October 11, 2026

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

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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Eatonton, GA 31024
Church Office: 706-485-4600
Cheri Kitchens, Church Secretary
www.lakeoconeelutheran.org
Office email: officelolc@gmail.com

Pastor Steven Hayden
Pastor's Cell: 515-360-5081
Pastor's email: revshayden@gmail.com

Elder of the Month: Barney Ross
Scripture reader: Peggy Uehlin
Coffee & Fellowship: Beth Etheridge – Bread of Life
Greeter(s): Evelyn Crockett and Jackie Birtcher
Sunday Counter(s): Jerry Campbell & Ed Fritch

Lake Oconee Lutheran is blessed to be able to live-stream our worship on Facebook and our website for those unable to be present. Our cameras are directed at the front of the sanctuary, but by entering and by your presence here you consent to be recorded if you appear.

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**
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.

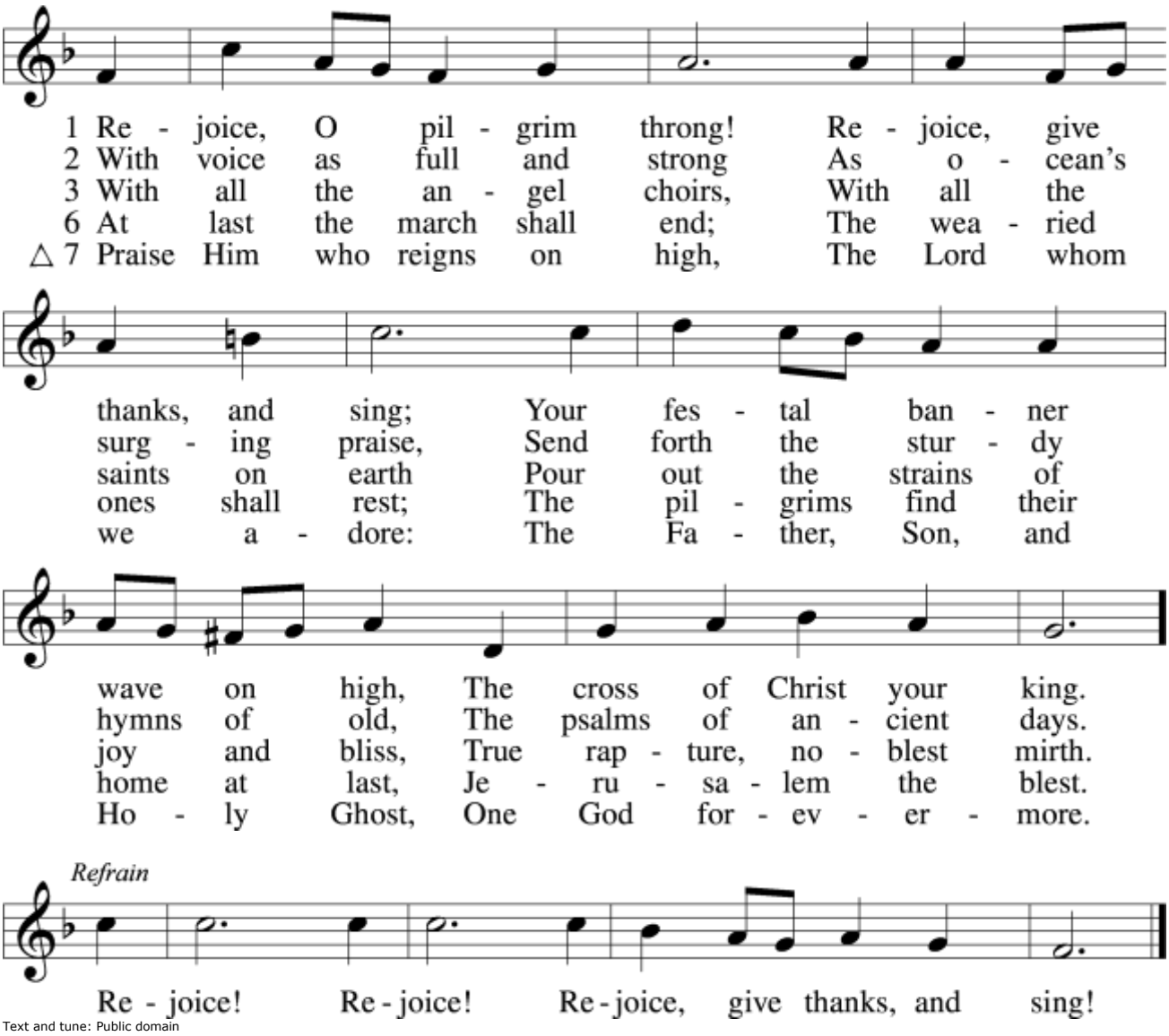
C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean**. **We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your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

Hymn #813, v. 1-3,6,7

"Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"



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Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also, with you.

