



March 8, 2020

# LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Story – Chapter 23  
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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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.*

*Elder of the Month: Alan Oberdeck*

*Ushers: Sue & Larry Davis*

*Greeters: Bonnie & Marlo Neuleib*

*Altar Care: Peggy Uehlin & Marcia Elkins*

*Kathy Lockwood & Kathy Stallings wish to invite you for refreshments  
after the worship service*

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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**

**Lev Ryabinin**

**Welcome**

*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.

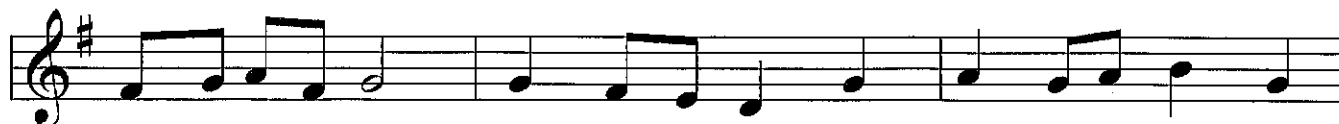
**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and  
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us  
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;  
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in  
Free - ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the  
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your  
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards  
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.  
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.  
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.

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## Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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 Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 22:1-19      Reader: Sandy Mathson**

R: **22** After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I."<sup>2</sup> He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."<sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.<sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.<sup>5</sup> Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."<sup>6</sup> And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.<sup>7</sup> And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"<sup>8</sup> Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.<sup>9</sup> When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.<sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.<sup>11</sup> But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I."<sup>12</sup> He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."<sup>13</sup> And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.<sup>14</sup> So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."<sup>15</sup> And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven<sup>16</sup> and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,<sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand

that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,<sup>18</sup> and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”<sup>19</sup> So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

**The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7**

**Reader: Sandy Mathson**

R: **3** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.<sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.<sup>3</sup> If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant<sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;<sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.<sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

*Please Stand*

**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: Mark 1:9-22

Reader: Sandy Mathson

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter

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

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup> The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

<sup>16</sup> Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." <sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup> And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. <sup>22</sup> And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

## Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd  
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is  
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines



serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.  
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.

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**The Message**

**Pastor Steve Hayden**

*Please Stand*

**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.**

*Please be seated*



## 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.*

**Instrumental Anthem:**

**Lev Ryabinin**

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*Please stand as the offering is brought to the altar.*

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### Create in Me

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

The first system of musical notation for 'Create in Me' consists of a treble and bass staff in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -' are positioned below the treble staff.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics 'new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -' are positioned below the treble staff.

way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

The third system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics 'way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it' are positioned below the treble staff.

from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece. The lyrics 'from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -' are positioned below the treble staff.

tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

## Our Offering Pledge

**C:** We pause in our worship, to rededicate ourselves, our time, talents, and treasure, to the service of Christ our Savior. We remember also our responsibility of friendliness to and concern for our fellow-worshippers, for those who are absent, and for our unchurched friends and neighbors. May the Holy Spirit help us to witness for Christ, in whatever way He directs us during the coming days.

## Prayer of the Church

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\* Prayer Of The Church

*(After the pastor ends each petition with, "Lord in Your Mercy, the congregation responds with, "Hear our prayer.")*

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## 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.

*Please be seated*

**Congregational Hymn** (To sing harmony, turn to # 922 vs 1-2, 4 in the Lutheran Service Book)

## Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.  
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.  
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My  
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you  
I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.  
heard My dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo - ry.  
Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.  
Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.  
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

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### 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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**A SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING** will be held today immediately after worship to approve paying off our current church mortgage from the funds in our LCEF savings account so that we will have just one mortgage payment when the purchase of the Harmony property is completed.

**A COUNCIL MEETING** will be held immediately after the special Voters Meeting.



**Altar Flowers** are given by Harold Sollenberger in memory of Jean Smith, Lois' dear friend.

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

- Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Marcia Elkins
- Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – Suzanne Sponsler
- Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Roger Andersen

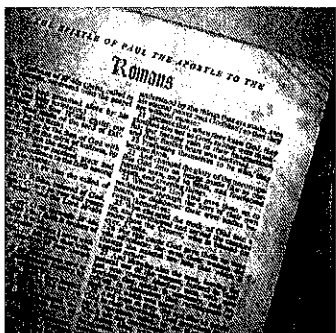
**and anniversaries** - No anniversaries to report this week      Best wishes!



**EASTER LILIES:** Dedicate or memorialize a loved one through an Easter Lily plant. Sign up on the sanctuary back wall for the number of plants you wish to purchase, and the dedication. Cost of each 6 inch plant is \$7.00. **Last day to order is SUNDAY**

**March 29<sup>th</sup>.** Make checks payable to Lake Oconee Lutheran, with a notation that it is for lilies, and place in offering plate.

**THE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** committee thanks everyone who served snacks after church in January and February. Kathy Stallings will serve as coordinator for March and Peggy Uehlin will serve as coordinator for April. Please sign up if you can serve snacks in March or April. It is easier if we have 2 servers each week.



