



This Sunday at St. Luke's

March 15, 2026

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

10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion with hymns, choir and anthem

Steven Cagle, organist; Cheryl Star, flautist

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Background to Mothering Sunday



Mothering Sunday was originally a time when people returned to the church in which they were baptized or where they attended services when they were children. This meant that families were reunited. In time, it became customary for young people who were working as servants in large houses to be given a holiday on Mothering Sunday.

They could use this day to visit their own mother and often took a gift of food or hand-me-down clothing from their employers to her. In turn, this

moved towards the modern holiday on which mothers are remembered and honoured.

In pre-Reformation times, Lent was kept more strictly than it is today. People did not eat sweet, rich foods or meat during this season. However, the fast was lifted slightly on Mothering Sunday, and many people prepared a Simnel cake to eat with their family on this day.



A Simnel cake is a light fruit cake covered with a layer of marzipan and with a layer of marzipan baked into the middle of the cake. Traditionally, Simnel cakes are decorated with 11 balls of marzipan, representing the disciples minus Judas. One legend says that the cake was named after

Lambert Simnel who worked in the kitchens of Henry VII of England sometime around the year 1500.

THE COLLECT FOR LENT 4

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

THE COLLECT FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – Galatians 4:21-31 (J.B. Phillips)

We are sons and daughters of freedom

²¹ Now tell me, you who want to be under the Law, have you heard what the Law says?
²²⁻²⁷ It is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave and the other by the free woman. The child of the slave was born in the ordinary course of nature, but the child of the free woman was born in accordance with God's promise. This can be regarded as an allegory. Here are the two agreements represented by the two women: the one from Mount Sinai bearing children into slavery, typified by Hagar (Mount Sinai being in Arabia, the land of the descendants of Ishmael, Hagar's son), and corresponding to present-day Jerusalem—for the Jews are still, spiritually speaking,

“slaves”. But the free woman typifies the heavenly Jerusalem, which is the mother of us all, and is spiritually “free”. It is written: ‘Rejoice, O barren, you who do not bear! Break forth and shout, you who do not travail! For the desolate has many more children than she who has a husband.’

²⁸⁻³⁰ Now we, my brothers, are like Isaac, for we are children born “by promise”. But just as in those far-off days the natural son persecuted the “spiritual” son, so it is today. Yet what is the scriptural instruction? ‘Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.’ ³¹ So then, my brothers, we are not to look upon ourselves as the sons of the slave woman but of the free, not sons of slavery under the Law but sons of freedom under grace.

NOTE: One name for this Sunday is “Mothering Sunday,” which is vaguely suggested by “Jerusalem which is above is . . . the mother of us all” (v.26). (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. John 6:1-14 (J.B. Phillips)

Jesus satisfies the hungry

6¹⁻⁶ After this Jesus crossed the Lake of Galilee (or Lake Tiberias), and a great crowd followed him because they had seen signs which he gave in his dealings with the sick. But Jesus went up the hillside and sat down there with his disciples. The Passover, the Jewish festival, was near. So Jesus, raising his eyes and seeing a great crowd on the way towards him, said to Philip, “Where can we buy food for these people to eat?” (He said this to test Philip, for he himself knew what he was going to do.)

7-8 Ten pounds’ worth of bread would not be enough for them,” Philip replied, “even if they had only a little each.”

8-9 Then Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, another disciple, put in, “There is a boy here who has five small barley loaves and a couple of fish, but what’s the good of that for such a crowd?”

10a Then Jesus said, “Get the people to sit down.”

10b-12 There was plenty of grass there, and the men, some five thousand of them, sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks for them and distributed them to the people sitting on the grass, and he distributed the fish in the same way, giving them as much as they wanted. When they had eaten enough, Jesus said to his disciples, “Collect the pieces that are left over so that nothing is wasted.”

¹³⁻¹⁴ So they did as he suggested and filled twelve baskets with the broken pieces of the five barley loaves, which were left over after the people had eaten! When the men saw this sign of Jesus' power, they kept saying, "This certainly is the Prophet who was to come into the world!"