P: Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; 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 25:6–9

6On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
7And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.
8He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
9It will be said on that day,
"Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the Lord; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Lord God; so turn, and live."

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: Philippians 4:4–13

4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of

God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

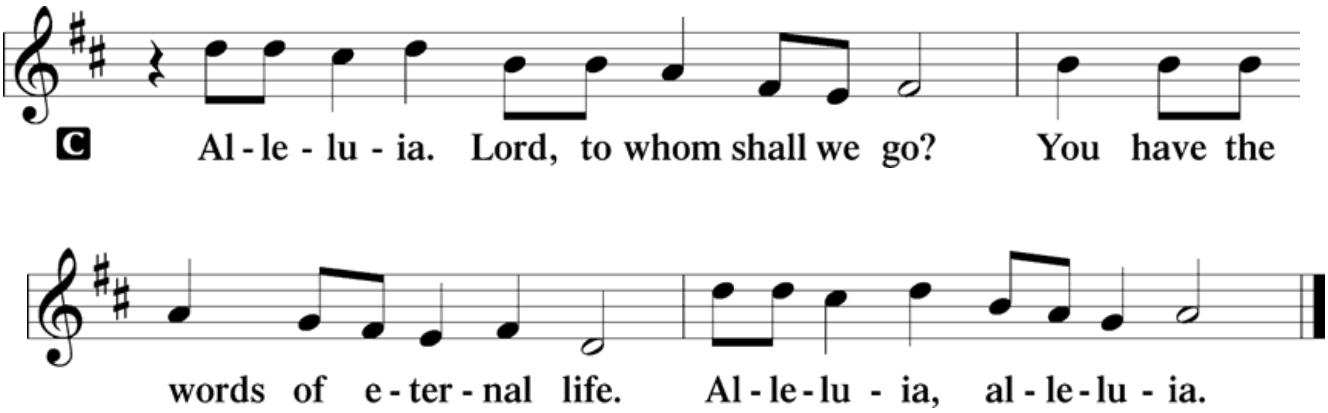
[8]Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. [9]What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

[10]I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. [11]Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. [12]I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. [13]I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:1–14

