

This Sunday at St. Luke's
May 18, 2025

8:15 Holy Communion (said service)

**10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion with
hymns and anthem**
Steven Cagle, organist

The Fourth Sunday after Easter



Jesus encourages the disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit

**“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth”
(John 16:13).**

Pentecost anticipated

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus prepares the disciples for what would soon come to pass. After His death, resurrection and ascension, His physical presence would be withdrawn; however, they would not be alone. A Helper, a Comforter, was coming. We know that One as the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, which fell in a new way on Jesus' believing people 50 days after Easter. What greater gift can God bestow on His people than the gift of Himself. We don't walk alone. God above us. God beside us. God in us! The Comforter not only strengthens individual believers, He extends the work of Jesus by showing those outside the camp of salvation the truth of the Gospel and their need for a saviour.

COLLECT FOR EASTER 4

O ALMIGHTY God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – 1 St. James 1:17-21 (J.B. Phillips)

Hear God's Word and put it into practice: that is real religion

¹⁷ But every good endowment that we possess and every complete gift that we have received must come from above, from the Father of all lights, with whom there is never the slightest variation or shadow of inconsistency. By his own wish he made us his own sons through the Word of truth that we might be, so to speak, the first specimens of his new creation.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ In view of what he has made us then, dear brothers, let every man be quick to listen but slow to use his tongue, and slow to lose his temper. For man's temper is never the means of achieving God's true goodness.

²¹⁻²⁵ Have done, then, with impurity and every other evil which touches the lives of others, and humbly accept the message that God has sown in your hearts, and which can save your souls. Don't I beg you, only hear the message, but put it into practice; otherwise you are merely deluding yourselves. The man who simply hears and does nothing about it is like a man catching the reflection of his own face in a mirror. He sees himself, it is true, but he goes on with whatever he was doing without the slightest recollection of what sort of person he saw in the mirror. But the man who looks into the perfect mirror of God's law, the law of liberty (or freedom), and makes a habit of so doing, is not the man who sees and forgets. He puts that law into practice and he wins true happiness.

NOTE: Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father. One of God's gifts is that of a new life for those who turn to Him. This passage is a commentary on parts of the baptismal service. The baptized are new beings and "kind of first-fruit" of God's new creation. They are more likely to live according to the "righteousness of God" because they are prepared to hear and heed "the engrafted words" – God's commands. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. John 16:5-15 (J.B. Phillips)

Jesus promises the Spirit of truth

16⁵ Jesus said to his disciples, "Now the time has come for me to go away to the one who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' That is because you are so distressed at what I have told you. Yet I am telling you the simple truth when I assure you that it is a good thing for you that I should go away. For if I did not go away, the divine helper would not come to you. But if I go, then I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convince the world of the meaning of sin, of true goodness and of judgment. He will expose their sin because they do not believe in me; he will reveal true goodness for I am going away to the Father and you will see me no longer; and he will show them the meaning of judgment, for the spirit which rules this world will have been judged.

¹²⁻¹⁵ "I have much more to tell you but you cannot bear it now. Yet when that one I have spoken to you about comes—the Spirit of truth—he will guide you into everything that is true. For he will not be speaking of his own accord but exactly as he hears, and he will inform you about what is to come. He will bring glory to me for he will draw on my truth and reveal it to you. Whatever the Father possesses is also mine; that is why I tell you that he will draw on my truth and will show it to you."

NOTE: In this part of the Upper Room discourse our Lord is promising the disciples that He will send them the Holy Spirit. Truly this is the greatest of all good gifts. (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Job 19:21-27 (RSV)

Job Replies: I Know That My Redeemer Lives

19²¹ Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends,
for the hand of God has touched me!

²² Why do you, like God, pursue me?

Why are you not satisfied with my flesh?

²³ “Oh that my words were written!
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!
²⁴ Oh that with an iron pen and lead
they were graven in the rock for ever!
²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at last he will stand upon the earth;
²⁶ and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then from my flesh I shall see God,
²⁷ whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!

NOTE: This heart-rending, poignant passage is the high-water mark of Job's faith. It is a momentous expression of faith, perhaps the most significant one in the entire O.T. In spite of all the untoward things that have happened to him Job is unalterably certain that God, His Redeemer, is alive and able to save him. (William Sydnor)

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Options

In-church.

Online. Services are livestreamed on Facebook and available for viewing following the service on YouTube. To access both put “Parish Church of St. Luke, Blue Ridge, Ga.” In the search bar.



Tip of the Canterbury Cap to Neil McDonald for his work in relocating bookcases into the Yellow Room and for carpentry work in the new Choir Dressing Room.



JOIN THE CHOIR!

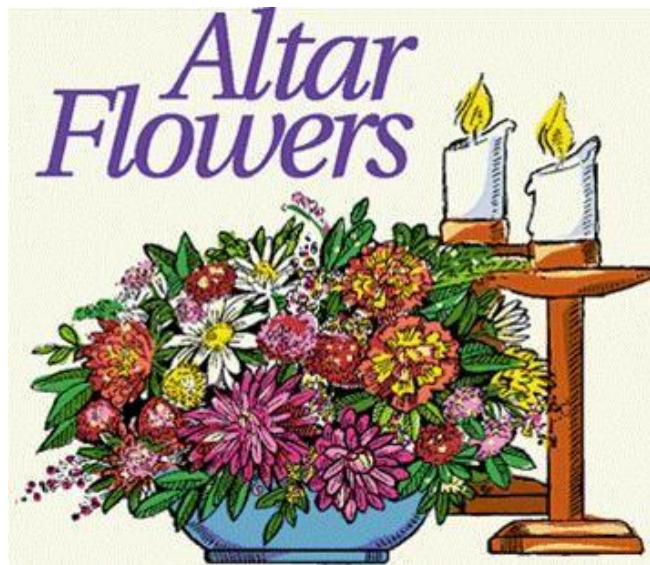


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



OUR MISSION

St. Luke's mission is to grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and to share our faith, our hands and hearts for the sake of the Gospel, our community and the world.



SIGN-UP FOR FLOWERS

A sign-up sheet for Altar flowers is available in Thomason Hall for 2025.

Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate.

Flowers are needed throughout the end of the year. Please email or call Diana Burden at the church office to sign up.

Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2025

As stewards of God's gifts and in gratitude for all blessings, I pledge the following amount to the work of Christ through St. Luke's Church for 2025

Name

Address

Amount

_____ Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Yearly

(Please tick the appropriate blank)



St. Luke's Church, "The Parish Church of the Mountains," 7 Ewing St., (POB 1821), Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513; (706) 632-8245;
www.stlukesblueridge.org; stlukes@tds.net.