



March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

## LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday in Lent

*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

Marsha Brewster Church Secretary

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Pastor Steven Hayden

Pastor's Cell: 515-360-5081

Pastor's email: [revshayden@gmail.com](mailto:revshayden@gmail.com)



*Elder of the Month: Jerry Campbell*

*Scripture reader: Kent Matson*

*Coffee & Fellowship: Evelyn Crockett & Connie Piepenbrink*

*Greeter(s): Jean Page*

*Sunday Counter(s): Jean Page & Don Menke*

*The flowers on the Altar today are given by:*

*Jerry Campbell for Palm Sunday*

*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**

**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.

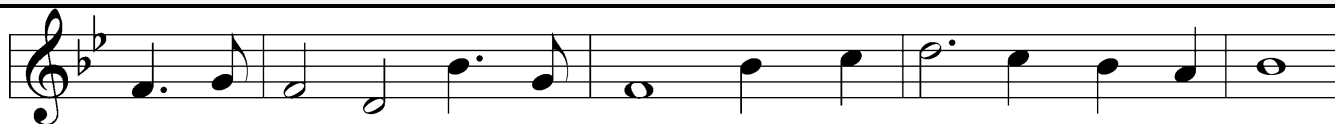
**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present 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.

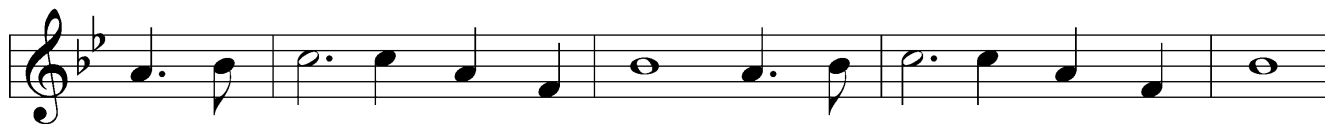
**C: Amen.**

## Sermon Hymn # 761

### “Rock of Ages, Cleft for me”



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,  
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;  
When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.  
Foul, I to the foun-tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78  
Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

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

**C:** And also, with you.

### **P: Collect of the Day**

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: Ezekiel 33:7–20

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

<sup>10</sup>“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

<sup>12</sup>“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. <sup>13</sup>Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>14</sup>Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, <sup>15</sup>if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>16</sup>None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

<sup>17</sup>“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. <sup>18</sup>When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. <sup>19</sup>And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. <sup>20</sup>Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## **The Epistle Lesson 1 Corinthians 10:1–13**

1I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3and all ate the same spiritual food, 4and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. 5Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

6Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. 7Do not be idolaters as some of them were as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” 8We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, 10nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. 11Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. 12Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. 13No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Verse for Lent



**C** 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 13:1–9

R: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 4

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

<sup>1</sup>There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

<sup>6</sup>And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ <sup>8</sup>And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup>Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

## Sermon Hymn # 824

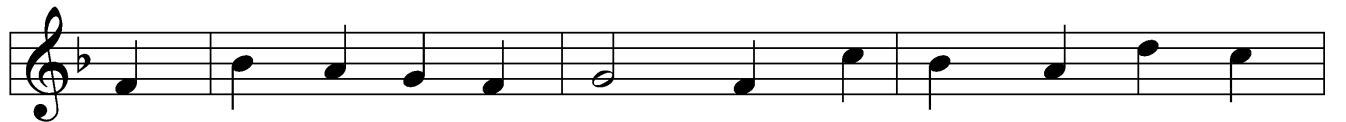
### “May God Bestow on Us His Grace”



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 - ture 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!”

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.

Tune: David Lee, 1956

Text: Public domain

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## 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 door when you enter.*

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

The Lord looks upon you with favor and gives you peace.

C: Amen.

## Congregational Hymn # 691

### “Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing”



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en  
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er  
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern  
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,  
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,  
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,  
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.  
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.  
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.  
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, 1932–2024

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Tune: © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110019841

## 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:**

- Mar 23            Jack Carson
- Mar 26            Dorothy Johnson
- Mar 28            Si-Si Petrea

**and Anniversaries:**

- Mar 26            Don & Pam Menke

### Best wishes!

#### **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Tuesday	Women's Bible class	10:00 am
Wednesday	Zoom Bible class	10:30 am
Wednesday	Lent Soup/Service	12:00/1:00 pm
Thursday	Bread of Life	11:00 am
Saturday	Episcopal Worship	5:00 pm
Sunday	Choir / Bible Class	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am

## Sunday Morning Bible

A psalm is a song or poem distinguished by its devotional character and deep piety. It is the faith of the Old Testament set to music, a poem springing from an encounter with God. It is worship literature.

