



February 23rd, 2025

## LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

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



1089 Lake Oconee Parkway

Eatonton, GA 31024

Church Office: 706-485-4600

Marsha Brewster Church Secretary

[www.lakeoconeelutheran.org](http://www.lakeoconeelutheran.org)

Office email: [officelolc@gmail.com](mailto:officelolc@gmail.com)

Pastor Steven Hayden

Pastor's Cell: 515-360-5081

Pastor's email: [revshayden@gmail.com](mailto:revshayden@gmail.com)



*Elder of the Month: Kathie Kueven*

*Scripture reader: Jaye McCrea*

*Coffee & Fellowship: Pastor & Linda Hayden*

*Greeter(s): Kathie Kueven & Jean Page*

*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.

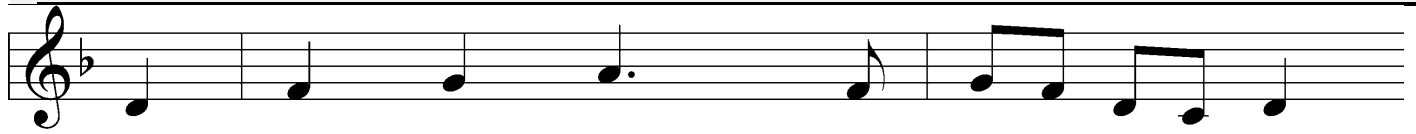
**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present 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.

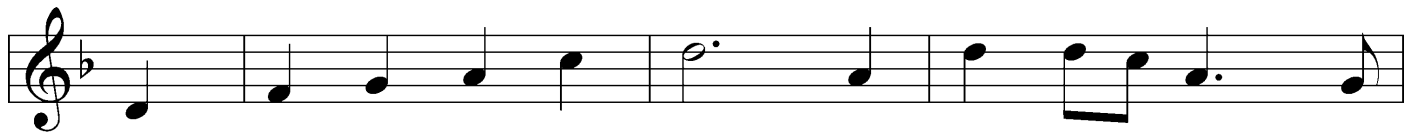
**C: Amen.**

## Sermon Hymn # 843

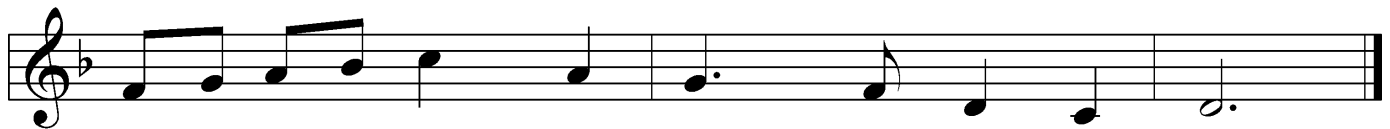
### “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,”  
2 How can Your par - don reach and bless  
3 In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals  
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls



You taught us, Lord, to pray; But You a - lone can  
The un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and  
The truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are  
And bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.  
will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
owed to us, How great our debt to You!  
bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

Tune: A Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony, 1820, Harrisonburg  
Tune: Public domain

## 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**

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup>So 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. <sup>10</sup>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.” <sup>14</sup>Then 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

<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! <sup>32</sup>What 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.” <sup>33</sup>Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” <sup>34</sup>Wake 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. <sup>40</sup>There 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. <sup>41</sup>There 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 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 6:27–38

R: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 6

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

<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. <sup>34</sup>And 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. <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>“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 Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

# Sermon Hymn # 820

## “My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker”



1 My soul, now praise your Mak - er! Let all with - in me  
2 He of - fers all His trea - sure Of jus - tice, truth, and  
3 For as a ten - der fa - ther Has pit - y on his  
4 His grace re - mains for - ev - er, And chil - dren's chil - dren



bless His name Who makes you full par - tak - er Of  
righ - teous - ness, His love be - yond all mea - sure, His  
chil - dren here, God in His arms will gath - er All  
yet shall prove That God for - sakes them nev - er Who



mer - cies more than you dare claim. For - get Him not whose  
yearn - ing pit - y o'er dis - tress; Nor treats us as we  
who are His in child - like fear. He knows how frail our  
in true fear shall seek His love. In heav'n is fixed His



mee - ness Still bears with all your sin, Who heals your ev - 'ry  
mer - it But sets His an - ger by, The poor and con - trite  
pow - ers, Who but from dust are made. We flour - ish like the  
dwell - ing, His rule is o - ver all; O hosts with might ex -



