



This Sunday at St. Luke's
March 1, 2026

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)
10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion with hymns, choir
Steven Cagle, organist; Kim Stockdale, Celloist

Second Sunday in Lent



**PERSISTANT
PRAYER**

Much ink has been spent speculating why Jesus did not heal the Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter immediately in the story found in this Sunday's Gospel. Why all the wordplay, the banter back and forth between the woman and Jesus, before He granted her request? Many answers have been given, none completely satisfying but interesting. What we

should not miss in this account is two-fold: God's care extends to all people. In the fullness of time the call of the Gospel would go forth to all nations, and the importance of persistence in asking, she just would not be silenced, 'ask and ye shall be given' is illustrated in her approach to Jesus. (VHM)

COLLECT FOR LENT 2

ALMIGHTY God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

COLLECT FOR THE 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 – 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (J.B. Phillips)

Purity in living

4 ¹⁻² To sum up, my brothers, we beg and pray you by the Lord Jesus, that you continue to learn more and more of the life that pleases God, the sort of life we told you about before. You will remember the instructions we gave you then in the name of the Lord Jesus.

³⁻⁸ God's plan is to make you holy, and that entails first of all a clean cut with sexual immorality. Every one of you should learn to control his body, keeping it pure and treating it with respect, and never regarding it as an instrument for self-gratification, as do pagans with no knowledge of God. You cannot break this rule without in some way cheating your fellowmen. And you must remember that God will punish all who do offend in this matter, and we have warned you how we have seen this work out in our experience of life. The calling of God is not to impurity but to the most thorough purity, and anyone who makes light of the matter is not making light of man's ruling but of God's command. It is not for nothing that the Spirit God gives us is called the Holy Spirit.

NOTE: St. Paul gives ethical instruction and exhortation. His specific advice is an explanation of how Christians "ought to walk [live] and to please God." (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. Matthew 15:21-28 (J.B. Phillips)

A gentile's faith in Jesus

15²¹⁻²² Jesus left that place and retired into the Tyre and Sidon district. There a Canaanite woman from those parts came to him crying at the top of her voice, "Lord, have pity on me! My daughter is in a terrible state—a devil has got into her!"

²³ Jesus made no answer, and the disciples came up to him and said, “Do send her away—she’s still following us and calling out.”

²⁴ “I was only sent,” replied Jesus, “to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

²⁵ Then the woman came and knelt at his feet. “Lord, help me,” she said.

²⁶ “It is not right, you know,” Jesus replied, “to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord, I know, but even the dogs live on the scraps that fall from their master’s table!”

²⁸ “You certainly don’t lack faith,” returned Jesus, “it shall be as you wish.” And at that moment her daughter was cured.

NOTE: At one point in Jesus’ ministry He left Galilee and took His disciples forty-five miles west through the mountains to the Mediterranean seacoast. Yet, as St. Mark states, He “could not be hid” (7:24) and the mother of a sick child found Him. The incident says to us that even this stranger recognized that one’s health – indeed, one’s very life – is somehow bound up with faith in the Lord. (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – 1 Kings 8:37-43 (RSV)

A portion of Solomon’s prayer at the dedication of the Temple

8³³ “When thy people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they have sinned against thee, if they turn again to thee, and acknowledge thy name, and pray and make supplication to thee in this house; ³⁴ then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again to the land which thou gavest to their fathers.

³⁵ “When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against thee, if they pray toward this place, and acknowledge thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them, ³⁶ then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, thy people Israel, when thou dost teach them the good way in which they should walk; and grant rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people as an inheritance.

³⁷ “If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar; if their enemy besieges them in any^[b] of their cities; whatever plague, whatever sickness there is; ³⁸ whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by any man or by all thy people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart and stretching out his hands toward this house; ³⁹ then hear thou in heaven thy

dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and render to each whose heart thou knowest, according to all his ways (for thou, thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men); ⁴⁰ that they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest to our fathers.

⁴¹ “Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of thy people Israel, comes from a far country for thy name’s sake ⁴² (for they shall hear of thy great name, and thy mighty hand, and of thy outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³ hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to thee; in order that all the peoples of the earth may know thy name and fear thee, as do thy people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name.

NOTE: This is a part of Solomon’s prayer (vv. 22-53) on the occasion of the dedication of the newly built Temple in Jerusalem. He prays that even the foreigner who turns to God in prayer may be heard. (William Sydnor)

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Lector (Old Testament), Daniel Foster

Epistle – Kathryn Noblett

Acolyte – Reed Ferrell

Vergers – Dr. Alvin Cash

Ushers – Roger and Teresa and Steven Wankel

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

March and April

- **Eastern Orthodox Service** – Sunday, Mar. 8, and Mar. 22, at 2 p.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.

- **Maunday Thursday** – Apr. 2, at 5:30 p.m.
- **Good Friday** – Apr. 3 at noon ; Community Service at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran at 5:30 p.m.
- **Easter Day** – Apr. 5, Services at 8:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
- **Fellowship Luncheon** – Sunday, Apr. 12, following the 10:15 a.m. service.
- **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 Judy Brooten and her work in facilitating Christian education for the Women of St. Luke’s.



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!

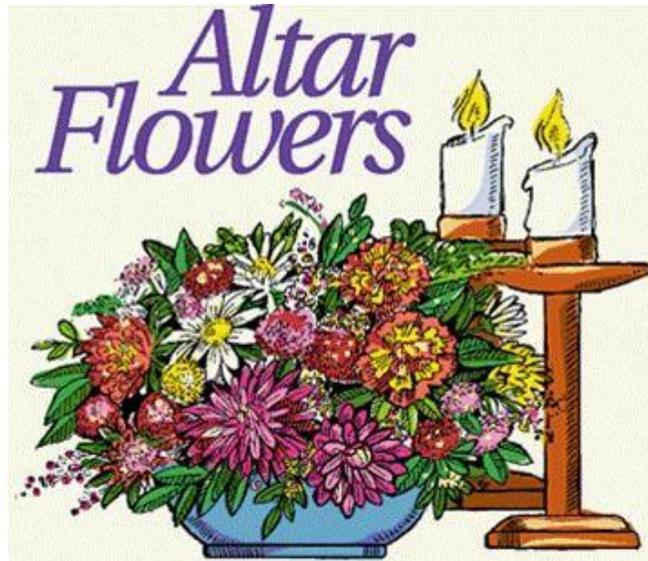


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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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