Christ loved the psalms. Raised as a Jewish boy, He was nourished on the psalms of His people. The psalms were read and sung in His home. He heard them in the synagogue. Later, at His Baptism, His vocation as Messiah was affirmed with Ps. 2:7, "You are My Son." In the night in which He was betrayed, after Jesus instituted the Last Supper, He and the eleven sang a hymn before going to the Mount of Olives (Matt. 26:30). On the cross, when His agony was greatest, Jesus used the words of David (Ps. 22:1) to express the horror of forsakenness. On Easter evening, when Jesus startled the eleven by His sudden appearance, He declared that everything written about Him in the psalms must be fulfilled (Luke 24:44).

Most people who know anything about the Bible know a few "literary gems" from the Psalms. But if you are not satisfied with a few oft-quoted verses, then come to a full banquet. You are invited to sit down at the table and enjoy the spiritual food found in the Psalms. Real people, who had real problems and joys, wrote the Psalms. Just as God spoke to the writers of the Psalms, so He speaks to you today. **Join us every Sunday morning in the church or livestreamed at 9 am** for our Bible study on the Book of Psalms – Conversations with God.

## **Wednesday morning Zoom class**

Letters make up about one-third of the New Testament. They are important because they contain teachings of the apostles and their associates. The New Testament letters combine information about God and the Christian faith with instruction on life and behavior.

“Jesus Christ Lord!” These three words boldly confess the person and work of God’s only Son. In fact, they could be used to summarize all Christian doctrine and certainly are a summary of Paul’s message to the Colossians and to Philemon.

Join us every Wednesday morning on Zoom at 10:30am for Paul’s Letter to the Colossians.

**We are meeting beginning Wednesday, March 26th.**

**“The Women’s Bible Study** with *Discerning the Voice of God* by Priscilla Shirer. This weekly study will help us discover the root to clear and daily communication with God—humble obedience. Learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings intended for us, centers us in His will, and helps us discern His voice in everyday life. **Please join us on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Choir Room.”**

**The choir meets** for rehearsal every Sunday at **9 am in the choir room.**

You are all invited.



**Please remember to sign up to serve Lent Meals:**

**Upcoming Lenten Wednesday Services**

March 26, 2025 12pm soup 1pm service

April 2, 2025 6pm soup 7pm service

April 9, 2025 12pm soup 1pm service



Lake Oconee Lutheran Church is thankful for all who donate flowers for our Sunday morning worship. If you would like to give flowers, please remember the following points:

\*If you would like the flowers to be listed in the bulletin, please include all the information that you want on the sign up sheet: flowers given in memory of..., flowers given in honor of...etc. The sign up sheet is located on the blue table in the entry.

\*We would ask that you specifically request or include no lilies in the arrangements. We have a church member who is deathly allergic to lilies and cannot remain in the church if they are present.

Thank you for your help.



## **Lake Oconee Lutheran Church 2025 Lake Area Easter Basket Project**

Sign up for a particular age group (boy or girl) on the sign-up sheet on the “blue table”. There will be a sheet of basket filler ideas available for each age/sex of child to help get you started. Be creative! Consider making baskets with your grandchildren, co-workers, tennis/pickle ball team, card/craft group. Use gift bags, plastic totes, or reusable grocery bags or traditional Easter baskets. **Tag your basket to indicate Age and Sex of the child.** We will have plastic cellophane available at church to wrap your basket, if needed. For those who are **unable to shop but want to help support the project**, gift cards to Dollar Tree, or Hobby Lobby are appreciated. Place gift cards in the offering box. LOLC’s goal is to provide 32 baskets for children in foster care.

**Return your completed Easter basket to church by Sunday, March 23rd.**

## EASTER BRUNCH

Please join us 4/20/25 for Easter Brunch after service.

There is a pink signup sheet on the blue table in the Narthex.



**Upcoming Blood Drive dates are scheduled for Apr 10<sup>th</sup> and May 8<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.



### **Just a reminder**

Lake Oconee Lutheran can receive gifts by credit card/debit card now. You will find the terminal in the entryway on the shelving near the kitchen. Please be aware that there is a charge to the church for each gift received in this way. **(If you include your name on the form (screen) when it asks, the gift will show up on your church statement, but we are unable to do that if you do not input your name).** You may also request a receipt sent to you if desired.

### **Volunteers needed for:**

- ❖ Altar Care, there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table.
- ❖ Sunday service camera operator. We will provide training on how to manage it. signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table, or you can call/email the church office.
- ❖ Ushers, there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table, or you can call/email the church office.
- ❖ Coffee Fellowship, there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table.
- ❖ Little Free Pantry, there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table.
- ❖ Scripture readers, you can contact the office for Marsha to put you on the email list.
- ❖ Communion assistants, you can contact the office for Marsha to put you on the email list.
- ❖ Sunday School teachers, 2 teachers per Sunday to rotate, sign-ups are on the blue table.
- ❖ Greeters, there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table.



## **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.