

# The Fifth Sunday of **Easter**

May 10, 2020

## **LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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.*

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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**  
**Welcome**

**Lev Ryabinin**

*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*

## **Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2, 51-60**

R: **6** Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup> And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." <sup>5</sup> And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup> These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup> And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. <sup>8</sup> And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the

people. <sup>9</sup> Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.

<sup>2</sup> And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,

<sup>51</sup> “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup> Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <sup>53</sup> you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”<sup>54</sup> Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup> Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

### **The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

R: <sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

<sup>8</sup> and

“A stone of stumbling,  
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

*Please Stand*

**Common Alleluia**

**Holy Gospel: John 14:1-14**

R: The Holy Gospel according to St John, the tenth chapter

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

**14** “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I

have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

**Sermon Hymn** (To sing harmony, turn to # in the Lutheran Service Book)

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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**

## 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

\* 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** (To sing harmony, turn to # in the Lutheran Service Book)

## 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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**Happy Mother's day to all mothers!**

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

- Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – John Seglund
- Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – Dale Johnson & Terry Pedersen
- Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – Larry & Sue Davis

**and anniversaries:**

- Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – Dick & Marilyn Schneider

Best wishes!

**DONATED FURNITURE NEEDED: Katherine Lutz, our new DCE intern** will be joining us sometime in June when she moves here to Lake Oconee. In a conversation with Katherine, I asked her if she needed any furniture in order to furnish her new apartment. Perhaps, I thought, we can help her with this. There are several items of furniture that Katherine is still looking for. If you have any of the items listed below and would be willing to donate (give) them to Katherine for her new home, please call or email Pastor Steve first. We do not need duplicates of each item, so please be sure to call before you bring anything to church in order to be certain that it is still needed. Any items that you wish to donate should be clean and in good condition to be in her home, and of course, you will not get any items back. If you would like to donate an item, we can make arrangements to pick it up from your home and transport it (after the stay at home order is lifted).

Here is the list of what Katherine is looking for: bed, dresser, nightstand, coffee table, and a small kitchen table and chairs. Thank you.

--Pastor Steve



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

- **THE LORD'S PRAYER BIBLE CLASS: Wednesday 10:30 am on Zoom.** You might not realize it because of its brevity and familiarity, but the Lord's Prayer has a lot to teach us about the Christian faith. One of the disciples asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray" and in response to this question Jesus taught them this prayer. The Lord's Prayer is easily the world's favorite prayer, but it is so easy to say it every week and not really get to grips with Jesus's words - to understand the implications of what we are praying. According to St. Augustine (died. AD430), "Whatever else we say when we pray, if we pray as we should, we are only saying what is already contained in the Lord's Prayer." Join us on Wednesday mornings on Zoom at 10:30am as we look at the Lord's Prayer for our life today. Look for the email invitation that is sent out weekly from Constant Contact. If you are already on Zoom, our meeting ID, which stays the same each week, is 831 5261 5962.
- **ROMANS BIBLE CLASS:** Suspended
- **SUNDAY WORSHIP:** Online on church website, Facebook and YouTube channel

### *Worship & Gathering Update*

When the Church Council last met to discuss whether to discontinue "live" or in person worship, the motion authorized the discontinuation of public worship to the end of April. As that time approached, the council met through email to discuss whether or not to extend that hiatus. We noted that several things that were important to our discussion.

- Governor Kemp's executive order still standing in the State of Georgia declares a State of emergency and bans all non-profits from "gatherings of persons" until May 13, 2020.
- Georgia (despite Gov. Kemp's reopening order) still has not met the guidelines necessary to move into phase 1 of Pres. Trump's "Opening Up America Again" plan. The federal plan requires 14 days of declining numbers in new infections and deaths from COVID-19 for a state's entrance into Phase 1 of recovering. However Georgia, according to the CDC, still is experiencing

increases in both cases of COVID-19 and deaths as of April 27th.

- Upon communication with our sister, circuit congregations, we learned that none are planning to resume meeting in person until May 31st or early June in accordance with health concerns within our state.
- Many in our membership fall into the "at-risk" category due to health concerns.

Having reviewed all of these points, the Church Council voted to continue our practice of distance worship and Bible study through May 30, 2020 to be reviewed at that time based on then current trends. We will not meet in person but will continue to post worship opportunities online through the various platforms. This still leaves open the possibility of our first public worship being May 31st, Pentecost Sunday.

Worship will continue to be posted on Facebook, YouTube and on our website at [www.lakeoconeelutheran.org](http://www.lakeoconeelutheran.org). Please "follow" our Facebook page or "subscribe" to our YouTube channel to receive notifications when new content is published. You may visit the website at any time. We will also continue keeping our members informed through Constant Contact and offering Wednesday Bible Class through Zoom. [Watch for the Email with the link each week and join us.]

Finally please contact Pastor Steve if you have special needs or questions. Thank you.

## **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.