NOTE: This Sunday is known also as "Refreshment Sunday" – a time to let up on Lenten disciplines and catch one's breath. It is partly suggested by the account of the feeding of the five thousand. Jesus' compassion for the hungry, tired, multitude (Mark 6:34) so impressed the Gospel writers that the story is told and retold six times. (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Exodus 16:4-15 (RSV)

Bread from Heaven

16 They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. ² And the whole congregation of the people of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³ and said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." ⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your murmurings against the Lord. For what are we, that you murmur against us?" ⁸ And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you in the evening flesh to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your murmurings which you murmur against him—what are we? Your murmurings are not against us but against the Lord."

⁹ And Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, 'Come near before the Lord, for he has heard your murmurings.'" ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ And the Lord said to Moses, ¹² "I have heard the murmurings of the people of Israel; say to them,

‘At twilight you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning dew lay round about the camp. ¹⁴ And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as hoarfrost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat.

NOTE: God provides for the children of Israel in the wilderness. The giving of manna and the feeding of the five thousand are events which, whatever the details, profoundly impressed men that God strengthens and refreshes His people. (William Sydnor)

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Preacher: The Rector

A representative of the Gideons of Fannin County will be present this Sunday. Those wishing to contribute in their Bible ministry will have the opportunity.

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Lector (Old Testament), Jim Noblett

Epistle – Joe Hartley

Acolyte – Deacon Reed Ferrell

Vergers – Dr. Alvin Cash

Ushers – Tim Kirby and (put your name here!)

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

March and April

- **Eastern Orthodox Service** – Sunday, Mar. 22, at 2 p.m.
- **WSL Bi-Monthly Meeting** – Wed. Mar. 11, at 9:30 a.m.
- **Gideon Sunday** – Mar. 15 at 10:15 a.m. service.
- **Vestry Meeting** – Mar. 22, after the 10:15 a.m. service.

- **The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** – Wed. Mar. 25, Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **Palm Sunday** – Mar. 29. 8:15 a.m. service to start at **8:00 a.m.** to bless the palms.
- **Monday in Holy Week** – Mar. 30, Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **Tuesday in Holy Week** – Mar. 31, Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **Maundy Thursday** – Apr. 2, at 5:30 p.m.
- **Good Friday** – Apr. 3 at noon.
- **Easter Day** – Apr. 5, Services at 8:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
- **SLMG Monthly Meeting** – Tuesday, Apr. 7 at 11 a.m.
- **Fellowship Luncheon** – Sunday, Apr. 12, following the 10:15 a.m. service.
- **Teaching Tuesday, The Church Sacraments and Rites** - Tuesdays, Apr. 14 - May 19, at 10 a.m.
- **Vestry Meeting** – Sunday, Apr. 26, following the 10:15 a.m. service.

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 members of St. Luke’s Men’s Group (Neil McDonald, Gordon Bailey, Todd Lyons, Jordan Van Horn, Jim Noblett and Tom Wall) for constructing a ramp into Deacon Tony McConnell’s house.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED – DONATE A CHILDREN’S BOOK

WSL Women of St. Luke's book drive to benefit The Craddock Center continues this week. Please bring books for children 0 to 5 years old to the collection box downstairs.

JOIN THE CHOIR!

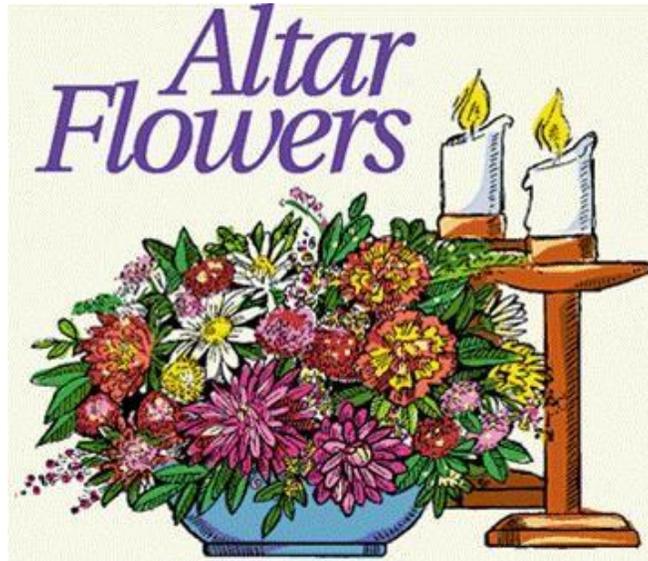


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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 Kathryn Noblett at the church office to sign up.

Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2026

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;
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