

February 20, 2022

## LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

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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Aids for hearing, children's activity bulletins, and large print bulletins are available from the ushers



#### *In Preparation of Holy Communion*

<u>The Lord's Supper</u> 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. Communicants may choose to receive the wine in an individual cup, from the Chalice (the Common Cup) or by immersing the wafer in the Chalice (also called intinction). It is very helpful to keep your empty glass visible so Pastor can see if you desire the Common Cup.

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: Ed Fritch Scripture Reader: Tom Mathson Communion Assistant: Kathie Kueven Ushers: Don Menke & Jaye McCrea Coffee Fellowship: Reda & Mike Joost Pre-Service Music: This is time to turn our hearts & minds toward God in preparation of worship.

# Instrumental Prelude Welcome

**Lev Ryabinin** 

#### 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 # 483



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## **Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

## C: And also with you.

P: O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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: Genesis 45:3-15

R: 3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.<sup>4</sup>So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. 10 You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' <sup>12</sup>And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup>You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." 14Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

## The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:21-26,30-42

R: <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his

coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>30</sup>Why am I in danger every hour? <sup>31</sup>I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! 32What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." 33Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." 34Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. <sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup>You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>39</sup>For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. 40There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. 41There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. <sup>42</sup>So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Please Stand

#### **Common Alleluia and Verse**



Holy Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

R: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke chapter 6

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

R: <sup>27</sup>[Jesus said:] "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup>And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.<sup>32</sup>"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. 35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.37"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

## Sermon Hymn #820



#### Please Stand

#### **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.

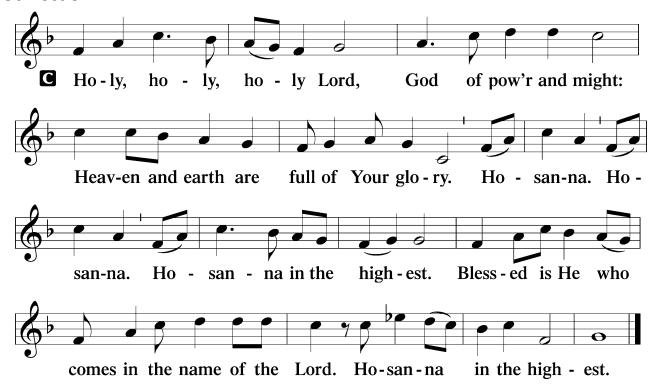
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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**



## **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.

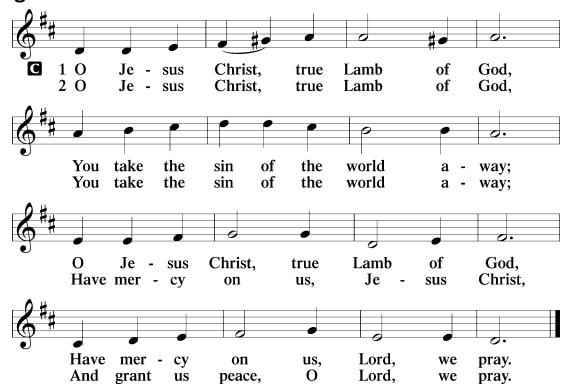
You may be seated

#### **Pax Domini**

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

C: Amen.

## **Agnus Dei**



#### The Distribution

## **Communion Hymn # 790**



Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him! Let the Amen Sound from His people again;

Gladly forever adore Him!

Public domain

#### Please Stand

#### **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

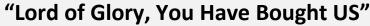
#### **Benediction**

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 #851





#### **Announcements**

#### The Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

+ <u>Post-service Music</u> +

## GOD'S BLESSINGS to all those celebrating birthdays this week:

February 20 Margie Heimer

• February 20 Joan Whitten

• February 24 Leroy Horst

• February 25 Kathleen Stallings

• February 26 Alan Oberdeck

#### and anniversaries:

No Anniversaries this week

Best wishes!

