



March 2, 2022

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday

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

John the Baptist

As we begin our Lenten journey, we focus our attention on various witnesses to Christ in John's Gospel. We begin with John the Baptist, a man on a mission. "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him" (John 1:6–7). John the Baptist's mission is "to bear witness about the light." In fact, fourteen times in John's Gospel, the word *witness* is connected with John the Baptist. "He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (John 1:8–9). John points us to Jesus, who takes away our sin, our guilt, and our shame at the cross.

LITANY

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,

C **have mercy.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,

C **hear us.**

P God the Father in heaven,

C **have mercy.**

P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P God the Holy Spirit,

C **have mercy.**

P Be gracious to us.

C **Spare us, good Lord.**

P Be gracious to us.

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P We poor sinners implore You

C **to hear us, O Lord.**

P To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C **we implore You to hear us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **grant us Your peace.**

P O Christ,

C **hear us.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,

C **have mercy.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy. Amen.**

P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully

pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Amen.

Please be seated

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P: The ashes symbolize our mourning for our sins. The sign of the cross symbolizes cleansing and renewal and points to the gift of forgiveness that God gives in Jesus Christ.

Those who wish to receive ashes should approach the altar.

If you prefer not to take part, please remain in your seats.

P God has had mercy on us, sending his Son to be our Savior. Jesus suffered and died on the cross for the sins of the world, for your sins and mine. He rose from death to defeat the power of sin and death. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit!

HYMN

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me” (610 v 1-2, 5)



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, c. 365–c. 414; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–96, alt.
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591
Text and tune: Public domain

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

^{20b}We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For He says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,

and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:29–34

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

²⁹The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

³⁰“This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. ³³I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

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.

HYMN

“A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” (438 v 1-2)



1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, The
 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The



guilt of sin - ners bear - ing And, lad - en with the
 Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Whom God the Fa - ther



sins of earth, None else the bur - den shar - ing; Goes
 chose to send To gain for us His fa - vor. “Go



pa - tient on, grows weak and faint, To slaugh - ter led with -
 forth, My Son,” the Fa - ther said, “And free My chil - dren



out com - plaint, That spot - less life to of - fer, He bears the
 from their dread Of guilt and con - dem - na - tion. The wrath and



stripes, the wounds, the lies, The mock - er - y, and
 stripes are hard to bear, But by Your pas - sion



yet re - plies, “All this I glad - ly suf - fer.”
 they will share The fruit of Your sal - va - tion.”

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487-1553
 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110019841
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THE MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Holy God, mighty Lord, we, Your unworthy people, do come to You this day acknowledging the great debt we owe for Your merciful kindness in giving to us Your own Son to be our Savior and Redeemer. In love, He suffered for our sins and died the death that was ours to die so that He might forgive us of our sins and raise us from death to everlasting life. Receive our thanks and praise for His one, all-sufficient sacrifice upon the cross and keep us in this faith and fear all the days of our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Preserve Your Word, O Lord, against error, and preserve among us the preaching of Your Word that we may be nurtured in faith, discern truth from falsehood, and remain steadfast in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word that through daily repentance we be kept in the promise of our Baptism and in the new life born of water and the Spirit. Give to Your Church pastors who will serve us faithfully in Your name with the Means of Grace. Raise up many church workers to fulfill the various callings and offices Your Church has appointed. Bless those preparing for Baptism and the catechumens being instructed in Your Word. Help us to shine with the brightness of Christ's light before the world and be ever ready to give answer to the hope within us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Be with the sick and those who suffer trouble, want, anguish, peril, or death. Give them courage under trial, patience to endure their afflictions without losing heart, and healing according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant to us Your Holy Spirit that we who come to our Lord's Table today may receive the body and blood of Christ in sincere repentance and with confident faith, recognizing Christ's presence in this Sacrament and rejoicing in the forgiveness of our sins and the nourishment of our faith. Help us so that what we have received upon our lips we keep in holy lives and live under Christ in His kingdom here until we live in His presence in everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C 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 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."

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

P Let us pray.

We give You thanks that You have sent to us Your own Son to be the Passover Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. Grant to us faith like John the Baptist to keep our eyes upon the Lamb and to proclaim Him before the world, that those not yet of Your kingdom may rejoice with us in the love that has forgiven and restored us to be Your people; through Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Lord.

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 T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

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