

The Seventh Sunday of **Easter**

May 24, 2020

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Seventh Sunday of Easter
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

*God writes His Word on our Lives, building us into a Family engaged
in Spirit-filled Service.*



1089 Lake Oconee Parkway
Eatonton, GA 31024

Church Office: 706-485-4600

www.lakeoconeelutheran.org

Office email: lolcsec@plantationcable.net

Pastor Steven Hayden

Pastor's Cell: 515-360-5081

Pastor's email: revshayden@gmail.com

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 King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: Acts 1:12-26

R: ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶ "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ "For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“May his camp become desolate,
and let there be no one to dwell in it’;
and

“Let another take his office.’

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

R: ¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful.

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Please Stand

Common Alleluia

Holy Gospel: John 17:1-11

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

⁶ "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have

given me is from you. ⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

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

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

- Today, May 24th – Robin Larson
- Tuesday, May 26th – Sandy Langan
- Wednesday, May 27th – Jim McNeil

and anniversaries:

- Monday, May 25th – Mark & Monica Ketchie
Best wishes!

PASTOR OUT OF OFFICE: Pastor Steve will be out of town through Tuesday May 26th. If you are need of counseling, please contact your elder for guidance.

--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.