



March 3, 2024

# LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday in Lent

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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



LAKE OCONEE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*In Preparation of Holy Communion*

**The Lord's Supper** 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.

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: Pam Kunz*

*Scripture Reader: Sandy Mathson*

*Communion Assistant: Kathie Kueven*

*Ushers: Jaye McCrea & Don Menke*

*Coffee Fellowship: The Hardesty's*

*Sunday Counters: Sandy Mathson & Cindy or Charlie Helms*

*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 Director**

**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.**

## Congregational Hymn # 427

### “ In the Cross of Christ I Glory”



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred  
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -  
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.  
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text and tune: Public domain

### Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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: Exodus 20:1-17

R: <sup>1</sup>And God spoke all these words, saying, <sup>2</sup>“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>3</sup>“You shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>“You shall not make for yourself a

carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup>“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. <sup>8</sup>“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. <sup>12</sup>“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>“You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>“You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>“You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

R: This is the word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

### **The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18–31**

R: <sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did

not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. <sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

R: This is the word of the Lord

## C: Thanks be to God

### Verse for Lent



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## **Holy Gospel: John 2:13–22**

R: The Holy Gospel according to St John chapter 2

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

R: <sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup>And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” <sup>18</sup>So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking about the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

R: This is the word of the Lord

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

# Sermon Hymn # 824

## “May God Bestow on Us His Grace”



1 May God be - stow on us His grace, With bless - ings rich pro -  
2 Thine o - ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev - 'ry  
△ 3 O let the peo - ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in -



vide us; And may the bright - ness of His face  
na - tion; And all the world with joy shall raise  
creas - ing; The land shall plen - teous fruit bring forth,



To life e - ter - nal guide us, That we His sav - ing  
The voice of ex - ul - ta - tion. For Thou shalt judge the  
Thy Word is rich in bless - ing. May God the Fa - ther,



health may know, His gra - cious will and plea - sure,  
earth, O Lord, Nor suf - fer sin to flour - ish;  
God the Son, And God the Spir - it bless us!



And al - so to the na - tions show Christ's rich - es with - out  
Thy peo - ple's pas - sure is Thy Word Their souls to feed and  
Let all the world praise Him a - lone, Let sol - emn awe pos -



mea - sure And un - to God con - vert them.  
nour - ish, In righ - teous paths to keep them.  
sess us. Now let our hearts say, “A - men!”



## 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



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## 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.**

## Pax Domini

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

C: **Amen.**

## Agnus Dei

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

# The Distribution

## Communion Hymn # 429

### "We sing the Praise of Him Who Died"



1 We sing the praise of Him who died, Of Him who  
2 In - scribed up - on the cross we see In shin - ing  
3 The cross! It takes our guilt a - way; It holds the  
4 It makes the cow - ard spir - it brave And nerves the



died up - on the cross. The sin - ner's hope let  
let - ters, "God is love." He bears our sins up -  
faint - ing spir - it up; It cheers with hope the  
fee - ble arm for fight; It takes the ter - ror



all de - ride; For this we count the world but loss.  
on the tree; He brings us mer - cy from a - bove.  
gloom - y day And sweet - ens ev - 'ry bit - ter cup.  
from the grave And gilds the bed of death with light;

- 5 The balm of life, the cure of woe,  
The measure and the pledge of love,  
The sinner's refuge here below,  
The angels' theme in heav'n above.
- 6 To Christ, who won for sinners grace  
By bitter grief and anguish sore,  
Be praise from all the ransomed race  
Forever and forevermore.