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Tuesday	Women's Bible Study	10 am
Wednesday	Zoom Bible Class	10:30 am
Saturday	Episcopal Worship Service	5 pm
Sunday	Adult Bible School	9 am
Sunday	Choir Rehearsal	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am

**Sunday Morning Bible Class** The Book of Esther is a wonderful, true story of God watching over His people and delivering them from certain death. It tells the tale of the young, beautiful Jewish girl, who by God's gracious providence became queen of Persia. With Mordecai, her protective and loving cousin, Esther saves her people by exposing a cruel plot to exterminate the Jews remaining in Persia, who chose not to return to the Promised Land. Although God is never mentioned in the book, He is not hard to find in the many "coincidences," ironic twists, and reversals recorded therein. Some interpreters have gone so far as to say that God, even in

His apparent absence, is the book's main character. Working behind the scenes, God inspires faith in His gracious promises and enables His children to accomplish extraordinary things on behalf of their neighbor. The Book of Esther is a powerful reminder that God is faithful to His promises and raises up deliverers for His people. Join us every **Sunday morning at 9 am**, either in person in the Sanctuary or live-streamed on Facebook, for Esther, For Such a Time as This.

Wednesday Zoom Bible Class A psalm is a song or poem distinguished by its devotional character and deep piety. It is the faith of the Old Testament set to music, a poem springing from an encounter with God. It is worship literature. The book of Psalms, as we know it, was not made-it grew, just as our hymnals were not made but grew as person after person through the centuries expressed deep spiritual experiences in poetic form. Christ loved the psalms. Raised as a Jewish boy, He was nourished on the psalms of His people. The psalms were read and sung in His home. He heard them in the synagogue. Later, at His Baptism, His vocation as Messiah was affirmed with Ps. 2:7, "You are My Son." In the night in which He was betrayed, after Jesus instituted the Last Supper, He and the eleven sang a hymn before going to the Mount of Olives (Matt. 26:30). On the cross, when His agony was greatest, Jesus used the words of David (Ps. 22:1) to express the horror of forsakenness. On Easter evening, when Jesus startled the eleven by His sudden appearance, He declared that everything written about Him in the psalms must be fulfilled (Luke 24:44). Most people who know anything about the Bible know a few "literary gems" from the Psalms. But if you are not satisfied with a few oft-quoted verses, then come to a full banquet. You are invited to sit down at the table and enjoy the spiritual food found in the Psalms. Real people, who had real problems and joys, wrote the Psalms. Just as God spoke to the writers of the Psalms, so He speaks to you today. Join us Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am on Zoom for our Bible study on the Book of Psalms – Conversations with God.

Women's Bible Study Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply: Receive God's Overflowing Gifts, from best-selling author Deb Burma, is a celebration of the camaraderie, companionship, and comfort found in getting coffee with a friend. It's about more than just the warm beverage; it's about spending quality time together. This Bible study is designed to draw women closer to their Savior. Each session is based off a coffee-themed item, such as latte, java, or mocha, and contains a coffee shop recipe, discussion questions, and group activities. Women will learn to savor the sweetness of Jesus' abundant gifts for them. Women's Bible Study meets Tuesday mornings at 10am in the choir room.

**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.

**Lenten Soup Suppers** begin **March 2**<sup>nd</sup> **at 6 pm** (please note the time change) See the blue table in the entry way to sign up to provide soup and or desserts.

Are you up for a challenge? Last year Lake Oconee Lutheran did the Red Letter Challenge. This year, during Lent, we will be challenged to be like Jesus in the Being Challenge. We will focus on the ways in which Jesus spent time being in a relationship with God to help us be in a close relationship with God. During this challenge, we will focus on 5 key habits that Jesus practiced in His relationship with God and see how they can help shape our lives as well. We will join together during Lent in worship, in Bible class, and in daily devotions for daily devotions that will lead us to a deeper relationship with God and help us make a big difference in the world. Our challenge at LOLC begins on Sunday, February 27th and continues through Palm Sunday, April 10th. If you would like to buy the book by Pastor Zehnder to follow along with the daily devotions, see Pastor Steve who has copies available. The price for "Being Challenge" is \$15 per copy.

We have several blood drives scheduled for the next few months and need volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering email Pam Kunz at <a href="mailto:Kunzpd3@outlook.com">Kunzpd3@outlook.com</a>. To sign up to donate blood got to redcrossblood.org and use code LOLC. The blood drive dates are as follows March 3<sup>rd</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, and June 2<sup>nd</sup> Times will be from 1pm to 6pm.

# 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.