



July 12, 2020

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sixth 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.*

Elder in Charge for July: Joe Peebles

Pre-Service Music: This is time to turn our hearts & minds toward God in preparation of worship.

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.

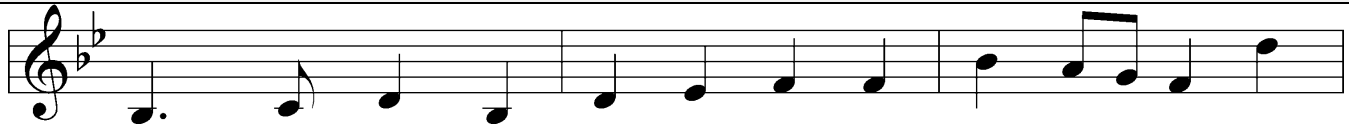
P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

Congregational Hymn #901, vs 1-4

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy



en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,
gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;



Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I
May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing



is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.

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Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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: Isaiah 55:10-13

R:¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² “For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the Lord,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:12-17

R: ¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the
flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit
you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by
the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery
to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by
whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our
spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God
and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may
also be glorified with him.

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: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear."

¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He

indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

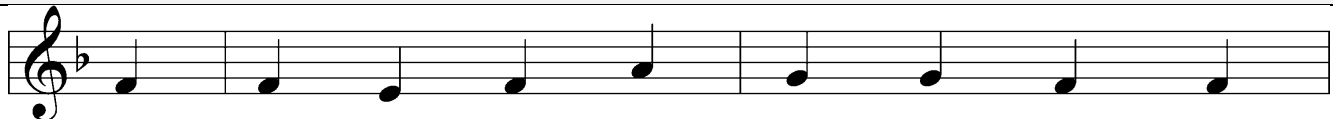
R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

Sermon Hymn #577

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



1 Al - might - y God, Your Word is cast Like
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe This
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The



seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of
ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in
ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a



heav'n de - scend And righ - teous fruits a - bound.
ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.
hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.

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The Message

"What is a person to do?"

Pastor George Earhart

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. The Offering will be collected at the door as you exit.

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.

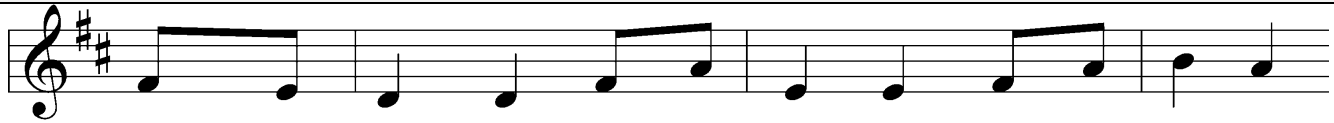
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

Congregational Hymn #686

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



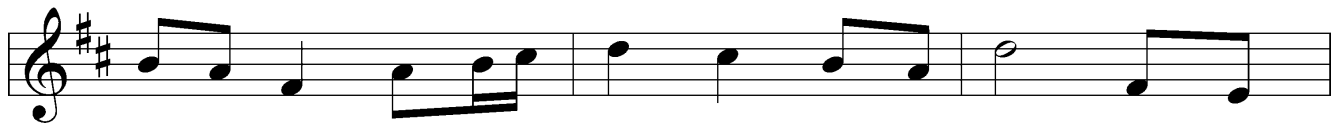
1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,
strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me
strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

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Announcements Birthdays & Anniversaries

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:

- None to report

and anniversaries:

- Wednesday, July 15th – Walter & Susan Krause
Best wishes!

MID-WEEK BIBLE CLASS "THE APOSTLES' CREED": What is a creed? A creed is a statement of what we believe, teach and confess. One of the creeds that we use regularly in worship is The Apostles' Creed. It is called this, not because it was written by the apostles themselves, but because it states briefly the doctrine or teaching which God has given to us through the apostles in the Bible. On Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am, join us on Zoom for a Bible study where we are examining the Apostles' Creed, and through it, our faith itself. **NOTE: Wednesday July 15th's class has been cancelled.**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday July 15 The Apostles' Creed Bible Class on Zoom cancelled

Sunday July 19 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

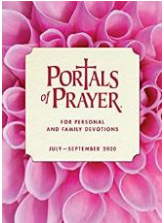


Pastor Steve will be on vacation through Saturday July 18th. He will be back in Georgia in time for the July 19th worship service. There will be no Bible class on July 15th; the class will resume on July 22nd on Zoom. If you are in need of guidance, please contact your Elder.

WORSHIP UPDATE

Earlier this year, Lake Oconee Lutheran had been pre-recording our worship service and then posting it online. Now we have moved to a new way of sharing our service. We are now live-streaming our worship. This means worship services will be broadcast **live** as they happen on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am on Facebook. Join us as we all come together in worship.

If you are unable to be online at 10:30 am, do not worry. The recorded service will remain available on-line for you to watch later as well. You may find it on the [@lakeoconeelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/lakeoconeelutheranchurch) page on Facebook. The service will also be posted on the church website (www.lakeoconeelutheran.org) by Monday or Tuesday of each week. Worshiping God with your brothers and sisters in Christ; now there is more than one way to do that. God's blessings to each of you!



The Summer (July - September) Portals of Prayer are in the church narthex, next to the sanctuary doors. There are also a few available in the outside container.



Next Council Meeting will be held via ZOOM on Tuesday July 21st at 7:00 p.m.

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.