



January 26th, 2024

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday after Epiphany

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



LAKE OCONEE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1089 Lake Oconee Parkway

Eatonton, GA 31024

Church Office: 706-485-4600

Marsha Brewster Church Secretary

www.lakeoconeelutheran.org

Office email: officelolc@gmail.com

Pastor Steven Hayden

Pastor's Cell: 515-360-5081

Pastor's email: revshayden@gmail.com



Elder of the Month: Mark Ketchie

Scripture reader: Kathy Kueven

Coffee & Fellowship: Gayle Bradford & Pam Kunz

Greeter(s): Jean Page & Kathy Kueven

Sunday Counter(s): Jean Page & Don Menke

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

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.

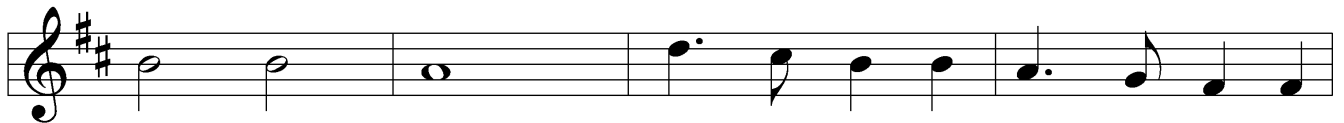
C: Amen.

Sermon Hymn # 706

“Love in Christ Is Strong and Living”



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Cloth - ed in Christ's hu -
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when



hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.
mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



May His will in us be done.
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, 1934

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, 1932-2024

Text and tune: © 1979 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110019841

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also, with you.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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: Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

¹ All the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. ²So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. . . .

⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. ⁶And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. . . .

⁸They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

Amen.

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 4:16–30

R: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 4

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

¹⁶[Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²²And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me

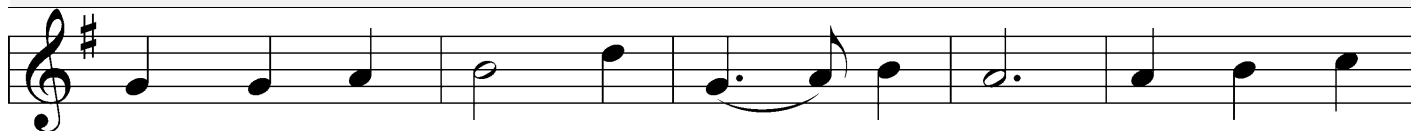
this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." ²⁴And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, ²⁶and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. ²⁹And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. ³⁰But passing through their midst, he went away.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn # 839

"O Christ, Our True and Only Light"



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of Your grace The souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray That they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more Such grace with



those who sit in night; Let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; En - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way! Let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'ers to Your fold. U - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore And end - less praise to



hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - joice.
in - most minds Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed In You find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, 1676, Nürnberg

Text and tune: Public domain

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.

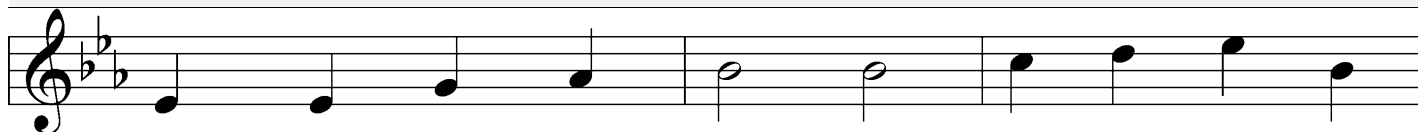
The Lord makes His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord looks upon you with favor and gives you peace.

C: Amen.

Congregational Hymn # 333

"Once He Came in Blessing"



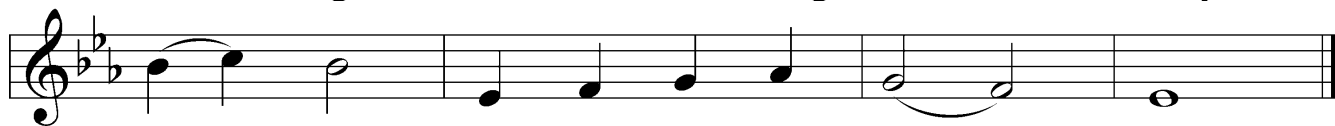
1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
3 Soon will come that hour _____ When with might - y
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006

Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534

Text (sts. 2–3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110019841

Text (sts. 1, 4) 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:

- Jan 29 Walter Krause
- Jan 30 Jaye McCrea
- Jan 30 Margaret Ringer
- Jan 30 Dick Schneider
- Jan 31 Greg Hardesty

and Anniversaries:

- None for this week

Best wishes!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday	Women's Bible Study	10:00 am
Wednesday	Zoom Bible Study	10:30 am
Saturday	Episcopal Worship	5:00 pm
Sunday	Choir / Bible Class	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday	Elders Meeting	after service

Sunday Morning Bible

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.” John 11:25-26. With these words, Jesus invites us into a faith relationship with Him. In that relationship He gives us forgiveness, hope, joy, comfort, peace and new life through Him.

