



August 20, 2023

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

“The Importance and Purpose of Ministry”

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

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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In Preparation of Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us.

For further study, see **Matthew 5:23f, 10:32f, 18:15-35, 26:26-29, 1 Cor. 11:17-34**

We welcome to the Lord's Supper all Christians who are baptized, who have communed in a Christian church, and who share our understanding that, along with the bread and wine, we receive the very body and blood of our living Lord Jesus—for the strengthening of our faith and witness.

The glasses in the very center of each tray contain non-alcoholic wine for the use of those receiving communion who are unable to drink alcohol.

Children who do not commune are invited to come to the rail for a blessing.

If you need communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.

Before Communing

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your Holy Spirit that I may be ever watchful and live a true and godly life in Your service; through Jesus Christ, my Lord Amen

Elder of the Month: Mark Ketchie

Scripture Reader: Charlie Helms

Communion Assistant: Margaret Pedersen

Ushers: Don Menke & Jaye McCrea

Coffee Fellowship: Monica Ketchie

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

Instrumental Prelude

Dr. Lev Ryabinin

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 # 583

“God Has Spoken by His Prophets”



1 God has spo - ken by His proph - ets, Spo - ken His un - chang - ing Word;
2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
3 God is speak - ing by His Spir - it, Speak - ing to our hearts a - gain,



Each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the one, the righ - teous Lord.
Bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, With the Fa - ther ev - er one;
In the age - less Word de - clar - ing His own mes - sage, now as then.



In the world's de - spair and tur - moil, One firm an - chor holds us fast:
Spo - ken by the Word In - car - nate, God of God, be - fore time was;
Through the rise and fall of na - tions One sure faith yet stand - ing fast;



God is king, His throne e - ter - nal; God the first, and God the last.
Light of Light, to earth de - scend - ing, He re - veals our God to us.
God a - bides, His Word un - chang - ing; God the first, and God the last.

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Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; 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: Ezekiel 3:16–21

R: At the end of seven days, the word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. Again, if a righteous person turns from his righteousness and commits injustice, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die. Because you have not warned him, he shall die for his sin, and his righteous deeds that he has done shall not be remembered, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the righteous person not to sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live, because he took warning, and you will have delivered your soul.”

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 4:7–10

R: The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:

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: Luke 19:1-10

R: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke chapter 19

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

R: [Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn # 857

“Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way”



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But
3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You
4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor
5 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in
place with - in the hands Of those who seek to
count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the
ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
ser - vant - hood; In low - li - ness You died.
fol - low You And live by Your com - mands.
mean - est task That waits the gift of love.
get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

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The Message

Pastor Steve Hayden

Nicene Creed

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the

third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The 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

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

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Agnus Dei



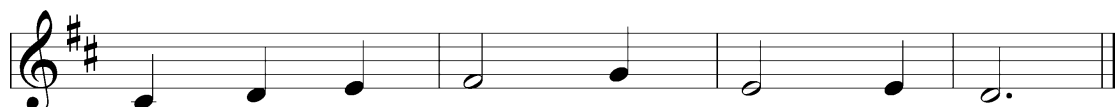
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

The Distribution

Communion Hymn

"Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, You have pre - pared This feast for
2 Al - though You did to heav'n as - cend, Where an - gel
3 Yet, Sav - ior, You are not con - fined To an - y
4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your pre - cious
5 Though rea - son can - not un - der - stand, Yet faith this



our sal - va - tion; It is Your bod - y
hosts are dwell - ing, And in Your pres - ence
hab - i - ta - tion; But You are pres - ent
Word be - liev - ing That Your true bod - y
truth em - brac - es: Your bod - y, Lord, is



and Your blood, And at Your in - vi - ta - tion
they be - hold Your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
e - ven now Here with Your con - gre - ga - tion.
and Your blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.
e - ven now At once in man - y plac - es.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, We come to
And though Your peo - ple shall not see Your glo - ry
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by
This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, All things are
I leave to You how this can be; Your Word a -



You for need - ed rest, For com - fort, and for par - don.
and Your maj - es - ty Till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
an - y dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
pos - si - ble with You, For You are Lord Al - might - y.
lone suf - fic - es me; I trust its truth un - fail - ing.