R: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 22

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

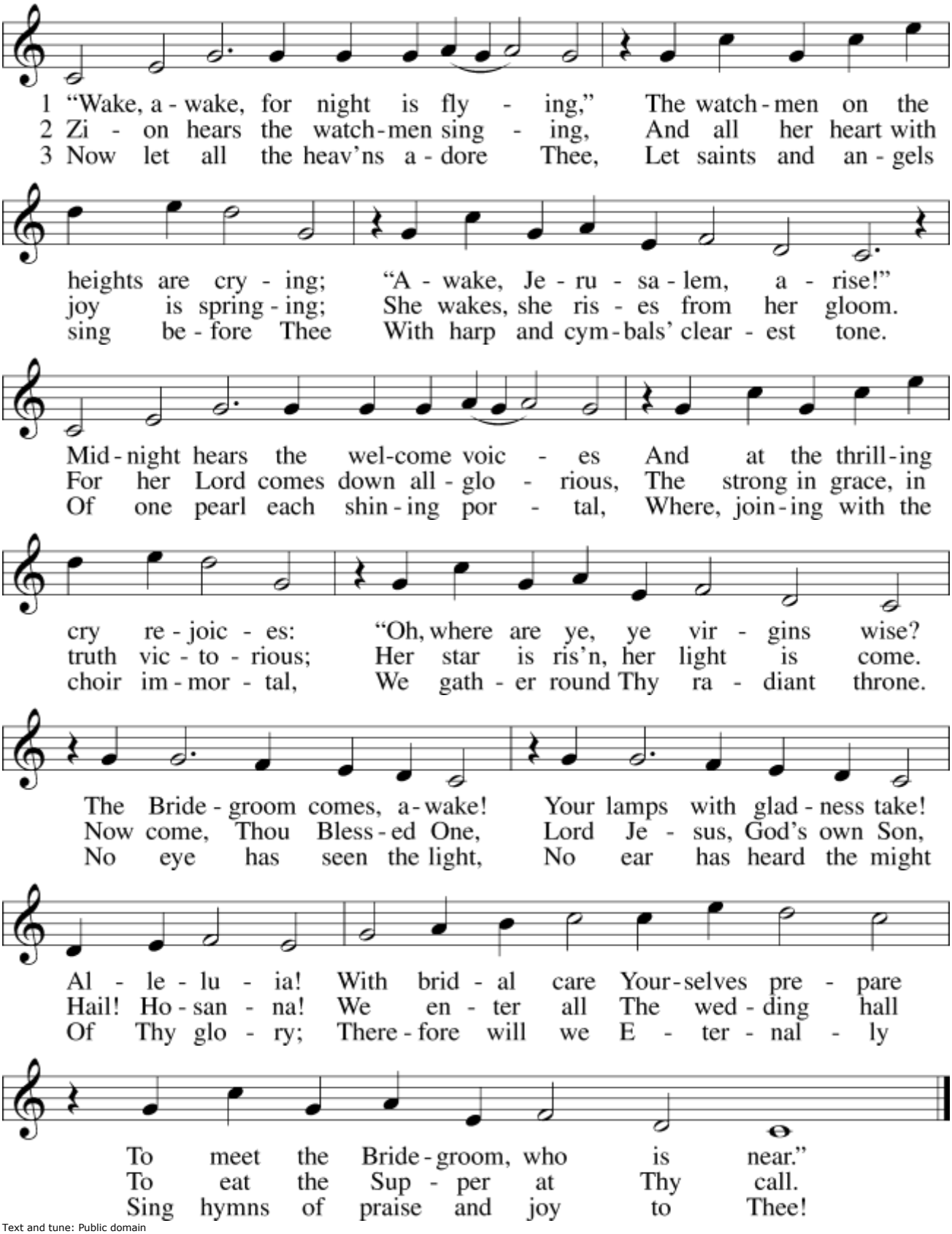
[1]Again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, [2]"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, [3]and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. [4]Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.' [5]But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, [6]while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. [7]The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. [8]Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. [9]Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.' [10]And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

[11]"But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. [12]And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. [13]Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' [14]For many are called, but few are chosen."

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord

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

Sermon Hymn #516 “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”



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The Message **Pastor Steven 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.**