Join us as we work through the Scriptures to hear and understand who Jesus is and what God does in our life through faith. Join us for What Do We Believe?

Join us every Sunday morning at 9am in the church or on Facebook for Matthew. You may also follow along on our live stream on Facebook or the church website and YouTube.

Wednesday Bible class - Myth or Faith?

- The New Testament is more important than the Old Testament.
- Our love for God is the motive for all we do in our lives.
- Prayer changes things.
- We go to church primarily because we get something out of it.

What do we really believe? Better yet, what does the Bible really teach? Join us on Wednesday morning Bible class as we use God’s Word to root out myths that often lead to confusion and disagreement in the Church. Join us for Myth or Faith? Every Wednesday on Zoom at 10:30.

“The Women’s Bible Study with *Discerning the Voice of God* by Priscilla Shirer. This weekly study will help us discover the root to clear and daily communication with God—humble obedience. Learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings intended for us, centers us in His will, and helps us discern His voice in everyday life. **Please join us on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Choir Room.”**

The choir meets for rehearsal every **Sunday** at **9 am** in the choir room. You are all invited.



Do you want to be loved?

Would you like to be greeted with a hug every Sunday?

You have a chance now to sign up as a **Sunday school teacher** here at Lake Oconee and you will be loved on by our kids.

We are looking for two teachers for each Sunday. Sign up by Sunday for any Sunday that you are available.

Sunday school starts every Sunday, at 10:00 am and runs to 10:20 am. All materials are provided. See the signup sheet on the blue table



**American
Red Cross**

Upcoming Blood Drive dates are scheduled for **Feb 6th** and **March 6th**.

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.

Mark Dentler, our new property chair, is looking for volunteers to serve on a **Property Committee** with him. This group will meet to discuss and plan for improvements as well as planning in response to needs for the Church property. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Mark Dentler at spinalsolution@mindspring.com or call 404-277-4174

We need new Greeters



Sign-up sheets are on the blue table of the Narthex. Please help us Welcome new visitors to our Services.

SANDWICH MINISTRY OF STONE MOUNTAIN ROCK OF AGES

Lutheran Church is a suburban church serving an urban community. Lake Oconee Lutheran Church is helping them again on **February 16th** by posting a signup sheet asking each person who signs up to bring sandwiches to church by February 16th, and the sandwiches will be delivered to Rock of Ages following the 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 because sandwiches are served for up to 6 days. Pack each individual sandwich in a sealed plastic bag. Write the type of meat on each bag. Place small bags in a larger bag and write the prep date on the larger bag. The more volunteers, the fewer sandwiches each person will have to make. One loaf of square sandwich bread will make 10 sandwiches.

We are in need of more coolers and a volunteer to ride along on February 16th.

Any questions, please contact Kathy Kueven.



For those who may feel **cold during services** here at Lake Oconee, a limited number of cotton blue blankets are available on the usher's table in the back of the sanctuary. Please help yourself. After you use one, please place it in the basket on the floor so that it may be washed.

Just a reminder



Lake Oconee Lutheran can receive gifts by credit card/debit card now. You will find the terminal in the entryway on the shelving near the kitchen. Please be aware that there is a charge to the church for each gift received in this way. **(If you include your name on the form (screen) when it asks, the gift will show up on your church statement, but we are unable to do that if you do not input your name).** You may also request a receipt sent to you if desired.

Volunteers needed for:

- ❖ Altar Care there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table.
- ❖ Sunday service camera operator. We will provide training on how to manage it. signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table, or you can call/email the church office.
- ❖ Ushers' signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table, or you can call/email the church office.
- ❖ Coffee Fellowship signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.
- ❖ Little Free Pantry signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.
- ❖ Scripture readers You can contact the office for Marsha to put you on the email list.
- ❖ Communion assistants you can contact the office for Marsha to put you on the email list.
- ❖ Sunday School teachers, 2 teachers per Sunday to rotate, sign-ups are on the blue table.

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.