



This Sunday at St. Luke's
October 4, 2026

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)
10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion with choir, organ and anthem
Steven Cagle organist

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity



Jesus sums up the Law

This Sunday's Gospel includes our Lord's summary of the Law. In a sense, here are the three baptismal promises (as found in the Prayer Book rite) These three are rolled into one: for to love God fully means always to give Him first place, always to trust Him

completely and always to do what He asks. This last would certainly including loving one's neighbor as oneself – for His sake.

This Gospel then records our Lord's counter question regarding the real identity of Jesus. Our Lord in this section showed His challengers their inadequate understanding of the scriptures. In so doing, in a positive direction, He challenged them to think more deeply, especially on the true nature of the Messiah. He is "a king who reigns yet a servant who suffers; a descendant of David, yet His Lord; a human champion, yet a divine Redeemer." One of the reasons we read and reflect on scripture in the Church is

to get a true picture of Jesus. Failure to do so can lead to a Jesus of our own understanding, often a Jesus who mirrors ourselves.

COLLECT FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

LORD, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil; and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE (H.C.) – 1 Corinthians 1:4-8 (J.B. Phillips)

Paul: I am thankful for your faith

⁴⁻⁹ I am always thankful to God for what the gift of his grace in Jesus Christ has meant to you—how, as the Christian message has become established among you, he has enriched your whole lives, from the words on your lips to the understanding in your hearts. And you have been eager to receive his gifts during this time of waiting for his final appearance. He will keep you steadfast in the faith to the end, so that when his day comes you need fear no condemnation. God is utterly dependable, and it is he who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

NOTE: This is the prayer with which the Epistle opens. In the course of it, Paul prays that his readers will be “enriched . . . in all knowledge. This knowledge should be taught and passed on to children and young people. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL (H.C.) – St. Matthew 22:34-46 (J.B. Phillips)

The greatest commandments in the Law

³⁴⁻³⁶ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees they came up to him in a body, and one of them, an expert in the Law, put this test-question: “Master, what are we to consider the Law’s greatest commandment?”

³⁷⁻⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind’. This is the first and great commandment. And there is a second like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’. The whole of the Law and the Prophets depends on these two commandments.”

Jesus puts an unanswerable question

⁴¹⁻⁴² Then Jesus asked the assembled Pharisees this question: “What is your opinion about Christ? Whose son is he? “The Son of David,” they answered.

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ “How then,” returned Jesus, “does David when inspired by the Spirit call him Lord? He says—‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool?’

⁴⁵ If David then calls him Lord, how can he be his son?”

⁴⁶ Nobody was able to answer this and from that day on no one dared to ask him any further questions.

NOTE: In His controversy with the Pharisees, Jesus refers to David's commitment to God's Messiah who would be more than his son according to the flesh. (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

FIRST LESSON – Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28, 32 (RSV)

Keep the commandments

¹⁸ “You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ¹⁹ And you shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ²⁰ And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates, ²¹ that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth. ²⁵ No man shall be able to stand against you; the Lord your God will lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that you shall tread, as he promised you.

²⁶ “Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse: ²⁷ the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day, ²⁸ and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods which you have not known.

³² You shall be careful to do all the statutes and the ordinances which I set before you this day.

NOTE: The children of Israel are enjoined to keep the commandments and in the course of living by them to teach them unto their children. (William Sydnor)

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Lector (OT) – Kathryn Noblett

Lector (Epistle) – John Kautz

Acolyte – Reed Ferrell

Verger – Dr. Alvin Cash

Ushers – *put your name in this blank!*

(New usher volunteers and altar servers are needed! Why not put your name in this blank? Speak to Tim Kirby about being an usher; to Jim about being a being a reader or acolyte.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN FOUR WEEKS



Gifted Bible teacher Charles Lutz is leading a four-week Bible study entitled "**The Old Testament in Four Weeks: History and Literature**" on Thursdays through Oct. 8. Gather at 5:30 p.m. for a meal. Study will follow at 6 p.m. Please invite a friend to come with you.



OLD FASHIONED SUNDAY SCHOOL

“These Things We Believe: A Look at the Nicene Creed”

Grab a cup of coffee and join us!

Adult Sunday school will meet at 9:15 a.m. in the Skelton Conference Room in the Parish House next door. The study for the next few weeks will focus on the Nicene Creed. A video series featuring RC Bishop Barron will be used. The Rector will be the facilitator.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

September and October.

- **The Old Testament in Four Weeks, Charles Lutz instructor** – Thursdays, Sept. 17- Oct. 8, Meal at 5:30 p.m. Study at 6 p.m.
- **WSL Fall Bible Study** – Wednesdays, Sept. 30 – Nov. 4 at 10 a.m.
- **SLMG Monthly Meeting** – **Saturday**, Oct. 3, at 10 a.m.
- **Annual Church Picnic** – Sunday, Oct. 11, following the 10:30 a.m. service.
- **Eastern Orthodox Divine Liturgy** – Sunday, Oct. 11 and 25, at 2 p.m.
- **Young Harris Concert** – Sunday, Oct. 18, at 6 p.m.
- **St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles** – Wednesday, Oct. 28, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2027

Your rector and vestry are looking ahead to 2027 which will mark St. Luke's 40th anniversary. On Sunday, June 7, 1987, the very first service was held in the old Blue Ridge City Hall with the Rev. Mr. Morgan officiating. Various activities are being planned to mark this milestone.

As the Rector (who is turning 70 in December) has indicated a desire to transition to Rector Emeritus status in August or September of next year, Senior Warden Kevin Sartain is appointing a Transition Committee who will be tasked with identifying suitable candidates for the position. Mr. Sartain will chair this committee. Non-negotiable will be that all Rector candidates will be outward-looking Gospel men keen on mission. This committee will include both members of the Vestry and men and women from the congregation. Candidates will be brought to the Vestry for consideration. In the meantime, business will continue as usual with the celebration of St. Luke's 40th anniversary at the forefront. The Lord who has done great things in the past continues to guide and direct.

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 D. J. Fulton for keeping the church's finances in order.



JOIN THE CHOIR!



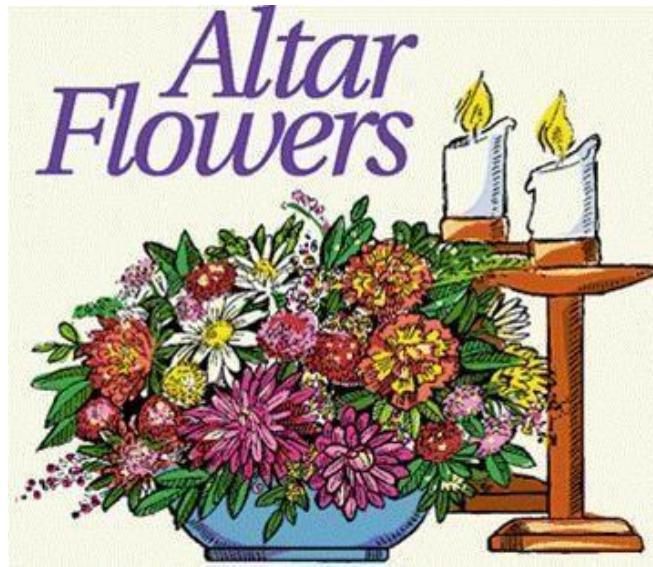
For information, contact, Diana Burden Mark at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



The Anglican Relief
and Development Fund

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 Kathryn Noblett at the church office to sign up.

Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2027

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 2027.

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.