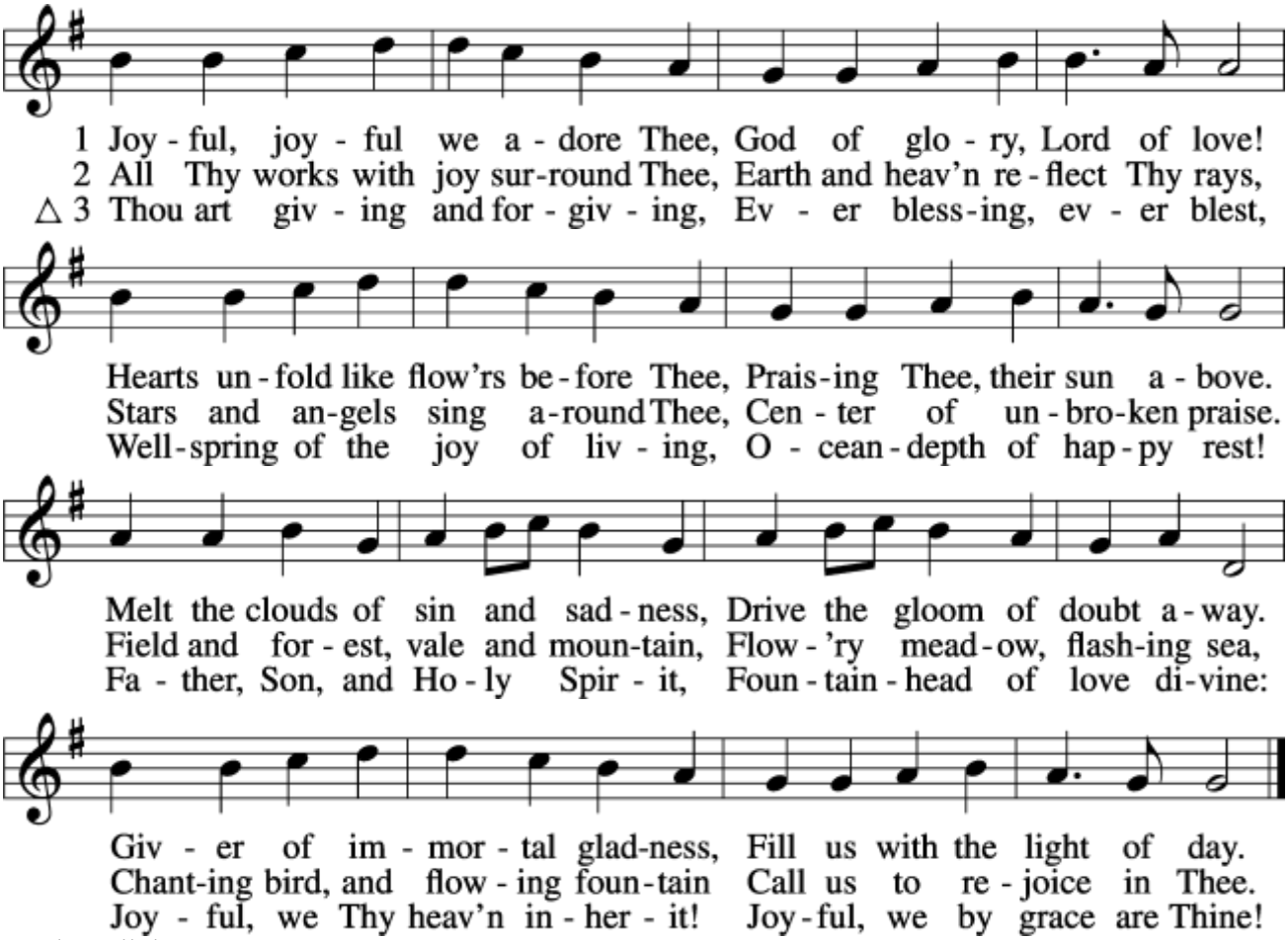
Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord 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 #803

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"



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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

- 10/13 Jackie Birtcher
- 10/14 Ed Blosser
- 10/14 Henry Ringer
- 10/15 Jean Steinberg

Anniversaries

- 10/12 Jerry & Carol Campbell

Best Wishes!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday	Council Meeting	After Worship
Tuesday	Women' Bible Study	10 am
Wednesday	Zoom Bible Study	10:30 am
Sunday	Choir Practice	9 am
Sunday	Children's Bible School	9 am
Sunday	Bible Class	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am

Sunday Morning Bible Class

The study of the New Testament is nothing less than an exploration into the thoughts and desires of God for ordinary people like you and me. It takes us from this hardened and selfish world into the promise of a world where God's peace, justice, and mercy will be complete.

We, too, can view the world as meaningless and without hope. But Jesus Christ came to rescue the world from its quagmire, and His deliverance continues to change our lives.

Join us in person on **Sunday** mornings for **Exploring the New Testament** in the church at **9 am.** This will also be live-streamed on Facebook and our website.

Wednesday morning Zoom class

What is prayer? It's a simple enough question and a natural place to start. Perhaps just as good a question is "What isn't prayer?" Prayer, quite simply, is speaking to God what is in our hearts. Prayer is not a means through which God speaks to us; God speaks to us through His Word. In prayer, then, we have the privilege of striking up a conversation with our Creator.

Join us on Zoom on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. for **Prayer**

Women's Bible Study

Join us each **Tuesday at 10:00 AM** in the Conference Room for a Bible study: "Luke: Gut-Level Compassion" by Lisa Harper. Together, we will dive into Luke's Gospel and look at the profound, unconditional love Jesus has for real, messy people. You don't have to have it all together to fit in here—just come as you are!

Lake Oconee Lutheran has activated a call committee. The committee's job will be to develop a list of pastor candidates to present to the Voter's Assembly out of which the Voters may select one to call to serve our church along with Pastor Steve and to serve the mission in Milledgeville.