Text and tune: Public domain

## 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 # 645

## "Built on the Rock"



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when  
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most  
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His  
4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how  
5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the



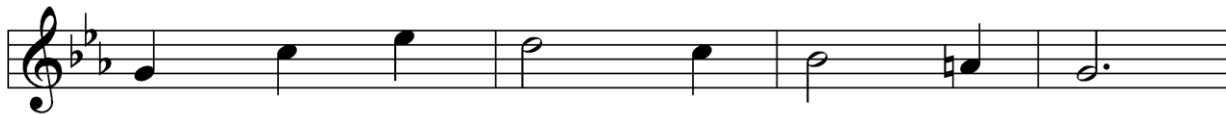
stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in  
High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His  
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal  
God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's  
church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -  
tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -  
grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -  
sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives  
faith may come Where Christ His mes - sage is bring -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,  
ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove  
tion. Were we but two His name to tell,  
us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim  
ing: "I know My own; My own know Me.



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,  
Choos - es to live with us in love,  
Yet He would deign with us to dwell  
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,  
You, not the world, My face shall see.



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.  
Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.  
With all His grace and His fa - vor.  
And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.  
My peace I leave with you. A - men."

## 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:

- March 3<sup>rd</sup>      Grace Raetz
- March 7<sup>th</sup>      Mike Joost
- March 9<sup>th</sup>      Marcia Elkins

### and anniversaries:

- No Anniversaries this week!

Best wishes!

### **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Monday	Quilt Guild	9am
Tuesday	Quilt Guild	9am
Tuesday	Women's Bible Class	10 am
Wednesday	Zoom Bible Class	10:30am
Wednesday	Soup	12pm
Wednesday	Lent Service	1pm
Thursday	Blood Drive	12:20pm
Saturday	Episcopal Worship Service	5 pm
Sunday	Adult Bible Class	9 am
Sunday	Choir Rehearsal	9 am
Sunday	Worship	10:30 am
Sunday	Council Meeting	after worship
Sunday	Daylight Savings time starts	



**Sunday Morning Bible** Many people who are great by the world's standards expect to be served by others. Not our Lord Jesus. Jesus took on the lowly form of a man to serve humanity and to sacrifice His life to ransom us from sin, death, and the devil. In his Gospel, Mark speaks to us today about the meaning of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection for us and His call to follow Him in a life of servanthood and sacrifice. Join us each Sunday in the Sanctuary or Live on Facebook during Bible class beginning at **9 am for Mark**.

**Wednesday Bible Class** Amos the prophet has sharp things to say about mechanical, thoughtless religion that has lost spirit and truth. The mere performance of religious rites often marks a breakdown in one's vital relation to God. But just as God offered a rescue plan for those to whom He pronounced judgment in Amos, so too He offers a rescue to all people today—Jesus Christ. Through faith in Jesus, God provides forgiveness of all sins and eternal life. This new life motivates us to serve others. Join us every **Wednesday** morning on Zoom at **10:30am for Amos**.

**Women's Bible Study**, the Women's Bible Study has began studying the Lutheran catechism for adults presented by Pastor Steve. This study will take between 6-8 weeks and we will see the importance of the truths from God's Word for our lives and will grow in our deep appreciation for all that Jesus Christ has done as our Savior. Because we think this session will be of interest to all our parishioners, it will be open to anyone who wishes to attend. Please join us on **Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Choir Room**.

**We have all read the stories** and heard the lessons in church, but what if we could stand in those very spots today? In October 2024 Pastor and Linda will be leading a tour to "**Walk in the Footsteps of Paul**". Experience with them the Bible coming to life as we follow in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and walk through the Bible lands ourselves. This 10 day tour will take us to many of the places Paul visited and which we have heard about: Thessaloniki (Thessalonians), Philippi (Philippians), Ephesus (Ephesians), Corinth (Corinthians), Crete (where Paul left Titus to serve as pastor), and Athens. We will also visit the island of Patmos where the Apostle John experienced the Revelation and more. In the midst of the trip we will board a ship for a three day Mediterranean cruise.

Talk to Pastor Steve for an itinerary, pricing, more information or if you have any questions.

**Upcoming Blood Drive dates** are scheduled for **March 7<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup> & May 9<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.

**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

## **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.