

# RED LETTER

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# CHALLENGE

March 14, 2021

## LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Giving

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

1089 Lake Oconee Parkway

Eatonton, GA 31024

Church Office: 706-485-4600

Sonya Plunkett 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)

Aids for hearing, children's activity bulletins, and large print bulletins are  
available from the ushers



WE OFFER NURSERY & CHILDCARE  
*If you need childcare, please see one of the ushers  
and we will happily accommodate you.*

*Elder of the Month: Virginia Daley  
Scripture reader: Tom Mathson*

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*Pre-Service Music: This is time to turn our hearts & minds toward God in preparation of worship.*

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**Instrumental Prelude**  
**Welcome**

**Lev Ryabinin**

*Please Stand*

*(You are invited to wish those around you God's peace. Please remain standing for the invocation.)*

**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.**

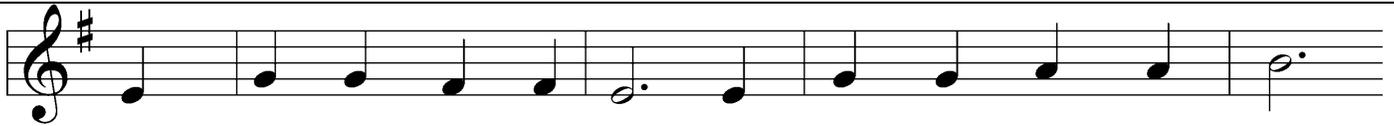
P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## Congregational Hymn #424

### "O Christ, You Walked the Road"



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.  
2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.  
3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.  
4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,  
5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.  
Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.  
Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-swerv-ing love.  
Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.  
Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.

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## Prayer of the Day

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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: Ephesians 2:1-10

**R:** <sup>1</sup>And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of

disobedience—<sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

*Please Stand*

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: Luke 21:1-4

R: The Holy Gospel according to Luke chapter 21

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

R: <sup>1</sup>Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, <sup>2</sup>and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. <sup>3</sup>And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. <sup>4</sup>For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

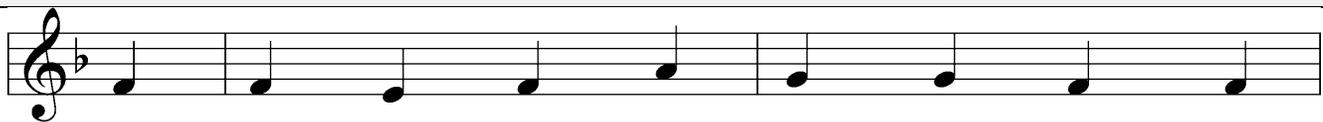
R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

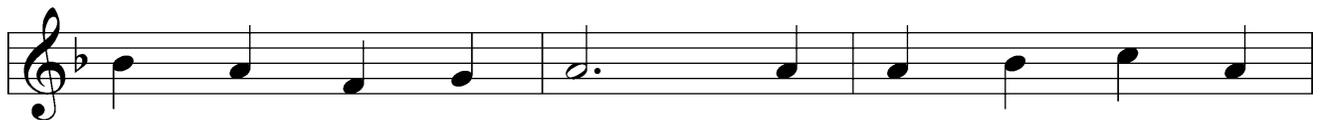
*Please be seated*

## Sermon Hymn # 787

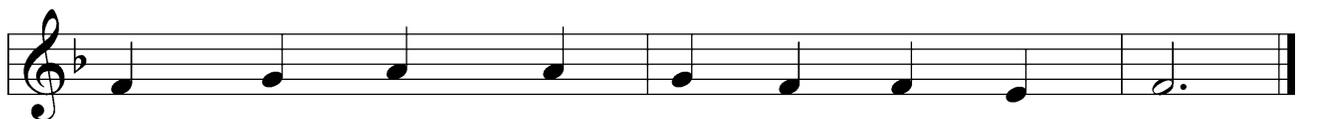
### "The Temple Rang with Golden Coins"



1 The tem - ple rang with gold - en coins The  
2 A wid - ow came with cop - per coins And  
3 When Je - sus saw her cost - ly gift And  
4 At last He brought His of - fer - ing And  
5 Lord, help us all, with You, to yield What -



rich in bright ar - ray Con - trib - ut - ed from  
of - fered them in praise. They were the last she  
knew she had no more, He praised a love that  
laid it on a tree; There gave Him - self, His  
ev - er love de - mands And free - ly give, as



gleam - ing hoards Their scales could scarce - ly weigh.  
had to give Or save for dark - er days.  
spared not self And called her rich, though poor.  
life, His love For all hu - man - i - ty.  
You have giv'n, With o - pen hearts and hands.

