



September 17, 2023

# LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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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*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: Kathie Kueven*

*Scripture Reader: Robert Elkins*

*Communion Assistant: Tom Mathson*

*Ushers:*

*Coffee Fellowship:*

*Sunday Counters: Larry Davis & Pam Kunz*

**We would like to say thank you to Pastor Thomas Artelt for leading us in Worship& sharing God's Word while Pastor Steve is gone.**

*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 # 816

## “From All That Dwell Below the Skies”



1 From all that dwell be - low the skies      Let the Cre - a - tor's  
2 E - ter - nal are Thy mer - cies, Lord;      E - ter - nal truth at -  
△ 3 All praise to God the Fa - ther be,      All praise, e - ter - nal



praise a - rise;      Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!  
tends Thy Word.      Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!  
Son, to Thee.      Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!



Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung      Through ev - 'ry land by  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore      Till suns shall rise and  
Whom with the Spir - it we a - dore      For - ev - er and for -



ev - 'ry tongue.      Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!  
set no more.      Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!  
ev - er - more:      Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public domain

### Prayer of the Day

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

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## **The First Lesson: Genesis 50:15–21**

R: <sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

R: This is the word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## **The Epistle Lesson: Romans 14:1–12**

R: <sup>1</sup>As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup>One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. <sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and none

of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup>for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." <sup>12</sup>So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

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: Matthew 18:21–35

R: The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew chapter 18

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

R: <sup>21</sup>Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. <sup>23</sup>"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that

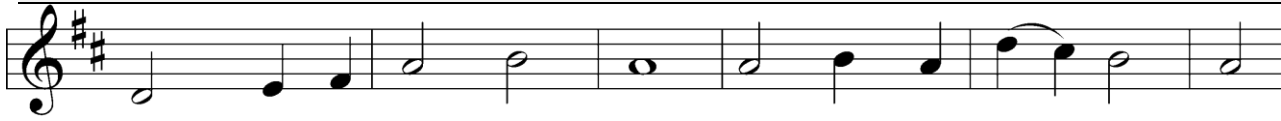
servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

R: This is the word of the Lord

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

## Sermon Hymn # 501

### “Come Down, O Love Divine”



1 Come down, O Love di - vine; Seek Thou this soul of mine,  
2 O let it free - ly burn, Till world - ly pas - sions turn  
3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty Mine out - ward ves - ture be  
4 And so the yearn - ing strong, With which the soul will long,



And vis - it it with Thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
And low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
Shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; With - in my heart ap - pear,  
And let Thy glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight,  
True low - li - ness of heart, Which takes the hum - bler part,  
No soul can guess His grace Till it be - come the place



And kin - dle it, Thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
And o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes His dwell - ing.

Text and tune: Public domain

## The Message

Pastor Tom Artelt

## 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



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



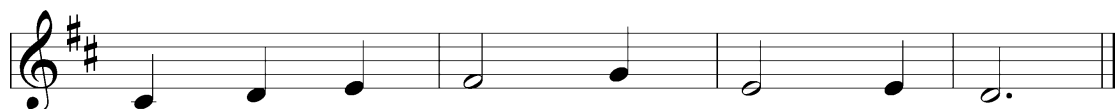
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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 # 620

### "Jesus Comes Today with Healing"



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my  
2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and  
3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the  
4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.  
wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,  
Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,  
me this hour In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His  
Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the  
Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter  
On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."  
pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.  
death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.  
grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

- 5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,  
Whose own feast of love I savor,  
Bidden by His gracious call.  
Wedding garments He provides me,  
With a robe of white He hides me,  
Fits me for the royal hall.

6 Now have I found consolation,  
Comfort in my tribulation,  
Balm to heal the troubled soul.  
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,  
Cleanses me from sin and error,  
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

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Tune: Public domain

## **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 # 895

### “Now Thank We All Our God”



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,  
△ 3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won - drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;  
With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us  
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,



Who from our moth - ers' arms Has blest us on our way  
And keep us in His grace And guide us when per - plexed  
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



With count - less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!  
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

## 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:

- September 18 Don & Pam Kunz
- September 21 Dale & Dorothy Johnson

Best wishes!

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday	Women's Bible Class	10 am
Wednesday	Zoom Bible Class	10:30 am
Thursday	Blood Drive	1 pm
Saturday	Episcopal Worship Service	5 pm
Sunday	Adult Bible Class	9 am
Sunday	Choir Rehearsal	9 am
Sunday	Worship	10:30 am

**Sunday Morning Bible** Exodus can seem like a complex book, -a book of events and accounts that are not always easy to understand and to relate to our life today. However, referring to the Old Testament, Jesus said, "The Scriptures ... testify about Me" (John 5:39). The effort to understand the exodus-the going out of God's people from Egypt- and the encounter with God at Sinai gives us a deeper insight into God, His dealings with His people, and most of all His gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. The importance of Exodus does not lie in its size or place but in its message. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9am, either in person in the church or livestreamed on Facebook for Exodus.

**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.** "The Women's Bible Study will resume their focus of Acts, The Power of the Holy Spirit on Tuesday, **September 19 at 10:00 am** in the choir room. We will start with lesson 6 of the study which will continue to help us kindle a burning desire for a passion-filled life fueled by the heart of God. Please join us whenever the spirit moves you. We would love to have you!"

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

**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.**

**You're Invited to Bingo with Mary Ringer** Little Mary Ringer would like to get to know you, so she is hosting a Bingo Party on **Monday, September 18** at 10:00 am at Lake Oconee Lutheran Church. She will have homemade cookies, juice/coffee, and prizes. Sign up on the "blue table" in the entryway.

## **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.