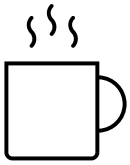
The most important job of this committee, in fact, the most important job for each of us, is to pray. Pray that the Lord will lead us to the pastor who may serve here faithfully and joyfully and be a part of our life in mission and obedience to God's Word.

Join me in saying this prayer, or a prayer like this:

Almighty God, since You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself, grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive new life. May Your Holy Spirit lead and guide us in calling a pastor to serve among us according to Your will and proclaim Your saving Gospel to us and to our communities. And may that same Spirit help the one called to recognize Your presence among us and, if it be Your will, to accept the call as Pastor here. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

American Red Cross

Upcoming Blood Drive dates are scheduled for **November 5 and December 3.** We will need volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering email Pam Kunz at Kunzpd3@outlook.com. To sign up to donate blood go to redcrossblood.org and use code LOLC.



Do you enjoy our coffee and treats after service during **Coffee Fellowship time**? If so, there are quite a few openings over the next month for you to provide something. Join with a friend or bring a few things to share on your own. Sign up on the **Blue Table** for the week that you are available to host our **Coffee Fellowship Time.**

Thank you to everyone who donates flowers for our Sunday worship! If you would like to give flowers, please keep these two important points in mind:

- **Bulletin Dedications:** To have your dedication included in the bulletin (e.g., *in memory of* or *in honor of*), please write the exact wording on the sign-up sheet located on the **blue table in the entry**.
- **Strictly No Lilies:** Please explicitly request **no lilies** in your arrangements. A member of our congregation has a life-threatening allergy to them and cannot be in the building if they are present.

Make a Joyful Noise: Join the Choir!

Do you love to sing? Whether you are a seasoned vocalist or just love singing along to the radio, our Church Choir has a seat waiting for you! There are three great reasons to join us:

1. You have a wonderful voice and want to share it.
2. You have an okay voice and want to improve it.
3. You think you have a terrible voice, and this is your chance to make a joyful noise anyway!

No auditions or professional experience are required—just a heart ready to praise. We practice on **Sunday Morning at 9 am** in the **Choir Room.** We can't wait to sing with you!

Help our kids experience God's love! We are recruiting Children's Sunday school teachers to pour into the next generation. We need two volunteers per **Sunday for our 9:00 – 10:00 AM** Bible Study Hour. If a childhood Sunday school teacher made a difference in your life, consider stepping into that role for our kids today. Head to the blue table in the entryway to sign up on the sheet! You can also sign up online with Signup Genius.

Volunteers Needed!

We need people to sign up to help! We need help in the Little Free Pantry, Coffee fellowship, greeters, ushers and more.

You can sign up for the following Sunday Worship Volunteer Roles online through Sign-up Genius:

- Greeter
- Scripture Reader
- Communion Assistant
- Communion Usher
- Coffee Fellowship
- Sunday School teacher

You can call or email Cheri in the Church Office to have her send a link to the Sign-Up Genius website or to sign up for you.

Additional volunteer Roles include:

❖ 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.
- ❖ Little Free Pantry signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.

Be a Pantry Partner!

Our Little Free Pantry needs weekly volunteers to help keep this ministry thriving. If you're able to serve, please stop by the **Blue Table** and choose a week to stock the pantry.

All pantry items are stored in the choir room — simply select your week, gather the food, and fill the pantry for our neighbors in need. Your contribution blesses our community in a meaningful way.

📦 Bread of Life Ministry: Volunteer Opportunities

Help us feed our community! The Bread of Life food pantry needs volunteers for our monthly schedule. Please note our regular hours and upcoming dates below.

📝 How to Sign Up

- **Sign-up sheets are now available on the BLUE table in the entryway.**
- Please drop by and add your name to the dates you can help.

🗓️ Monthly Volunteer Schedule

- **Food Pantry Setup**
  - 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month
  - 1:00 PM
  - *Note: No 4th Wednesday setup in November or December.*
- **Food Pantry Distribution**

    - 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month
    - 10:00 AM
    - *Note: No 4th Thursday distribution in November or December.*
- **Golden Harvest Delivery**
    - 3rd Friday of every month
    - 9:00 AM

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.