

This Sunday at St. Luke's
May 10, 2026

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

10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion with hymns and special music

Musician: Charles Lutz

The Fifth Sunday after Easter
(Rogation Sunday)



**History of
Mother's Day**

Anna Jarvis from Philadelphia is credited with being the force behind the establishment of Mother's Day in America. While not a part of the liturgical calendar, the day is widely observed in American congregations with red flowers given to mothers whose own mother is alive and white ones given to those whose mother is deceased. Not so common as it once was is

the custom of giving mothers and grandmothers corsages to wear to church on this day.

The way American Mother's Day began

Anna Jarvis wished to memorialize her mother's life and started campaigning for a national day to honor all mothers. "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day, commemorating her for the matchless service she renders to humanity in every field of life," Anna Jarvis once said. "She is entitled to it."

Anna's ideas were less about public service and more about simply honoring the role of motherhood and the sacrifices made in the home. She bombarded public figures and various civic organizations with telegrams, letters, and in-person discussions. She addressed groups large and small. At her own expense, she wrote, printed, and distributed booklets extolling her idea.

In May of 1907, Anna memorialized her mother's lifelong activism with a memorial service held at the Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, where Anna's mother had taught. The following year, on May 10, a Mother's Day service was held at that same church to acknowledge all mothers. Thus was born the idea that the second Sunday in May be set aside to honor every mother, whether living or deceased.

Her efforts came to the attention of the mayor of Philadelphia, who proclaimed a local Mother's Day. From the local level, she went on to Washington, D.C. The politicians there knew a good thing when they saw it and were quick to lend verbal support.

While West Virginia was the first state to officially adopt the holiday, others followed suit. Proclamation of the day by the various states led Representative J. Thomas Heflin of Alabama and Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas to present a joint resolution to Congress that Mother's Day be observed nationwide. The resolution was passed by both houses.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill designating the second Sunday in May as a legal holiday to be called "Mother's Day"—dedicated "to the best mother in the world, your mother." For the first few years, the day was observed as a legal holiday, but in absolute simplicity and reverence—church services were held in honor of all mothers, living and dead. (condensed from *The Farmer's Almanac*).

Why is Easter 5 called Rogation Sunday

In the Upper Room discourse recorded in the Gospel for the Fifth Sunday after Easter, Jesus instructed His disciples to ask. "Rogation" comes from a Latin word meaning to ask. Specifically, Jesus said to ask in His name: *In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name.* (John 16:23)

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.



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

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 – 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. If anyone appears to be "religious" but cannot control his tongue, he deceives himself and we may be sure that his religion is useless. 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 – St. John 16:23-33 (J.B. Phillips)

Jesus promises love, joy and peace

16 ^{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 READING

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

There shall be showers of blessings.

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 blessing.” This Kingdom began with the arrival of Jesus and will come in its fullness when He comes again at the end of the age. (William Sydnor)

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Preacher: The Rector

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Lector – Al Cash

Acolyte – Jim Noblett

Verger – Dr. Alvin Cash

Ushers – Tim Kirby and Jennifer Higdon

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- **Teaching Tuesday, The Church Sacraments and Rites** - Tuesdays, Apr. 14 - May 19, at 10 a.m. For more information, contact DJ Fulton. 770-713-4202.
- **REFRESH** – Genesis study, Charles Lutz – Thursday, May 7, 5:30 p.m. (first in a six-week study)
- **Eastern Orthodox Services** – May 10 and 24, at 2 p.m.
- **WSL Bi-Monthly Meeting** – Wednesday, May 13, at 9:30 a.m.
- **Ascension** – Thursday, May 14, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **Vestry Meeting** – Sunday, May 24, following the 10:15 service.
- **Fellowship Luncheon** – Sunday, May 31, following the 10:15 service.

GENESIS AND CREATION CLASS BEGINS THURSDAY,

MAY 7

Synopsis:

This class meets once a week for 6 weeks. It covers the entire book of Genesis, which is so foundational to an understanding of and earth and civilization are contained in Chapters 1-11, and then the beginnings of the nation of Israel through the lives of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are covered in Chapters 12-50, the last several chapters of which is the story of Joseph, ending with the young nation residing prosperously in Egypt, which is however, not their promised land.



The Instructor:

Charles Lutz, 63 years old, lives in Blairsville, but is from Indiana. For the past 31 years, he has put his seminary training to use in a variety of Christian ministries. He currently is a visiting instructor at a Native American Bible college, and is a writer and musician. He loves teaching passionately about

both books God has written: the Bible and Creation!

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 Jennifer Higdon for graphic design of St. Luke's promotional flyers.



JOIN THE CHOIR!

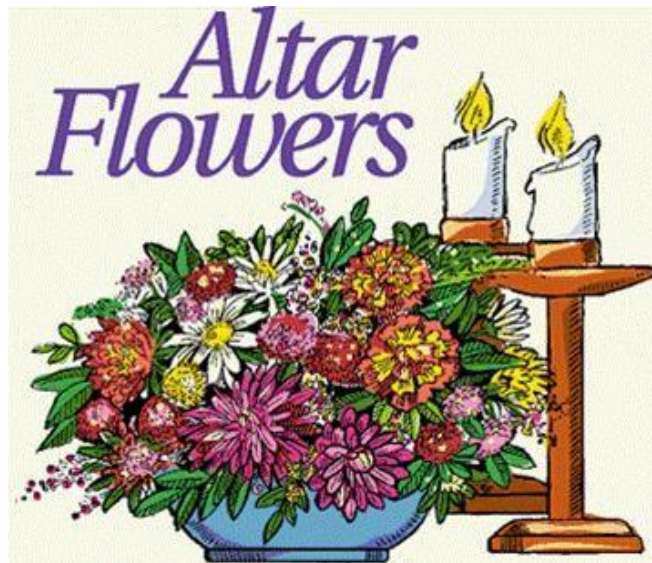


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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)



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