*Please Stand*

## 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 doors either as you enter or as you exit.*

## 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 make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

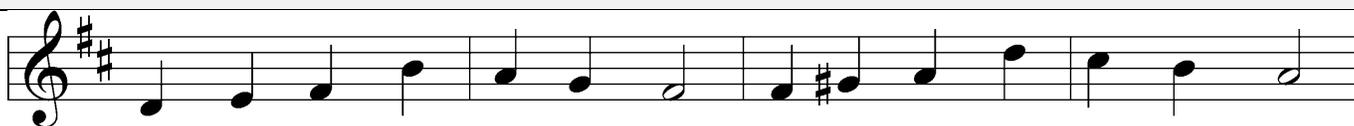
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## Congregational Hymn #783

### “Take My Life and Let It Be”



1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;  
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.  
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.  
Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.  
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

## Announcements

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### 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 15 Rev. David Raetz
- March 15 Marlene Matson
- March 17 Sandy Mathson

#### **and anniversaries**

- No Anniversaries this week

Best wishes!

#### **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Sunday	Council Meeting	After Worship
Tuesday	Women's Bible Study	10 am
Tuesday	Community Center Committee	2 pm
Wednesday	Zoom Bible Class	10:30 am
Wednesday	Online Lenten Service	
Sunday	Bible Class (In Person)	9 am
Sunday	Children's Sunday School (Teachers; Sue Davis/Larry Davis)	10 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am

**Sunday Morning Bible Class Red Letter Challenge** as we kicked off our journey together in Bible Class. "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24 Here's the big idea. Taking Jesus' words, the only ones that are written in red letters in your Bibles, and putting them into practice. Literally. That's the very unoriginal yet revolutionary idea that's going to change not just the followers of Jesus but the world in which we live. **Join us every Sunday morning at**

**9 am.** You may also watch the Bible class live each week on Lake Oconee Lutheran Church's Facebook page.

**Tuesday Women's Bible class** Many women know Psalm 23 by heart but haven't experienced its power in their lives. This beloved psalm can breathe new life into women who are weary and unsure of their next steps. It's more than a psalm that comforts in death; it gives confidence in life. In this 7-session study by Jennifer Rothschild, gain fresh insight and encouragement from Psalm 23. Explore the depths of God's compassionate care while debunking the self-reliance myth. Learn how your vulnerability is not a liability because you can trust the Shepherd's goodness throughout each season of life.

**Wednesday Zoom Bible Class** The study of the Old Testament is nothing less than an exploration into the thoughts of God and His desires for ordinary people like you and me. And what makes more sense than to "begin at the beginning"? As the history of sinful humanity finds its beginning, so also does the unfolding of God's plan to redeem fallen humanity through the sending of a Savior. **Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am on Zoom** as we look at old familiar stories and clearly see the new life that God gives to us in Jesus Christ.

**Children's Sunday Bible School** will be held at 10am in the children's Sunday school room.

**Little Free Pantry** Is in need again of all items on the lists located on the table in the church entrance on the wall next to the black cart and on the table near the piano as you exit the sanctuary. We are blessed to report that the pantry is being utilized regularly by the community.

**We Need Volunteers for Altar care.** There is a sign-up sheet on the table next to the piano in the front of the sanctuary. Please sign up if you would like to volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Crouch.

**We need volunteers** for Sunday service camera operator. It will be controlled with an iPad and we will provide training on how to manage it.

Sign-up sheet can be found in the sanctuary or you can call/email the church office.

**We are looking for Sunday school teacher volunteers.** There will be 2 teachers in the classroom every Sunday. You will be asked to volunteer for a 2-week shift. Contact Pastor Steve if you would be interested or have any questions.

**Red Cross Blood Drive** Our next blood drive is scheduled for **March 24<sup>th</sup> 1-6pm.** We will need volunteers to help you can email Pam Kunz at [Kunzpd3@outlook.com](mailto:Kunzpd3@outlook.com) if you are interested in volunteering. you can sign up to donate at [Redcross.org](http://Redcross.org) and use code **lolc**.

**Texas Relief** As we know, Texas residents and churches have been impacted by the record cold weather. President Mike Newman writes that losses are mounting in ministries and among church workers. Texas District is partnering with LCMS to provide grants that help offset insurance deductibles-some very high- for churches and church workers and to help with cleanup costs for workers, schools and ministries. **On March 14<sup>th</sup>,** Lake Oconee Lutheran will receive free will offerings that will go entirely to the Texas District LCMS for this disaster relief. 100% of all funds donated goes directly to help churches, schools, and church workers. Thank you.

**Members have reached out for information on Marilyn Schneider.** She is no longer in the ICU and has been moved to long-term acute care. She can receive Get Well cards and balloons but not flowers.

Select Specialty Hospital Midtown Atlanta

Attn: Marilyn Schneider

Room 305

705 Juniper St NE

Atlanta, Ga 30308

## **WORSHIP UPDATE**

Remember, we are now live-streaming our worship. This means worship services will be broadcast live as they happen on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am on Facebook. Join us as we all come together in worship. If you are unable to be online at 10:30 am, do not worry. The recorded service will remain available for you to watch later as well. You may find it on the @lakeoconeelutheranchurch page on Facebook. God's blessings to each of you!

## **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.