



March 20, 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 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.

Lenten Midweek Service – Guided to Perseverance

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Jesus repeatedly told his disciples what lay ahead for him. It was the purpose for which he had come. Calling himself the Son of Man, a title for the Messiah from the prophet Daniel, Jesus said, *“The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day”* (Matthew 17:22-23).

People: Teach us, Lord, to follow you in faithfulness.

Pastor: As the time drew near for Jesus to finish his earthly ministry and to be taken up to heaven, he turned to Jerusalem and to the cross: *“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.”* (Luke 9:51)

People: When our days are difficult and challenging, Lord Jesus, help us to keep our focus on you.

Pastor: As Jesus began to take his final steps toward the cross, he 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. Father, glorify your name”* (John 12:27-28).

People: Jesus, in faithfulness, you took up the cross for the sake of our salvation. Set your cross before us to guide us to persevere in faith.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Lord Jesus, you set your face toward Jerusalem as the time of your death drew near. You did not turn away from what lay ahead. In

Gethsemane, you prayed that your Father's will, not yours, would be done. You were faithful to your purpose and obedient to your heavenly Father, obedient to the point of death on a cross. Lead us by your Spirit to be faithful to you in our thoughts, words and actions, so that our lives bear witness to your steadfast love.

People: Amen.

The Hymn

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

Hymn 685



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, And with pa - tience
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
 bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
 con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
 from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
 is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
 us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

The Old Testament Reading

Micah 6:7-8

“Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

People: Thanks be to God.

The New Testament Reading

Ephesians 6:13-20

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

John 19:16-22

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the

chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

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 *"Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed"* **Hymn 560**



1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed With heal - ing
2 Thou know - est all my griefs and fears, Thy grace a -
3 Wash me and take a - way each stain; Let noth - ing
4 And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so



gifts for souls dis - tressed, To find in Thee my
bused, my mis - spent years; Yet now to Thee with
of my sin re - main. For cleans - ing, though it
sweet a ser - vice be That an - gels well might



life, my rest, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
con - trite tears, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
be through pain, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
en - vy me, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.

The Meditation

The Prayers

Pastor: Lord Jesus, you set your face toward Jerusalem, where you would take up your cross for the sake of our salvation. In faithful obedience to your heavenly Father, you suffered and died to save us. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

People: Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, when we face difficult days in life, when we are filled with doubt or fear, strengthen us to persevere in faith and to hold fast to the hope and peace that you have brought us. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

People: Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, be present with those who face illness, pain and grief, especially those we name in our hearts. Comfort them through the promises of your Word, and keep them strong in faith. Guide us as we serve them in love. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

People: Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, keep us steadfast in the study of your Word so that we will grow in faith, ready to defend the hope that is ours and to be your witnesses each day. Give us opportunities to speak to others about your redeeming death and triumphant resurrection, so that in the power of the Spirit, they, too, may come to follow you in faith. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

People: Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, faithful to your purpose and to your Father's will, you suffered and died to save us. Keep us steadfast in faith, walking in your footsteps, until we live in your presence forever. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

People: Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.

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 (Psalm 31:5, Numbers 6:24-26)

Pastor: Into your hand I commit my spirit;

People: You have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine
upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance
upon you and give you peace. 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
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