

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sixth 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.*

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

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, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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 1:1-11

R: In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and

said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13-22

R: ¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Please Stand

Common Alleluia

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

R: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

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)

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

Please stand as the offering is brought to the altar.

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!

+

Post-service Music

+

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

- Tuesday, May 19th – Evelyn Crockett & Lucie McNeil
- Thursday, May 14th – Larry & Sue Davis

and anniversaries:

- Monday, May 18th – Andrew & Alison Ringer
- Saturday, May 23rd – Deb & Steve Krahling

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: dresser, nightstand, coffee table and kitchen 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. 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.