



November 26, 2023

## LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Last Sunday of the Church Year  
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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*Elder of the Month: Ed Fritch*

*Scripture reader: Kathie Kueven*

*Coffee & Fellowship:*

*Sunday Counters: Bob Elkins & Jean Page*

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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**

**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.

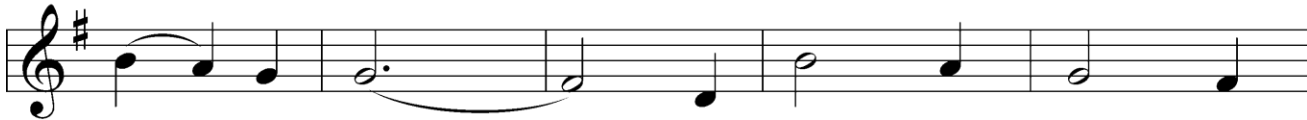
**C: Amen.**

## Congregational Hymn # 710

### "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"



1 The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; He makes me  
2 My soul He doth re - store a - gain And me to  
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I  
4 My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence  
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life Shall sure - ly



down to lie In pas - tures green; He  
walk doth make With - in the paths of  
fear no ill; For Thou art with me,  
of my foes; My head Thou dost with  
fol - low me; And in God's house for -



lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.  
righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.  
and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.  
oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.  
ev - er - more My dwell - ing place shall be.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**The First Lesson:            Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24**

R: <sup>11</sup>“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.<sup>20</sup>“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**The Epistle Lesson:            1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

R: <sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so

also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup>When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

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 25:31–46

R: The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew chapter 25

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

R: <sup>31</sup>[Jesus said:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of

the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup>And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. <sup>41</sup>"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon Hymn # 532

### "The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns"



1 The Head that once was crowned with thorns Is  
2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords Is  
3 The Joy of all who dwell a - bove, The  
4 To them the cross, with all its shame, With



crowned with glo - ry now; A roy - al di - a -  
His, is His by right, The King of kings and  
Joy of all be - low To whom He man - i -  
all its grace, is giv'n; Their name an ev - er -



dem a - dorns The might - y Vic - tor's brow.  
Lord of lords, And heav'n's e - ter - nal Light;  
fests His love And grants His name to know.  
last - ing name, Their joy the joy of heav'n.

- 5 They suffer with their Lord below,  
They reign with Him above,  
Their profit and their joy to know  
The myst'ry of His love.
- 6 The cross He bore is life and health,  
Though shame and death to Him:  
His people's hope, His people's wealth,  
Their everlasting theme.

Text and tune: Public domain

## The Message

Pastor Steve Hayden

## 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 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 # 733

### “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:  
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.  
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
    Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream  
    Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,  
    Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last  
    And our eternal home!

Text and tune: Public domain

## 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:**

- November 26 Candy McAllister
- December 1 Josh Ringer

**and anniversaries**

- November 29 Roger & Linda Andersen
- December 1 Bill & Amy Stokes

Best wishes!

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Monday	Bread of Life Meeting	11 am
Tuesday	Women’s Bible Class	10 am
Wednesday	ZOOM Bible Class	10:30 am
Thursday	Milledgeville ministry meeting	4pm
Saturday	Hanging of the Greens	9am
Saturday	Episcopal worship	5 pm
Sunday	Bible Class (In Person)	9 am
Sunday	Choir Rehearsal	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am

**Sunday Morning Bible Class** 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.

Advent Soup Suppers will be held the following Wednesdays.

**December 6th: Soup @6pm service @7pm**

**December 13th: Soup @12pm service @1pm**

**December 20: Soup @6pm service @7pm**

To sign up to bring a soup or dessert you can find the signup sheet on the blue table in the entryway of the church.

## **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.