



November 19, 2023

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Twenty fifth Sunday After Pentecost

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

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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.

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.

Before Communing

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your Holy Spirit that I may be ever watchful and live a true and godly life in Your service; through Jesus Christ, my Lord Amen

Elder of the Month: Ed Fritch

Scripture Reader: Jaye McCrea

Communion Assistant: Jaye McCrea

Ushers: Don Menke

Coffee Fellowship: Evelyn Crockett

Sunday Counters: Sandy Mathson & Cindy Helms

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 Director

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.

Congregational Hymn # 411

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text and tune: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110019841

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson: Zephaniah 1:7-16

R: ⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ⁸And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice— "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. ⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. ¹⁰"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' ¹³Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

R: ¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Alleluia

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: Matthew 25:14–30

R: The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew chapter 25

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

R: ¹⁴[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five

talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

R: This is the word of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn # 508 v1-2,5,7

"The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near When Je - sus, God's a - noint - ed,
2 The fi - nal trum - pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak - en,
5 My Sav - ior paid the debt I owe And for my sin was smit - ten;
7 O Je - sus Christ, do not de - lay, But has - ten our sal - va - tion;



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap -
And all who rest be - neath the ground Shall from their sleep a -
With - in the Book of Life I know My name has now been
We of - ten trem - ble on our way In fear and trib - u -



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on
wak - en. But all who live will in that hour, By God's al -
writ - ten. I will not doubt, for I am free, And Sa - tan
la - tion. O hear and grant our fer - vent plea: Come, might - y



flames shall rav - age earth As Scrip - ture long has warned us.
might - y, bound - less pow'r, Be changed at His com - mand - ing.
can - not threat - en me; There is no con - dem - na - tion!
judge, and set us free From death and ev - 'ry e - vil.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Message

Pastor Steve Hayden

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



C 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.

Pax Domini

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

C: Amen.

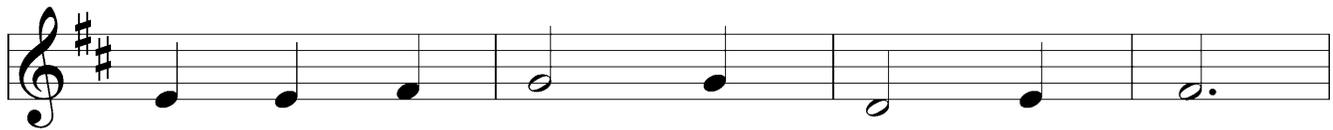
Agnus Dei



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 # 536

“One Thing’s Needful”



1 One thing’s need - ful; Lord, this trea - sure Teach me high - ly
2 How were Mar - y’s thoughts de - vot - ed Her e - ter - nal
3 Wis - dom’s high - est, no - blest trea - sure, Je - sus, is re -
4 Noth - ing have I, Christ, to of - fer, You a - lone, my
5 There - fore You a - lone, my Sav - ior, Shall be all in



to re - gard. All else, though it first give plea - sure,
joy to find As in - tent each word she not - ed,
vealed in You. Let me find in You my plea - sure,
high - est good. Noth - ing have I, Lord, to prof - fer
all to me; Search my heart and my be - hav - ior,



Is a yoke that press - es hard! Be - neath it the
At her Sav - ior’s feet re - clined! How kin - dled her
And my way - ward will sub - due, Hu - mil - i - ty
But Your crim - son - col - ored blood. Your death on the
Root out all hy - poc - ri - sy. Through all my life’s



heart is still fret - ting and striv - ing, No true, last - ing hap - pi - ness
heart, how de - vot was its feel - ing, While hear - ing the les - sons that
there and sim - plic - i - ty reign - ing, In paths of true wis - dom my
cross has death whol - ly de - feat - ed And there - by my righ - teous - ness
pil - grim - age, guard and up - hold me, In lov - ing for - give - ness, O



ev - er de - riv - ing. This one thing is need - ful; all oth - ers are
Christ was re - veal - ing! All earth - ly con - cerns she for - got for her
steps ev - er train - ing. If I learn from Je - sus this knowl - edge di -
ful - ly com - plet - ed; Sal - va - tion’s white rai - ments I there did ob -
Je - sus, en - fold me. This one thing is need - ful; all oth - ers are



vain— I count all but loss that I Christ may ob - tain!
Lord And found her con - tent - ment in hear - ing His Word.
vine, The bless - ing of heav - en - ly wis - dom is mine.
tain, And in them in glo - ry with You I shall reign.
vain— I count all but loss that I Christ may ob - tain!

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 # 660

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.
Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo - rious day.
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.
This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead
Let all His faith - ful serve Him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;
Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.
And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

The Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

+

Post-service Music

+

GOD'S BLESSINGS to all those celebrating birthdays this week:

- November 19 Kent Matson
- November 20 Gustavo Romero
- November 21 Max Ringer
- November 23 William Glenn
- November 23 Lucille Ringer
- November 24 Tom Uehlin

and anniversaries:

- No Anniversaries this week

Best wishes!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday	Women's Bible Class	10 am
Wednesday	Zoom Bible Class	10:30 am
Thursday	Thanksgiving Eve Service	7 pm
Thursday	Thanksgiving	Office Closed
Saturday	Episcopal Worship Service	5 pm
Sunday	Adult Bible Class	9 am
Sunday	Choir Rehearsal	9 am
Sunday	Worship	10:30 am

Sunday Morning Bible Exodus can seem like a complex book,-a book of events and accounts that are not always easy to understand and to relate to our life today. However, referring to the Old Testament, Jesus said, "The Scriptures ... testify about Me" (John 5:39). The effort to understand the exodus-the going out of God's people from Egypt- and the encounter with God at Sinai gives us a deeper insight into God, His dealings with His people, and most of all His gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. The importance of Exodus does not lie in its size or place but in its message. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9am, either in person in the church or livestreamed on Facebook for Exodus.

Wednesday Bible Class The Dictionary defines a hero as:

1. a person noted for courageous acts or (2) a person with nobility of character who is regarded as a role model or ideal: as in-*He became a local hero when he saved the drowning child or My older sister is my hero.*

So, when we talk about the Heroes of the Faith, we are highlighting men and women in the Bible who overcame extraordinary difficulties and show extraordinary faith. However, often to our surprise, their stories show that God doesn't make heroes. God chooses ordinary people, quiet people, perhaps even unknown people—people like you—to do His extraordinary work. These people are not held up as towers of strength and ability. Rather, we see, God is the true hero of each Bible story! These lessons will show how God forgave, sustained, and empowered that person to be able to serve Him, even as He promises to do with you and me today. **Join us each Wednesday morning as we study the Quiet Heroes of the Faith at 10:30 am on Zoom.**

Women's Bible Study will be starting a less formal study format for the month of December that anyone is invited to attend starting on December 5. Again, we meet on **Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Choir Room.**"

We have all read the stories and heard the lessons in church, but what if we could stand in those very spots today? In October 2024 Pastor and Linda will be leading a tour to "**Walk in the Footsteps of Paul**". Experience with them the Bible coming to life as we follow in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and walk through the Bible lands ourselves. This 10 day tour will take us to many of the places Paul visited and which we have heard about: Thessaloniki (Thessalonians), Philippi (Philippians), Ephesus (Ephesians), Corinth (Corinthians), Crete (where Paul left Titus to serve as pastor), and Athens. We will also visit the island of Patmos where the Apostle John experienced the Revelation and more. In the midst of the trip we will board a ship for a three day Mediterranean cruise.

Talk to Pastor Steve for an itinerary, pricing, more information or if you have any questions.

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.