



March 12, 2023

# LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday in Lent  
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: Pam Kunz*

*Scripture reader: Kathie Kueven*

*Coffee & Fellowship: Marcia Elkins & Connie Piepenbrink*

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

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**Instrumental Prelude**

**Dr. Lev Ryabinin**

**Choir Anthem**

**Dr. Youngmi Kim Director**

**Welcome**

*Please Stand*

*(You are invited to wish those around you God's peace. Please remain standing for the invocation.)*

**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.**

*Please be seated*

## Congregational Hymn #761

### “Rock of Ages Cleft for Me ”



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,  
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;  
When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.  
Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-78  
Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** 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.

**C:** Amen.

## The First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7

**R:** <sup>1</sup>All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give

us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

R: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**The Epistle Lesson:           Romans 5:1-8**

R: <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. <sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup>but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

*Please Stand*

## Verse for Lent



**C** Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in  
stead-fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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## Holy Gospel: John 4:5–26

R: The Holy Gospel according to John chapter 4

### C: Glory to You, O Lord.

R: [Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. <sup>7</sup>There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but whoever

drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”<sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”<sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’;<sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”<sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.”<sup>20</sup>Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.”<sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.<sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”<sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.”<sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## Sermon Hymn # 763

### “When Peace, like a River”



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let  
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My  
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The

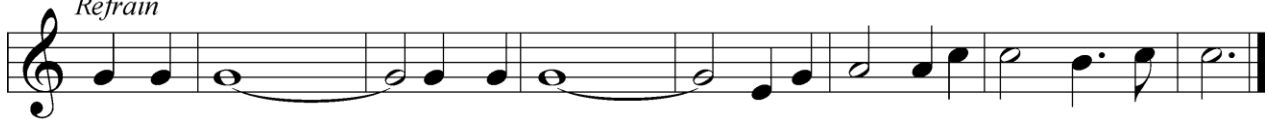


sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-88, alt.  
Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-76  
Text and tune: Public domain

## The Message

Pastor Steven Hayden

*Please Stand*

## 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.**

*Please be seated*

# Congregational Hymn # 849

## "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955  
Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia  
Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110019841  
Tune: Public domain

## Announcements

## The Dismissal

**P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!**

**C: Thanks be to God!**

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**Post-service Music**

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**GOD’S BLESSINGS to all those celebrating birthdays this week:**

- March 15            Marlene Matson
- March 17            Sandy Mathson

**and anniversaries**

- No Anniversaries this week

Best wishes!

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Sunday	Council Meeting	After worship
Tuesday	Women’s Bible Class	10 am
Tuesday	Community Center Meeting	2pm
Wednesday	ZOOM Bible Class	10:30 am
Wednesday	Soup Supper Lunch	12 pm
Wednesday	Lent Worship	1 pm
Saturday	Episcopal service	5 pm
Sunday	Bible Class (In Person)	9 am
Sunday	Choir Rehearsal	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am

**Sunday Morning Bible Class** The Good Samaritan. The Prodigal Son. The Pharisee and the Tax Collector. These stories from Jesus—recorded exclusively by St. Luke—are some of the most beloved in Holy Scripture. But despite the popularity of these passages, many students of Scripture would find it hard to describe what’s unique about Luke’s account of Jesus’ life. They could not tell you what concerns drove Luke to take up his pen and write. Luke’s Gospel is a careful history of Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, and ascension. But Luke’s history, and Jesus’ story, does not end with Jesus rising above the clouds. Prior to ascending into heaven, Jesus opened the minds of the apostles so that they could understand the Scriptures. He then commissioned them to preach the Good News about Him to all the nations (Luke 24:45–47). Thus, Christ’s work continues today as He applies the benefits of His life, death, and resurrection—through His Word and Sacraments—personally

and individually through the ministry of His Church. Luke is indeed a narrative about Christ, but it is even more. Through His means of grace Christ includes our story into His own. **Join us on Sunday mornings @9am for The Gospel of Luke** in person at church or live streamed on Facebook.

**Wednesday Bible Class** The Lord is a promise maker and a promise keeper. The Bible records God's first promise in Genesis in which He promises to crush the head of the serpent-deceiver (Genesis 3:15). It also records His last promise in Revelation, in which the crucified, risen, and reigning Christ promises, "Surely I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:20). The Bible is the written record of God's promise making and promise keeping. The true life of faith is lived trusting in God's promises, which all find their "yes" and "amen" in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). Faith clings to God's promises and calls upon them in every facet of life. Join us every Wednesday mornings at 10:30 online on Zoom for **Promise – God Is for Us.**

**Women's Bible Study.** The Women's Bible Study will be taking an in-depth look at what Jesus was trying to communicate to us when we spoke the Lord's Prayer. This eight-week study is designed to help us look carefully at the Lord's Prayer studying it line by line not just to know more about the prayer, but so we can begin to pray as Jesus instructed us to pray and cultivating in us a passion to pray. We meet each week **at 10:00 am in the Choir Room.** We'd love to have you join us.

**Don't forget to Volunteer.** There are several Volunteer positions we are looking to and excited to fill. If you are interested in serving, please check out the table in the entryway to see all of the ways to serve.

**Upcoming Blood Drive dates are** scheduled for **Apr 6, May 11 & June 1** and we will need volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering email Pam Kunz at [Kunzpd3@outlook.com](mailto:Kunzpd3@outlook.com). To sign up to donate blood go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use code LOLC.

**Lenten Wednesday Services** for this year is:

**3/15 Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm.**

3/22 Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm,

3/29 Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm

Lake Oconee Lutheran will have a special all-congregation Voter's Meeting on **Sunday, March 26th** following the service. The sole order of business at this meeting will be voting on the GDOT proposals for buying property from us for the widening of Hwy 44. There are two different lots involved; the wooded lot on the corner and the Community Center lot. Both have received a proposal from GDOT and both will be voted on at this meeting. Please plan on attending and being a part of this decision. Thank you.

## **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.