



***This Sunday at St. Luke's
May 5, 2024***

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)

10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion with Hymns

George Atwell, organist

Randy Wilbur, bassoonist

**The Fifth Sunday after Easter
Rogation Sunday**



Blessing the Fields on Rogation Sunday at Hever, Kent in 1967

Asking for God's blessings

Rogation Sunday comes directly before the three Rogation (asking) Days, which follow in the Church Calendar on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Since the fifth century, these have been used as days of prayer for God's blessing on the crops. In some places, processions around the bounds of the parish are held. While the direct link between field and table have been lost because of modern transportation and agricultural methods, this Sunday remains a good time to pray for those who provide our food, be they near or far away. Ultimately, let us remember it is God Himself who gives us our daily bread.

THE COLLECT FOR EASTER 5

O LORD, from whom all good things do come; Grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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

Religion must be practical

²² 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.

²⁶ If anyone appears to be "religious" but cannot control his tongue, he deceives himself and we may be sure that his religion is useless.

²⁷ Religion that is pure and genuine in the sight of God the Father will show itself by such things as visiting orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

NOTE: This Epistle is a continuation of last Sunday's. It is on hearing and doing, on controlling the tongue, and closes with a definition of true religion. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL (H.C.) ^{23b-24} "I assure you that whatever you ask the Father he will give you in my name. Up to now you have asked nothing in my name; ask now, and you will receive, that your joy may be overflowing.

²⁵⁻²⁸ "I have been speaking to you in parables—but the time is coming to give up parables and tell you plainly about the Father. When that time comes, you will make

your requests to him in my own name, for I need make no promise to plead to the Father for you, for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. Yes, I did come from the Father and I came into the world. Now I leave the world behind and return to the Father.”

²⁹⁻³⁰ “Now you are speaking plainly,” cried the disciples, “and are not using parables. Now we know that everything is known to you—no more questions are needed. This makes us sure that you did come from God.”

³¹⁻³³ “So you believe in me now?” replied Jesus. “The time is coming, indeed, it has already come, when you will be scattered, every one of you going home and leaving me alone. Yet I am not really alone for the Father is with me. I have told you all this so that you may find your peace in me. You will find trouble in the world—but, never lose heart, I have conquered the world!”

NOTE: Here is Christ's wonderful promise to those who accept him as Lord: "If you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name" (v. 23). This is probably the only condition the Bible puts on God's bounty. (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Ezekiel 34:25-31 (RSV)

There shall be showers of blessings

34 ²⁵ “I will make with them a covenant of peace and banish wild beasts from the land, so that they may dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. ²⁶ And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing. ²⁷ And the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield its increase, and they shall be secure in their land; and they shall know that I am the Lord, when I break the bars of their yoke, and deliver them from the hand of those who enslaved them. ²⁸ They shall no more be a prey to the nations, nor shall the beasts of the land devour them; they shall dwell securely, and none shall make them afraid. ²⁹ And I will provide for them prosperous plantations so that they shall no more be consumed with hunger in the land, and no longer suffer the reproach of the nations. ³⁰ And they shall know that I, the Lord their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, says the Lord God. ³¹ And you are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, ^[d] and I am your God, says the Lord God.”

NOTE: The prophet closes a section on the shepherds [kings] of Israel and their sheep [Israel] to the kingdom [reign] of the Messiah, a time in which “there shall be showers of blessings.” This Kingdom

began with the arrival of Jesus and will come in its fullness when He comes again at the end of the age.

Sunday Worship Options

In-church.

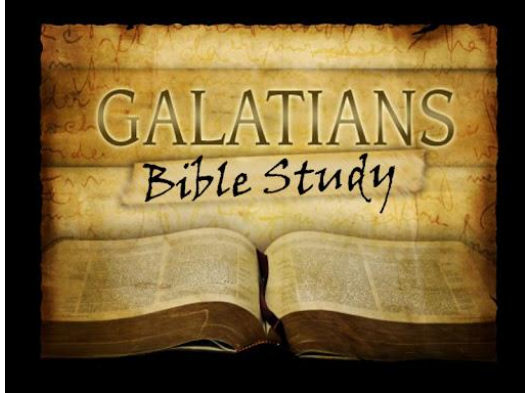
Drive-in. Those choosing this option are asked to remain in their automobile and listen to the service via their car radio (FM 98.1). Holy Communion will be provided.