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Post-Communion Collect

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us

through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 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 # 688 v 1-3,5

“Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake”



1 “Come, fol - low Me,” the Sav - ior spake, “All in My
 2 “I am the light, I light the way, A god - ly
 3 “My heart a - bounds in low - li - ness, My soul with
 5 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, And take the



way a - bid - ing; De - ny your - selves, the world for - sake,
 life dis - play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day;
 love is glow - ing; And gra - cious words My lips ex - press,
 cross ap - point - ed And, firm - ly cling - ing to His Word,



O - bey My call and guid - ing. O bear the cross, what -
 I keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
 With meek - ness o - ver - flow - ing. My heart, My mind, My
 In suf - f’ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e’er be - tide, Take My ex - am - ple for your guide.
 well I show How you must so - journ here be - low.
 strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.
 bat - tle’s strain The crown of heav’n - ly life ob - tain.

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:

- No Birthdays this week

and anniversaries:

- August 20 Terry & Margaret Pedersen
- August 20 Harold & Janice Sollenberger

Best wishes!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|----------|
| Monday | Bread of Life ministry | 9 am |
| Tuesday | Women's Bible Class | 10 am |
| Wednesday | Zoom Bible Class | 10:30 am |
| Saturday | Episcopal Worship Service | 5 pm |
| Sunday | Adult Bible Class | 9 am |
| Sunday | Worship | 10:30 am |

Sunday Morning Bible Class During the month of August, we will focus on our stewardship of God's gifts in Sunday worship and Bible class. In his letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul wrote, ***"For we are God's fellow workers..."*** (1 Corinthians 3:9). God calls us to participate with Him as co-workers in ministries of service and outreach. Not only does God honor us by allowing us to be fellow workers, He empowers us to do so. Even though on the outside we are jars of clay, we can do some amazing work because Jesus lives within us. In the words of Paul, ***"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me"*** (Galatians 2:20). On the outside, we are weak and

fragile, but, on the inside, we have this surpassing power of Jesus. Having this power can be illustrated by the comic book character Clark Kent, who appeared to be a normal newspaper reporter. But, when superpower was needed, Clark Kent would go into a telephone booth to remove his outer clothes and become Superman who was unstoppable. As God's fellow workers, we don't remove our clothes and become the Superman character, but we are clothed with Jesus Who lives within us and makes all things possible. As God's fellow workers, through faith, we are able to tap into Jesus' strength that makes it possible for us to accomplish the tasks He gives us to do. May God help us all embrace His call to be **Fellow Workers on His Team** knowing that Jesus is with us as we participate as fellow workers to serve others and extend His kingdom. **Join us for Sunday morning Bible class each Sunday live and online beginning at 9am.**

Wednesday Bible Class Sometime toward the close of the first century, the apostle John wrote a series of letters to Christians probably living in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). In them, he used the simplest of language to communicate some of the most profound theology in the Scriptures. John uses simple contrasts, taken from everyday experience, like love and hate, light and darkness, to communicate deep truths about God, the devil, and humanity. Two major themes run throughout John's Epistles: truth and love. While his opponents refused to confess that Jesus is the Christ or that He came in the flesh, John insists on the truth of God's concrete actions for our salvation. His opponents felt that they had no sin and were under no obligation to follow God's Law. However, John stresses the obligation to love our brothers and sisters. He also emphasizes our continuing obligation to care for the physical needs of our brothers and sisters. He does not allow the Christian faith to float away into an abstract, spiritual world. John's goal, after all, is that we may have fellowship with God and have eternal life. **Join us on Zoom every Wednesday morning at 10:30 for The Letters of John.**

Women's Bible Study. Over the summer, we will meet each **Tuesday** in the Choir Room beginning at **10:00 am** where we will discuss how scripture impacts our lives. It will be more informal with no book or preparation needed. Just come and have a lively discussion with other women at LOLC. We will continue with our focus on Acts in the fall.

Upcoming Blood Drive dates are scheduled for Sept 7, Oct 5, & Nov 16 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.

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.

***Check out the Goal tracker chart in the front entry way across from the kitchen of the church to watch our OCC box count grow as we hit our goal.**

Back to school Support It seems like summer just started, but before we know it, schools will be back in session. Service/Outreach ministry asks for your support of the Greene and Putnam County schools by providing these items: 24 count boxes of crayons, Packs of #2 pencils, Glue sticks, and Notebook paper Look for the bin labeled Back-to-School Supplies in the church entry. Thank you for your support of the children of Greene and Putnam counties.

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.