



February 21, 2024

## LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



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In this service of Lent, we are drawn to Calvary to receive hope. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of hope as we remember that Christ went to the cross to save us forevermore.

## **Lenten Midweek Service – Guided to Hope**

### **Invocation and Call to Worship**

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: When Jesus chased the money changers and merchants from the temple, the religious leaders who opposed him asked for a sign of his authority to do such things. Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). He spoke of the temple of his body. He would be killed and raised to life again on the third day after his death. The sign would be his death and resurrection. The sign would be the cross.

**People: In a world of confusion and temptation and loss, we look for a sign to guide us.**

Leader: As the time of his death drew near, Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51). There he would take up his cross for the sake of our salvation. As we follow his path during this Lenten season, the cross stands before us as a marker, a signpost, to guide our steps.

**People: As Jesus kept his focus on what lay ahead for him, we, too, look to his cross.**

Leader: The cross signified a terrible death. Yet through faith in Jesus our Savior, for us the cross is a sign of triumph in the face of death. The cross is a sign of life and hope.

**People: Lord Jesus, set your cross always before us to guide us to the hope of forgiveness and life that are ours through faith in your name! Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

Leader: Lord Jesus, as we follow you on your path to the cross, guide our steps in the way of hope. By grace through faith in your holy name, we have forgiveness for our sins and the sure and certain hope of eternal life in your presence. When we are struggling with fear or loss, set your cross before us as a sign of the hope that we have. Lead us to be witnesses for you and to share the hope you bring with everyone we meet, so that they, too, in the power of the Holy Spirit, may come to believe in you and worship you as Lord. Hear our prayer, and accept our praise, dear Savior. Amen.

People: Amen.

## The Hymn "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" Hymn 435



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined  
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -  
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -  
4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain  
out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,  
tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,  
new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -  
From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and  
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain  
Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.  
make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.  
will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.  
deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

### **The Old Testament Reading**

*Jeremiah 14:21-22*

Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us. Are there any among the false gods of the nations that can bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are you not he, O Lord our God? We set our hope on you, for you do all these things.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **The New Testament Reading**

*2 Corinthians 1:9-10*

Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel Reading**

*Luke 23:39-43*

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **The Confession of Our Faith in The Apostle's Creed**

**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.

**The Hym**     *“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”*     **Hymn 575**



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'  
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on  
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me  
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my  
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and  
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly  
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.  
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Text and tune: Public domain

## THE Meditation

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Lord God, we have placed our hope in you. You are faithful, and you always keep your promises. We give you praise and thanks

for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and for the hope that is ours through faith in his name. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

**People: In you we have hope, now and for eternity.**

Leader: Lord God, in you we have hope for eternity and for our life today. You have promised to be with us and to guide us. We pray for those who are struggling today with illness, pain or grief, and for those we name in our hearts. Fill them with hope, and comfort them with the promises found in your holy Word. Lead us to opportunities to serve and support them in their times of need. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

**People: In you we have hope, now and for eternity.**

Leader: Lord God, all of our hopes are fulfilled in Jesus, who is the "Yes!" to all of your promises. Through our Savior's suffering and death and through his triumphant resurrection, the powers of death and Satan have been crushed. By your grace, through faith in Jesus, our sins are forgiven. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

**People: In you we have hope, now and for eternity.**

Leader: Lord God, the thief on the cross recognized Jesus, crowned with thorns, as his King. The thief repented of his sins and asked that his King would remember him. Jesus promised, "Today you will be with me in paradise." That is our hope too. When we fall asleep in death, in that moment, we will be at home with you. Jesus' promise is for us. We will be with him in paradise. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

**People: In you we have hope, now and for eternity.**

Leader: Lord God, you have told us to be ready at all times to be witnesses for our Savior, to speak to others of the hope that we have. Fill us with your Spirit and with the eager readiness to share the good news of forgiveness and life that is ours through faith in

Jesus. Set his cross always before us to guide us to hope. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

**P In you we have hope, now and for eternity. Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**People: 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 Blessing**

Leader: We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

**People: But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.**

Leader: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

## The Hymn

## “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” (422)



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.  
Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758  
Text and tune: Public domain

### **Lenten Wednesday Services for this year:**

February, 28, 2024 6pm soup 7pm service

March 6, 2024 12pm soup 1pm service

March 13, 2024 6pm soup 7pm service

March 20, 2024 12pm soup 1pm service

Join us next week in our Guided to the Cross special service for Lent, as we are drawn to Calvary to receive love. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of love in response to the love Christ showed us on the cross.