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

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Sharing Tuesday – Bible Study continues on Tuesdays at 9:45 a.m. downstairs in the Yellow Room.

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GALATIANS STUDY CONTINUES
Galatians: A Manifesto of Freedom continues through Wednesday, May 15. D.J. Fulton is chairman of St. Luke's Education Committee.

FROM TERESA WANKEL:

In preparation for this Wednesday's Bible study, please read Galatians Chapter 4 and listen to Dr John Howe's lecture for that chapter.

Below is the Zoom link. Please contact Teresa Wankel at 404 375-6702 if you have any problems logging into the meeting.

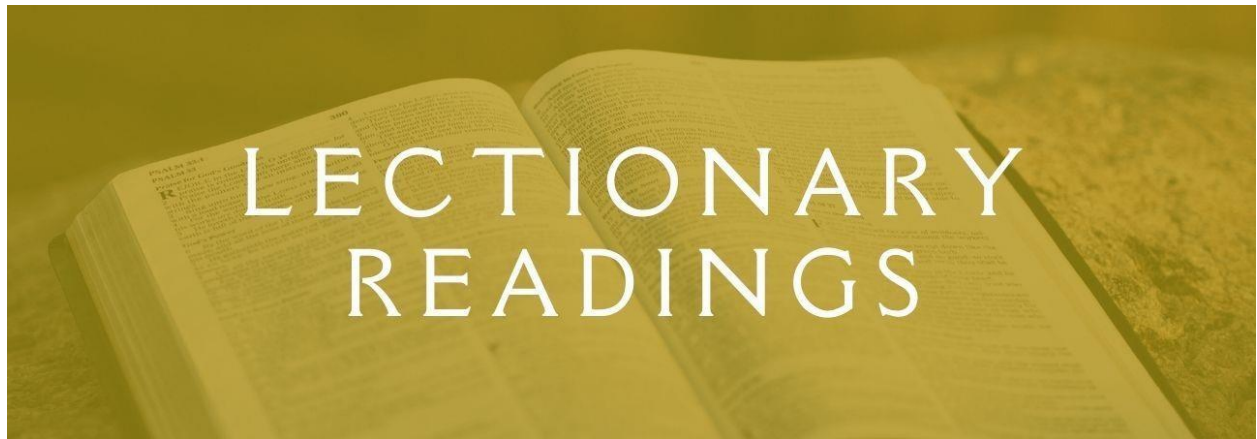


FUTURE FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCKS DATES

St. Luke's will have one service at 9:30 a.m. on Fifth Sundays with a potluck lunch following. Dates for future events are June 30; Sept 29; and Dec. 29.



Tip of the Canterbury Cap to John Watson for rototilling the garden behind the church for the Rector.



Sharing Tuesdays

A Preview of Sunday's Readings

9:45 a.m. Sharing Tuesdays is your turn !!!
There are no teachers; no leaders; no presentations;
no videos; no homework; no assignments. Just
COME and read the Bible together with your
brothers and sisters in Christ and share from your
heart. All thoughts, questions, uncertainties, feelings
are welcome.

CHOIR PRACTICE

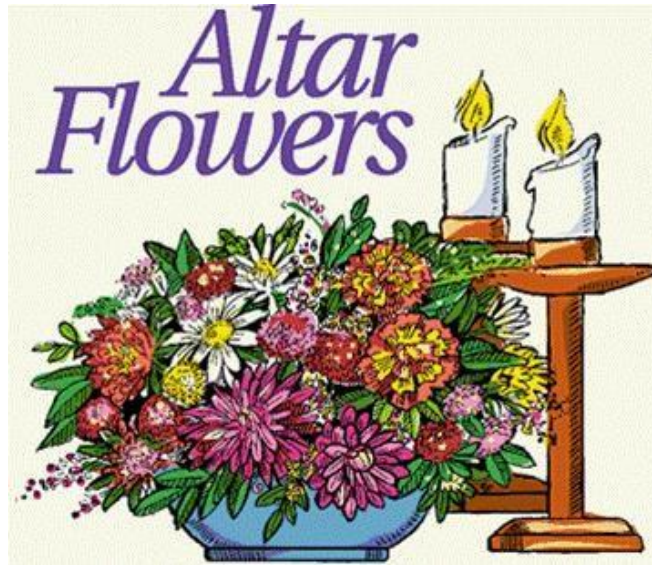


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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 2024.

Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate.

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

Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2024

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 2024

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;
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