



September 5, 2021

# LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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



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Eatonton, GA 31024

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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.*

*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. Communicants may choose to receive the wine in an individual cup, from the Chalice (the Common Cup) or by immersing the wafer in the Chalice (also called intinction). It is very helpful to keep your empty glass visible so Pastor can see if you desire the Common Cup.

*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.*

*Elder of the Month: Mark Ketchie*

*Scripture Reader: Sandy Mathson*

*Communion Assistant: Mark Ketchie*

*Ushers: Bob Elkins*

*Coffee Fellowship: Mike & Reda Joost*

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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 # 852 v 1-5

### “O God of Mercy, God of Might”



1 O God of mer - cy, God of might, In love and  
2 And Thou, who cam'st on earth to die That our lost  
3 Teach us the les - son Thou hast taught: To feel for  
4 All are re - deemed, both far and wide, Since Thou, O



pit - y in - fi - nite, Teach us, as ev - er  
world might live there - by, O hear us; for to  
those Thy blood hath bought, That ev - 'ry word and  
Lord, for all hast died. Grant us the will and



in Thy sight, To live our lives in Thee.  
Thee we cry, In hope, O Lord, to Thee.  
deed and thought May work a work for Thee.  
grace pro - vide To love them all in Thee!

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,  
May we each other's burdens share;  
May we, where help is needed, there  
Give help as unto Thee!

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## Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; 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: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

R: <sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

R: This is the word of the Lord

## **C: Thanks be to God**

## **The Epistle Lesson: James 2:1-10, 14-18**

R: <sup>1</sup>My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. <sup>2</sup>For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” <sup>4</sup>have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? <sup>8</sup>If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it... <sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith

save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup>So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. <sup>18</sup>But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

R: This is the word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

*Please Stand*

### Common Alleluia and Verse

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

R: The Holy Gospel according to St Mark chapter 7

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

R: <sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and

the mute speak.”

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

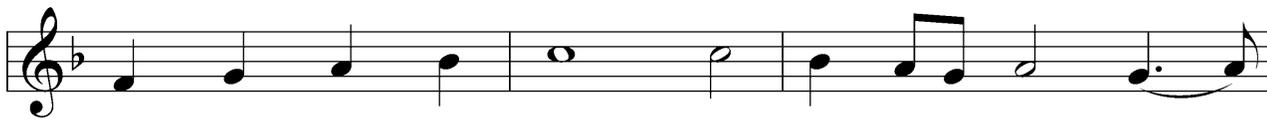
*Please be seated*

### Sermon Hymn # 841

## “O Son of God, in Galilee”



1 O Son of God, in Gal - i - lee You  
 2 O lis - ten to the si - lent prayer Of  
 3 The speech - less tongue, the life - less ear You  
 4 Mean - while to them the lis - t'ning ear Of  
 5 Then in Your prom - ised hap - py land Each



made the deaf to hear, The mute to speak, the  
 Your af - flict - ed ones. O bid them cast on  
 can re - store, O Lord; Your “Eph - pha - tha,” O  
 stead - fast faith im - part, And let Your Word bring  
 loss will prove a gain; All mys - t'ries we shall



blind to see; O bless - ed Lord, be near.  
 You their care; Your grace to them make known.  
 Sav - ior dear, Can in - stant help af - ford.  
 light and cheer To ev - 'ry trou - bled heart.  
 un - der - stand, For You will make them plain.

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**The Message**

**Pastor Steve Hayden**

*Please Stand*

### 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



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.**

*You may be seated*

### Pax Domini

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

C: **Amen.**

### Agnus Dei



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,

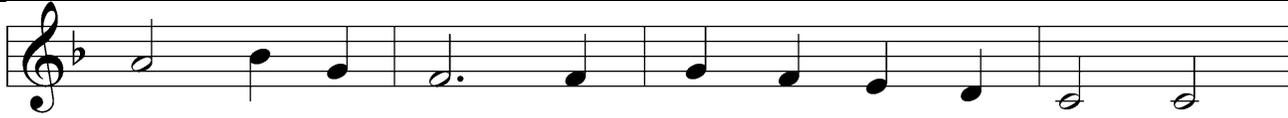


Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

# The Distribution

## Communion Hymn # 690

### "Hope of the World"



1 Hope of the world, Thou Christ of great com - pas - sion;  
2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,  
3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,  
4 Hope of the world, who by Thy cross didst save us



Speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent.  
Bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life,  
Show - ing to wan - d'ring souls the path of light,  
From death and dark de - spair, from sin and guilt,



Save us, Thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,  
Still let Thy Spir - it un - to us be giv - en  
Walk Thou be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways  
We ren - der back the love Thy mer - cy gave us;



Who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.  
To heal earth's wounds and end our bit - ter strife.  
Lure us a - way from Thee to end - less night.  
Take Thou our lives and use them as Thou wilt.

5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,  
Who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,  
We would be faithful to Thy Gospel glorious.  
Thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!

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*Please Stand*

## 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 # 584**

**“Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing”**



1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the  
2 May the Spir - it's pow'r un - ceas - ing Bring to life the



Scrip - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,  
hid - den grain, Dai - ly in our hearts in - creas - ing,



Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your  
Bear - ing fruit that shall re - main. So in Scrip - ture,



Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with  
song, and sto - ry, Sav - ior, may Your voice be heard. Till our



thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.  
eyes be - hold Your glo - ry Give us ears to hear Your Word.