**OUR NEXT WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:**

**ROMANS:** St. Paul's letter to the Romans is the first epistle in the New Testament because it is the longest, but it could also occupy that position because of its importance. It has always played an important role in the church because it summarizes so well the essential emphases of the apostle's theology. Throughout the letter Paul emphasizes that God's

mercy comes to undeserving people who stand under the Law. In the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God freely gives righteousness through faith alone, not on the basis of their own accomplishments. This unconditional promise is the sole basis of people's relationship with God. Martin Luther wrote, "This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and it is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not

only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day...we can never read it or ponder over it too much." Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. as we read the Letter to the Romans.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday	ROMANS Bible class	10:30 a.m.
	Lenten Soup Supper	6:00 p.m.
	Lenten Service	7:00 p.m.
Saturday	ECR Bible Study	3:30 p.m.
	ECR Service	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	Adult Bible Class	9:00 a.m.
	Choir Practice	9:00 a.m.
	PRE K/K Sunday school	10 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.
	Worship Service	10:30 a.m.



**PRE K/K SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sign up on the sanctuary back wall for the Sundays you wish to teach. We need two (2) people per week.

**The second LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & SERVICE** will be held this Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. **The Soup Supper begins at 6:00 p.m.**

**followed by the Lenten Service at 7:00 p.m.** Don't forget to sign up on the sanctuary back wall. We need your involvement!



### **5TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT, PUTNAM CHRISTIAN OUTREACH:**

This tournament will be March 28 at Uncle Remus Golf in Eatonton. LOLC is sponsoring a hole and will have a team to compete in the 4-person scramble. The cost of golf is \$50 per player. If you would like to be part of the LOLC team, please contact Ed Fritch or Susan Larson.



Join us next Sunday during Bible class (9:00 am) and Worship (10:30 am) as we focus on **THE STORY**.

Next week it is Chapter 24 – No Ordinary Man.

## **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.



## Chapter 23

### ***The Story: Jesus' Ministry Begins*** ***"The Story" Chapter 23: Matthew 4:1-11***

Please use this space to take notes during the message today.

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only." Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. Matthew 4:10-11

#### **Adult and teen small group discussion points**

Please use these discussion questions in your small group or with your teens.

1. When did you first begin to understand the message of Jesus as your Savior and Lord? Who helped you understand?
2. After forty days in the wilderness Jesus faced three temptations from the devil (Matthew 4:1-11; "The Story," pp. 322-323). What was each temptation and what did Jesus say to fend off each? How does Satan use similar types of temptation in our lives today?
3. How can knowing Scripture help us battle against daily temptations? Tell about a time you used Scripture to stand strong against the enemy.
4. Nicodemus and the woman at the well both had conversations with Jesus (p. 326-329). Why do they represent such a contrast?
5. How do the biblical Satan and other evil spirits compare to popular depictions of demons in films, television, literature or art?
6. Jesus was constantly interacting with different types of people: curious Jews, antagonistic Pharisees, tax collectors, and society's castoffs. What can you learn about how to respond to different types of people from observing Jesus?
7. The faithful friends of the paralytic carried him to Jesus (pp. 330-331). If you are comfortable, share with your group a time in your own life that you had to totally depend on the faith of a Christian friend to get you through.
8. John the Baptist who had earlier proclaimed, "Look, the Lamb of God," was now languishing in prison where he began to wonder about this Jesus (p. 334). Look up Isaiah 35:5-6 and 61:1. Why did Jesus answer John the way He did?
9. John has his moment of doubt. Can doubts and faith co-exist? Do our circumstances today affect our view of Jesus' credibility, as it did with John?
10. Jesus sought out quiet places where he could meet with the Father face-to-face (Mark 1:35; "The Story," p. 330). Why is it important that Christians today make regular time to be quiet before God? How are you doing in this area and how can your group members support you in this discipline of spiritual growth?

Close in prayer.

#### **Family's with kids discussion points**

Memory verse: *People brought to him all who were ill with different kinds of sicknesses...Jesus healed all of them. Matthew 4:24*

1. Jesus called a wide variety of people to be his disciples—fishermen, tax collectors, revolutionaries -- why didn't Jesus call more powerful people like religious and government leaders?
2. Think of the Christians you know. Are they all the same? Why does Jesus call people with different interests and personalities to follow Him?
3. When Jesus asked someone to be His disciple, He simply said, "Follow me." What can you do to follow Jesus today?
4. How does following Jesus change the way you act at school or with your family?

5. When Satan tempted Jesus, He used Old Testament Scriptures to defend Himself. Recite some Bible verses you've memorized. If you haven't already, as a family memorize John 3:16-17.
6. Talk about how God's Word can protect you today.

*Prayer together:* Dear Loving Jesus, we praise you for your work among the people so long ago. We thank you for your work among the people today. Please guide us to continue your work by reaching out to others with your love. Help us show them your promises and blessings. We love you, Jesus! Amen.

**Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.**

*Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33*

Day 1 – Chapter 24 of "The Story"

Day 2 – Matthew 5:1-20

Day 3 – Matthew 5:21-48

Day 4 – Matthew 6

Day 5 – Matthew 7

**Questions to consider while reading the Bible:**

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a promise to rely on?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a challenge in which to respond?



**God Writes His Word on our Lives, Building Us into a Family Engaged in Spirit-filled Service**

*Lake Oconee Lutheran Church*

Eatonton, GA