



May 14, 2023

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sixth Sunday of Easter

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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



LAKE OCONEE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Eatonton, GA 31024

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Pastor Steven Hayden

Pastor's Cell: 515-360-5081

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Elder of the Month: Jerry Campbell

Scripture reader: Sandy Mathson

Coffee & Fellowship:

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.

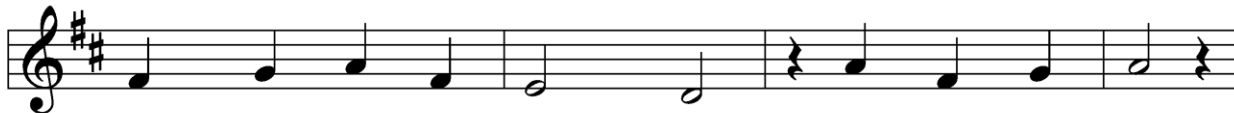
C: Amen.

Congregational Hymn #557

“Seek Where You May to Find a Way”



1 Seek where you may To find a way That
2 Seek whom you may To be your stay, None
3 Seek Him a - lone Who did a - tone, Who
4 My heart's de - light, My crown most bright, O



leads to your sal - va - tion. My heart is stilled,
can re - deem his broth - er. All help - ers failed;
did your souls de - liv - er. O seek Him first,
Christ, my joy for - ev - er. Not wealth nor pride



On Christ I build, He is the one foun - da - tion.
This man pre - vailed, The God - man and none oth - er,
All you who thirst For grace that fails you nev - er.
Nor for - tune's tide Our bonds of love shall sev - er.



His Word is sure, His works en - dure; He o - ver - throws
Our Ser - vant - King Of whom we sing. We're jus - ti - fied
In ev - 'ry need Seek Him in - deed; To ev - 'ry heart
You are my Lord; Your pre - cious Word Shall guide my way



All e - vil foes; Through Him I more than con - quer.
Be - cause He died, The guilt - y be - ing guilt - less.
He will im - part His bless - ings with - out mea - sure.
And help me stay For - ev - er in Your pres - ence.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Arthur P. Voss, 1899–1955, alt.
Tune: Johann Stobäus, 1580–1646
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110019841
Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding

accomplish them; 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: Acts 17:16–31

R: ¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbling wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities” —because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. ²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ ²⁹Being

then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13–22

R: ¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

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: John 14:15–21

R: The Holy Gospel according to St John chapter 14

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

R: ¹⁵[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn # 556 v1,2,4,5

“Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice”



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, With ex - ul - ta - tion
2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; Death brood - ed dark - ly
4 But God had seen my wretch - ed state Be - fore the world's foun -
5 God said to His be - lov - ed Son: "It's time to have com -



spring - ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly
o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my
da - tion, And mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for
pas - sion. Then go, bright jew - el of My crown, And bring to



rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How
moth - er bore me. But dai - ly deep - er still I fell; My
my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; He
all sal - va - tion. From sin and sor - row set them free; Slay



His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!
life be - came a liv - ing hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.
did not choose the eas - y part But gave His dear - est trea - sure.
bit - ter death for them that they May live with You for - ev - er."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.
Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg
Text and tune: Public domain

The Message

Pastor Steven Hayden

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 # 605

"Father Welcomes"

Refrain



Fa - ther wel - comes all His chil - dren To His fam - 'ly



through His Son. Fa - ther giv - ing His sal - va - tion,



Life for - ev - er has been won.



1 Lit - tle chil - dren, come to Me, For My king - dom
2 In the wa - ter, in the Word, In His prom - ise,
3 Let us dai - ly die to sin; Let us dai - ly



is of these. Life and love I have to give,
be as - sured: Those who are bap - tized and be - lieve
rise with Him, Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,



Mer - cy for your sin.
Shall be born a gain.
Live in the peace of God.

Refrain

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:

- May 14 Tom Saner
- May 19 Evelyn Crockett
- May 19 Lucie McNeil
- May 19 Mary Helen Ringer

and anniversaries

- May 18 Andrew & Alison Ringer

Best wishes!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday	Women's Bible Class	10 am
Wednesday	ZOOM Bible Class	10:30 am
Saturday	Episcopal service	5 pm
Sunday	Bible Class (In Person)	9 am
Sunday	Choir Rehearsal	9 am
Sunday	Childrens Sunday School	10 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 opening words of Ruth reveal that this story took place during the time when God provided judges to bring justice to Israel and to call God’s people to repentance and faith. During these historically evil days, an Israelite woman named Naomi and her family journeyed to Moab, a land filled with idol worshipers. There God brought into her family a young Moabite woman named Ruth. God drew Ruth to Himself in love, kindling a relationship that one day prompted her to speak these words to Naomi: **“Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God”** (Ruth 1:16). Not surprisingly, we see in the story of Ruth that God’s mercy extends to the Gentiles, that is, to you and me. Join us as we look at the book of Ruth in our **Wednesday morning Bible class on Zoom beginning at 10:30am.**

Women’s Bible Study. The next study will be on Acts, the Power of the Holy Spirit by Brian Simmons. This 12 week study picks up where Jesus’ story left off in the gospel of Luke by exploring the continuing presence of Christ on earth: the church. This inspired account of church history will awaken your soul with transforming power and give you courage to be a witness for Christ wherever he sends you. We meet on **Tuesdays**, in the Choir Room beginning at **10:00 am**. Please plan to join us as we explore the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives

Upcoming Blood Drive dates are scheduled for **June 1 & July 13** and 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.

Volunteer Opportunity Greene County Senior Center is in need of drivers for their home delivered meals in Greensboro and Union Point. Volunteer one or two days per month on their regular monthly schedule or as a substitute. Call Deanne Holcomb 706-453-7463 at the Greene County Senior Center or contact Margaret Pedersen 404-295-0331 or margaretped@gmail.com for more information.

Operation Christmas Child This year our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Ministry will look a little different. We have shoeboxes with instructions for you to **pack your own boxes**. Drop off your filled shoebox gifts throughout the year at the church before **November 10**.

Another option that you may find more convenient is to **build a shoebox online**. Online boxes are carefully prepared, abiding by strict customs regulations to safeguard partners who will deliver the gifts, as well as the boys and girls who receive them. The suggested donation is \$25 per shoebox.

(see weekly Thursday email for clickable link to instructions for online shoe boxes)

You can also scan this QR code below with your cell phone camera:



Our “faith goal” this year is **200 boxes**. Let us **pray and rejoice** as God works through us to reach children with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church is helping rock of Ages Lutheran Church again in May by posting a sign up sheet asking each person who signs up to bring sandwiches to church on **May 21st**, the sandwiches will be delivered to Rock of Ages following church service. Each sandwich will contain one slice of cheese and one slice of meat (turkey, ham, bologna or roast beef). Do not put any condiments on the bread. Pack each individual sandwich in a sealed plastic bag. The more volunteers, the fewer sandwiches each person will have to make. One loaf of square sandwich bread will make 10 sandwiches.

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.