weak - ness, Re - news your life with - in; Whose grace and  
spir - it Finds His com - pas - sion nigh; And high as  
flow - ers, And e - ven so we fade; The wind but  
cel - ling, With praise be - fore Him fall. Praise Him for -



care are end - less And saved you through the past; Who  
heav'n a - bove us, As dawn from close of day, So  
through them pass - es, And all their bloom is o'er. We  
ev - er reign - ing, All you who hear His Word— Our



leaves no suf - f'rer friend - less But rights the wronged at last.  
far, since He has loved us, He puts our sins a - way.  
with - er like the grass - es; Our place knows us no more.  
life and all sus - tain - ing. My soul, O praise the Lord!



## 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 # 692

### "Praise to You and Adoration"



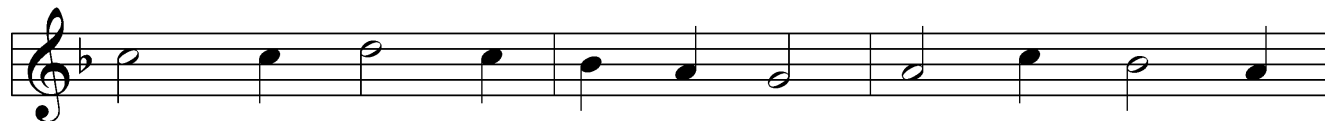
1 Praise to You and ad - o - ra - tion, Bless - ed Je - sus,  
2 Hold me ev - er in Your keep - ing; Com - fort me in



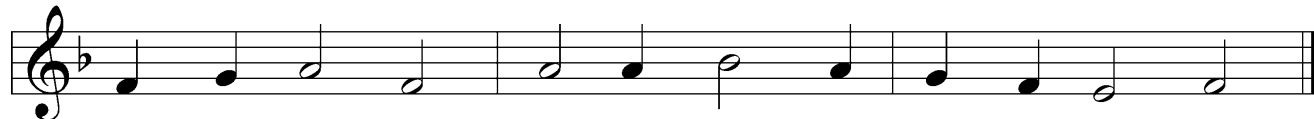
Son of God, Who, to serve Your own cre - a - tion, Came to  
pain and strife. In my laugh - ter and my weep - ing Be with



share our flesh and blood. Guide me that I nev - er may  
me through - out my life. Give me great - er love for You,



From Your fold or pas - tures stray, But with zeal and  
And my faith and hope re - new In Your birth, Your



joy ex - ceed - ing Fol - low where Your steps are lead - ing.  
life, and pas - sion, In Your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Tune: Public domain

## Announcements

### The Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God

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### Post-service Music

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

- Feb 24 Jimmy Etheridge
- Feb 25 Kathleen Stallings
- Feb 26 Alan Oberdeck

### and Anniversaries:

- None for this week

### Best wishes!

### **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Tuesday	Women's Bible Study	10:00 am
Thursday	Bread of Life	11:00 am
Saturday	Episcopal Worship	5:00 pm
Sunday	Choir / Bible Class	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am

## **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 [What Do We Believe?](#)**

You may also follow along on our live stream on Facebook or the church website and YouTube.

## **Wednesday morning Zoom class**

Letters make up about one-third of the New Testament. They are important because they contain teachings of the apostles and their associates. The New Testament letters combine information about God and the Christian faith with instruction on life and behavior.

“Jesus Christ Lord!” These three words boldly confess the person and work of God’s only Son. In fact, they could be used to summarize all Christian doctrine and certainly are a summary of Paul’s message to the Colossians and to Philemon.

Join us every Wednesday morning on Zoom at 10:30am for Paul’s Letter to the Colossians.

**Our Wednesday morning Zoom Bible class will meet on February 19th, and then will be on a break and not meeting until Wednesday, March 26th. We will see you then!**

**“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.



**American  
Red Cross**

**Upcoming Blood Drive dates** are scheduled for **March 6<sup>th</sup> and Apr 10<sup>th</sup>** . 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.

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](mailto:spinalsolution@mindspring.com) or call 404-277-4174. **Our next volunteer work day is Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 9am.**



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, there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table, or you can call/email the church office.
- ❖ Coffee Fellowship, there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table.
- ❖ Little Free Pantry, there is a signup sheet 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.
- ❖ Greeters, there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front 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.