Jesus. Jesus took on the lowly form of a man to serve humanity and to sacrifice His life to ransom us from sin, death, and the

devil. In his Gospel, Mark speaks to us today about the meaning of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection for us and His call to follow Him in a life of servanthood and sacrifice. Join us each Sunday in the Sanctuary or Live on Facebook during Bible class beginning at **9 am for Mark**.

Wednesday Bible Class In the letter to the Philippians, Paul describes the Christian life in this way: joy, no matter what the circumstances. For you and me, this almost goes beyond our understanding. How can we be joyful when bad things happen? But Paul knows the secret...trust in Christ alone to meet all our physical and spiritual needs according to His glorious riches. Join us as we read and learn this secret from Paul on **Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am on Zoom for Philippians**.

Women's Bible Study Starting Tuesday, February 6, 2024, the Women's Bible Study will be studying the Lutheran catechism for adults presented by Pastor Steve. This study will take between 6-8 weeks and we will see the importance of the truths from God's Word for our lives and will grow in our deep appreciation for all that Jesus Christ has done as our Savior. Because we think this session will be of interest to all our parishioners, it will be open to anyone who wishes to attend. Until then please join us for a less informal study on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Choir Room.

We have all read the stories and heard the lessons in church, but what if we could stand in those very spots today? In October 2024 Pastor and Linda will be leading a tour to "**Walk in the Footsteps of Paul**". Experience with them the Bible coming to life as we follow in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and walk through the Bible lands ourselves. This 10 day tour will take us to many of the places Paul visited and which we have heard about: Thessaloniki (Thessalonians), Philippi (Philippians), Ephesus (Ephesians), Corinth (Corinthians), Crete (where Paul left Titus to serve as pastor), and Athens. We will also visit the island of Patmos where the Apostle John experienced the Revelation and more. In the midst of the trip we will board a ship for a three day Mediterranean cruise.

Talk to Pastor Steve for an itinerary, pricing, more information or if you have any questions.

Upcoming Blood Drive dates are scheduled for Feb 8th & March 7th. We will need volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering email Pam Kunz at

Kunzpd3@outlook.com. To sign up to donate blood go to redcrossblood.org and use code LOLC.

2024 offering envelopes are available for you to pick up by the family folders.

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church 2024 Lake Area Easter Basket Project Sign up for a particular age group (boy or girl) on the sign-up sheet on the “blue table”. There will be a sheet of basket filler ideas available for each age/sex of child to help get you started. Be creative! Consider making baskets with your grandchildren, co-workers, tennis/pickle ball team, card/craft group. Use gift bags, plastic totes, or reusable grocery bags or traditional Easter baskets. **Tag your basket to indicate Age and Sex of the child.** We will have plastic cellophane available at church to wrap your basket, if needed. For those who are **unable to shop but want to help support the project**, gift cards to Dollar Tree, or Hobby Lobby are appreciated. Place gift cards in the offering box. LOLC’s goal is to provide 32 baskets for children in foster care. **Return your completed Easter basket to church by Sunday, February 25th.**

The next Community center meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 2:00 pm at the CC

On Behalf of my family and me I would like to extend a huge thank you to all who visited, sent cards and memorials, supported, and prayed for us during the loss of our beloved Jim. Also a very special thank you to Barney (and Sharon) Ross for coming to my rescue when our special pet, Holly, left this earth to be with her master on Jan 13th. I do not know how I would survive without the love and support of my wonderful church family. Truly another of many blessings to be thankful for at this difficult time. Kathie Kueven and family.

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are Built for a Purpose

Built Through Word and Sacrament –

...believing in and making faithful and frequent use of the Bible, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper as the means by which God gives and sustains faith and empowers and strengthens us for Christian living.

Built Through Ongoing Learning –

...providing quality, Bible based instruction to foster greater understanding of God's Word and to better equip members for their discipleship.

Built For Service –

...reaching out to others by word and deed to join in the sharing of God's blessings and grace, which is free to all believers.

Built For Discipleship –

...utilizing fully our time, talents, and resources to serve and love the Lord, furthering our commission of discipleship.

Built For Fellowship –

...caring for and sharing with our church family; fostering greater love, understanding, and concern for the physical and spiritual well-being of all brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

The window behind the altar is our EASTER SUNRISE WINDOW.

The cross hanging in front of the window is an empty cross, reminding us that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive now to be with us here and always. Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. The symbol on the front of the ALTAR is a combination of two Greek letters: the "chi," which looks like our English "x," and the "rho," which looks like our "p." In the Greek, these letters are the first two of "Christ." Combined as they are, they suggest the cross. Superimposed on the cross is a heart, the reminder that God's love for us is the reason Jesus died on the cross. God's love for us empowers us to share his love with others.