

March 13, 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 deepen our trust. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of trust in God, who entrusted his Son, Jesus, on the cross for our sake.

Lenten Midweek Service – Guided to Trust

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: We place our trust in many things and in many people, yet often that trust is misplaced. Things do not work out as we planned, and people may fail us.

People: Where do we place our trust?

Pastor: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

People: How do we know that the Lord can be trusted?

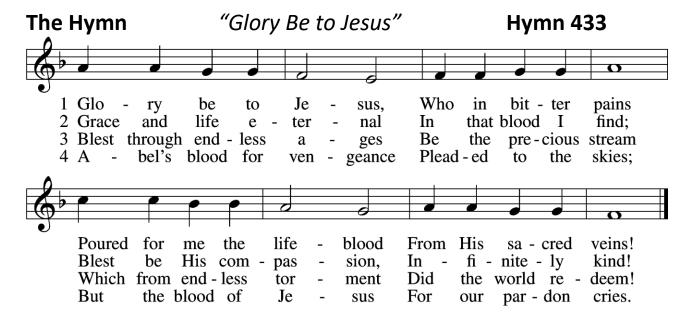
Pastor: "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32) God sent his own Son to suffer and die on the cross for the sake of our salvation. In him, we place our trust, and he will never fail us.

People: Lord, set the cross before us to guide us in trusting you.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Almighty God, we place our trust in friends and family, in political leaders and authority figures. Yet sometimes we are disappointed by those in whom we trust; sometimes our trust is misplaced. We trust in you for our eternal salvation through faith in Jesus our Savior. Help us by your Spirit to trust you daily in all things and to turn to you with prayer and praise in all of the circumstances of our lives. You have sent your Son to be our Savior, and you will never fail us. Set his cross always before us to guide us in trusting you. Hear our prayer, and accept our praise in Jesus' name.

People: Amen.



- Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high, Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood; Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

Text and tune: Public domain

The Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The New Testament Reading

1 Timothy 1:15-17

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

John 19:29-30

A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

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 Meditation

The Prayers

Pastor: Lord God, in a world where it is hard to know in whom or in what we can trust, we place our trust in you. You always keep your promises. Down through the centuries, the prophets announced your promise to send your Anointed One, the Messiah. When the time was right, that promise was fulfilled in Jesus. Our God and Savior, during this Lenten season,

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

Pastor: Lord God, as Jesus drew near to the hour of his death, he trusted in you, his heavenly Father, to guide his steps to the cross as the Scripture had foretold. We place our trust in Jesus alone for our salvation. Bless and guide us as we take up our crosses and follow our Savior. Our God and Savior, during this Lenten season,

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

Pastor: Lord God, help those who are struggling with illness, pain or grief, those we name now and those we name in our hearts. Comfort them with the promises of your Word and lead us to opportunities to serve them in Jesus' name. Our God and Savior, during this Lenten season,

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

Pastor: Lord God, help us by your Spirit to depend on you each day, in all of the circumstances of our lives. Teach us not to rely on our own understanding, but to trust you in all things. We know that you will guide us. Our God and Savior, during this Lenten season,

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

Pastor: Lord God, as we rely on you for help now in this earthly life, we know that we can trust in you for our eternal salvation through faith in Jesus. Our Lord has promised, "Surely I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:20). We look forward to the fulfillment of that

promise and to life in your presence forever. Our God and Savior, during this Lenten season,

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

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.

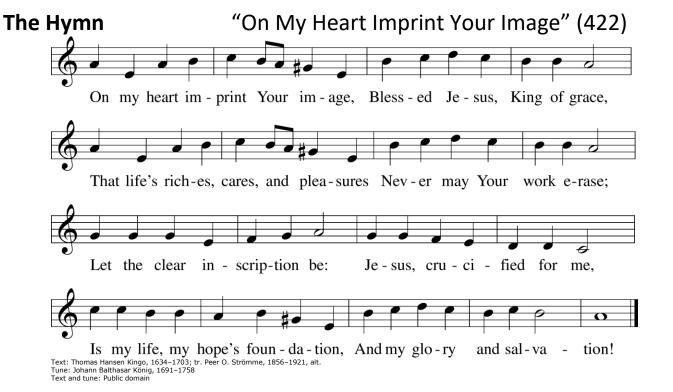
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing (Proverbs 3:5-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

Pastor: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

People: In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

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.



Lenten Wednesday Services for this year:

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 grow in perseverance. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of perseverance in the midst of strife in the name of Jesus, who endured the cross to the very end for us all.