



February 28, 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 love. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of love in response to the love Christ showed us on the cross.

Lenten Midweek Service – Guided to Love

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: As the hour of his death drew near, Jesus said, “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.” (John 12:27) Throughout his earthly ministry, the cross stood before Jesus. It was his purpose in coming to the earth. Guided by love and in obedience to his Father’s will, Jesus came to lay down his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world.

People: The cross of Jesus guides us in the way of obedience as we seek to do God’s will

Pastor: God tells us in his Word, “Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:2)

People: The cross of Jesus guides us in the way of sacrifice.

Pastor: On the night before he died, Jesus told his disciples, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” (John 13:34).

People: The cross of Jesus guides us in the way of love.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Almighty God, in your love for the world you sent your Son to be our Savior. The Lord Jesus came to give his life for us, to suffer and die on the cross for us. By your grace, through faith in Jesus, we have forgiveness for our sins and the gift of eternal life. As we follow our Lord through this season of Lent, help us to walk in love as he did and to forgive others as we have been forgiven. Let the cross of our Lord

always go before us to guide us in the way of love. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus' name.

People: Amen.

The Hymn

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Hymn 700



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
3 Come, Al - mighty - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 63:7-8

I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior..

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The New Testament Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-14

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

John 19:25-27

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: 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 Hymn

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

Hymn 611



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

The Meditation

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you loved the world in this way—you sent your Son as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus was guided by the cross that was set before him. During this season of Lent, lead us in true repentance. Father of our Lord,

People: Set Jesus' cross before us to guide us in the way of love.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, in obedience to your will and out of love for us, Jesus laid down his life for us. He bore our sins in his body on the tree of the cross, suffering the penalty of death that we deserve for our sins. Help us by your Spirit to look to Jesus alone for salvation. Father of our Lord,

People: Set Jesus' cross before us to guide us in the way of love.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, there are people among us who must bear the heavy cross of suffering, grief or pain. We especially ask your mercy for all of those we name in our hearts. We pray that, according to your will, you would bring them help and healing. Lead us to serve them in love, and bring to them the comfort and hope found in the promises of your Word. Father of our Lord,

People: Set Jesus' cross before us to guide us in the way of love.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, send your Spirit to guide us and lead us to walk in love as Jesus walked. Help us to put the needs of others ahead of our own interests. Guide us in the study of your holy Word so that we are prepared to defend the hope that we have in Jesus. Lead us to serve as his witnesses in the world so that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, others will come to know and worship Jesus as Lord. Father of our Lord,

People: Set Jesus' cross before us to guide us in the way of love.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, your unfailing steadfast love, your covenant love, never fails. It is the love that sent Jesus to be our Savior, to

suffer, die and rise for us. It is the love that guides us now through this earthly life until we live forever in your presence. Lead us to reflect your love in the world so that others will see our good works and glorify you. Father of our Lord

People: Set Jesus' cross before us to guide us in the way of love. 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

Pastor: In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

People: We love because He first loved us.

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

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-raise;



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:

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 for the Guided to the Cross Lenten service, as we are drawn to Calvary to receive peace. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of peace in our hearts, souls and minds through Christ, who brought peace between us and God by the cross.