## 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:

- September 6                      Dave Ringer
- September 10                     Linda Horst
- September 11                     Susan Larson

### and anniversaries:

- No Anniversaries this week

Best wishes!

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday	Office Closed for Holiday	
Tuesday	Quilters Guild Meeting	9 am
Tuesday	Women's Bible Class	10 am
Wednesday	Zoom Bible Class	No Class this week
Saturday	Episcopal Worship Service	5 pm
Sunday	Adult Bible School	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday	Council meeting	After Worship

**Sunday Morning Bible Class** Have you seen those television specials about Lost Books of the Bible? Ever wondered if some texts were intentionally excluded from the Bible, and if so, why? Can we be sure the correct texts made it into the Bible? Several scholars, books and articles, movies and television specials have raised that question. Why did some ancient writings fail to make the cut for inclusion in our Scriptures? Since God never sent us a specific list of what to include, who exactly decided the Bible should contain the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and

John, but not the Gospels of Judas, Thomas and Mary? How does the work of the Holy Spirit factor in? In **Lost Books?** The former Lutheran Hour Speaker Rev. Gregory Seltz will guide us as we explore all of these questions. Can we trust our Bible? Join us for Sunday morning Bible class as we explore “**Lost Books?**”

**Wednesday Zoom Bible Class** When you hear the word angel, what image comes to mind? Clarence from the movie *It's A Wonderful Life*? Tess from *Touched by an Angel*? Popular culture formerly portrayed angels as harp-carrying spirits lounging on comfortable white tufts of cloud or as pastel-colored feminine virtues or chubby, winged infants. On the other hand, what comes to mind when you hear the words demon or devil? *Hellboy* from the comic book series or the movie? Various heinous creatures from *The Lord of the Rings*? Or when you think about angels and demons, do you think of those comical creatures sitting on someone's shoulders—an angel in a white gown and wings on one shoulder and a demon with a pitchfork and pointy tail sitting on the other? For many people, popular films, books, comic books, and other media are their only sources of information about angels and demons—if they believe in these creatures at all. These are inaccurate portrayals of angels and demons. In contrast, we will share the truth about angels and demons using God's errorless Word. What the Bible says about angels, demons, and other related topics is vitally important to Lutherans because what God says about these matters can be trusted. Join us on Wednesday morning Zoom Bible class at 10:30 for **Angels and Demons** starting on **Wednesday, September 8th**

**Women's Bible Study** Starting **Tuesday, Sept. 7**, the Women's Bible Class will be focusing on Elijah, *Spiritual Stamina in Every Season* by Melissa Spoelstra. In this six-week study grounded in 1 and 2 Kings, we will examine the life of the prophet Elijah, an ordinary man who did extraordinary things for God in the midst of the highs and lows of life. Learn some of the spiritual stamina secrets that helped him hold on and persevere in faith, including practical habits related to prayer, choices, soul care, surrender, mentoring and legacy. The Bible class meets **each Tuesday at 10:00 am** in the Choir Room. We would love it if you would join us!

**Operation Christmas child collections** are being split up into specific items for each month. We have created an Amazon wish list to make shopping easier for you. The specific items for the collection of the month will be on the wish list with the number of how many are needed in total. The direct link is emailed out in the church's Thursday email. If you do not receive those emails, you can contact the

church office and we will email you a direct link. You can also purchase the items locally if you desire and bring them to church.

**We are in need of Volunteers.** We are looking for volunteers to sign up for Coffee fellowship, Camera Operators, and Communion Ushers. Look for sign-up sheets in the entry on the blue table.

**Back-to-School Support** “Remember the excitement and anticipation of the first day of school? Part of the excitement was new stuff – pencils, crayons, notebooks and more. Our Mission-of-the-Month for the summer has focused on Operation Christmas Child, which supports the needs of children internationally. Our LOLC Service/Outreach ministry would like to additionally bring some focus on children in our own community the 900 elementary students in Putnam and Greene counties.

Specifically, we’re looking for:

**- 24 count boxes of crayons, - Packs of #2 pencils, - Plastic folders with prongs.**

Look for the bin labeled Back-to-School Supplies that will be in the church entry for the month of August. We’ll distribute contributions to the schools the first week of September. Thank you for your support of children both far and near.”

**Save the Dates** The church will have Wednesday Trivia Night on **September 22<sup>nd</sup>** at **4pm**. It will be held at the church and followed by pizza and salad. If you plan to attend trivia night, please sign up on the signup sheet located in the entry of the church so food can be planned accordingly. **October 3<sup>rd</sup>** the church will be having a BBQ potluck after church please look for details to come.

**Don’t forget to Volunteer.** We are looking for volunteers to sign up for Coffee fellowship, Camera Operators, and Communion Ushers. Look for sign-up sheets in the entry on the blue table.

**A sincere thank you** to all who helped make my 80th birthday so special - whether you came to the party, sent a card, texted a message or just said a prayer for me I am forever grateful for the love and concern you showed. Kathie and I have never been more blessed than when we found LOLC and we thank the Lord every day for each and every one of you who have enriched our lives in so many ways. Jim Kueven

## **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.