



***This Sunday at St. Luke's
September 29, 2024***

9:30 a.m. – Holy Communion with Hymns and Anthem

St. Michael and All Angels

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity



ST. MICHAEL AND THE DEVIL

As you approach Coventry Cathedral (Coventry, England), you are overlooked by the rather imposing bronze statues of St. Michael and the Devil on the southern end of the east wall. (Ecclesiastically speaking, the west end of the south wall.) It was sculpted by Sir Jacob Epstein who died in 1959, and therefore did not live to see his masterpiece unveiled by his wife, Lady Epstein, on June 24, 1960.

The choice of Epstein for the work was controversial. One member of the cathedral's Reconstruction Committee, remarked "But he is a Jew." Sir Basil Spence, architect of the new cathedral, retorted, "So was Jesus Christ." And so Epstein was commissioned to do the sculpture. The sculpture depicts the triumph of the Archangel Michael over the Devil (Revelation 12:7-12).

COLLECT FOR ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

O EVERLASTING God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order; Mercifully grant that, as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so, by thy appointment, they may succour and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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.*

FOR THE EPISTLE – Revelation 12:7-12 (J.B. Phillips)

Michael defeats the dragon

¹²Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹²Rejoice then, O heaven and you that dwell therein! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

NOTE: In the poetic imagery of the last book of the Bible we have an account of a heavenly conflict. Michael, like Gabriel (Luke 1:19), is one of heaven’s archangels. He is also Israel’s angelic warrior and guardian. Michael defeats and expels the devil from heaven on behalf of God’s chosen people. The conflict with evil on earth still has to be carried out but God’s ultimate victory is assured. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. Matthew 18:1-10 (J.B. Phillips)

Jesus commends the simplicity of children

¹⁸It was at this time that the disciples came to Jesus with the question, “Who is really greatest in the kingdom of Heaven?”

²⁻⁴Jesus called a little child to his side and set him on his feet in the middle of them all. “Believe me,” he said, “unless you change your whole outlook and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven. It is the man who can be as humble as this little child who is greatest in the kingdom of Heaven.

⁵⁻⁷ “Anyone who welcomes one child like this for my sake is welcoming me. But if anyone leads astray one of these little children who believe in me he would be better off thrown into the depths of the sea with a mill-stone hung round his neck! Alas for the world with its pitfalls! In the nature of things there must be pitfalls. yet alas for the man who is responsible for them!

The right way may mean costly sacrifice

⁸⁻⁹ “If your hand or your foot is a hindrance to your faith, cut it off and throw it away. It is a good thing to go into life maimed or crippled—rather than to have both hands and feet and be thrown on to the everlasting fire. Yes, and if your eye leads you astray, tear it out and throw it away. It is a good thing to go one-eyed into life—rather than to have both your eyes and be thrown on the fire of the rubbish heap.

¹⁰⁻¹¹ “Be careful that you never despise a single one of these little ones—for I tell you that they have angels who see my Father’s face continually in Heaven.”

NOTE: The passage holds up standards of whole-hearted dedication in Christian living and at the same time warns against a slighting attitude toward weak brethren. In heavenly places their angels are worthy and not-to-be-despised ministers. (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – 2 Kings 6:8-23 (RSV)

Syrian attack is thwarted

⁸ Once when the king of Syria was warring against Israel, he took counsel with his servants, saying, “At such and such a place shall be my camp.” ⁹ But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, “Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are going down there.” ¹⁰ And the king of Israel sent to the place of which the man of God told him. Thus he used to warn him, so that he saved himself there more than once or twice.

¹¹ And the mind of the king of Syria was greatly troubled because of this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, “Will you not show me who of us is for the king of Israel?” ¹² And one of his servants said, “None, my lord, O king; but Eli’sha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedchamber.” ¹³ And he said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him.” It was told him, “Behold, he is in Dothan.” ¹⁴ So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army; and they came by night, and surrounded the city.

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was round about the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” ¹⁶ He said, “Fear not, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” ¹⁷ Then Eli’sha prayed, and said, “O Lord, I pray

thee, open his eyes that he may see.” So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Eli’sha.

NOTE: This passage reminds us of the reality of the host of heavenly warriors. At most times, they are unseen, yet always on the job. Rejoice, over you are watching more than human eye can see. (William Sydnor)

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

God Has You Covered

Options

In-church.

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.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Exploring Faith

Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

(NO CLASS THIS WEEK - Will resume Sunday, October 13)

*The class is intended for those wishing more information about Christian Faith and the Anglican Way, including those who are considering affiliating more formally with St. Luke's. All, however, are welcome. This week's topic will be: **The Sacraments of the Gospel – Part 2, Holy Communion.** The Rector will be the facilitator.*

Teaching Tuesdays New Bible Study – Learning from Proverbs

September 10 – October 15, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Yellow Room

Session 3 Anger, Judy Brooten, facilitator

Women’s Bible Study – *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven*

Book used in the study is by Dr. David Jeremiah

Wednesdays, Sept. 25 – Oct. 30, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Yellow Room

Book is \$20; Workbook is \$10



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 Sept 29 and Dec. 29.



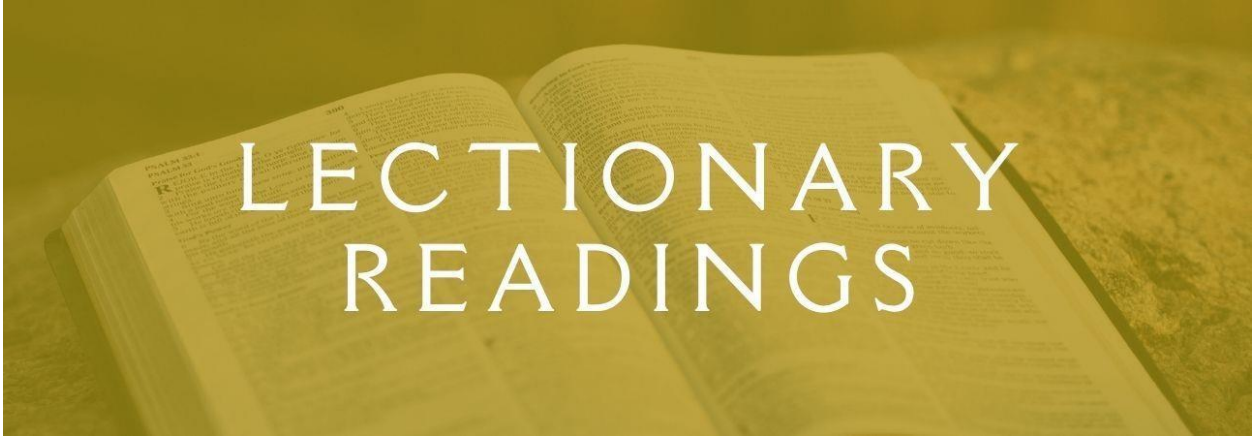
Tip of the Canterbury Cap to Gail Lyons for chairing this month’s Outreach Committee Meeting.



5th SUNDAY BRUNCH
September 29, 2024

Join us September 29, at 9:30 a.m. for a fifth Sunday combined service followed by a fall potluck brunch. Fun food like crusty bread, sausages, kielbasa, fall veggies, etc. will be the fare. We will be serving an Oktoberfest/autumnal menu. A sign-up sheet will soon be available in Thomason Hall. A fun time will be had by all!





LECTIONARY READINGS

CHOIR PRACTICE

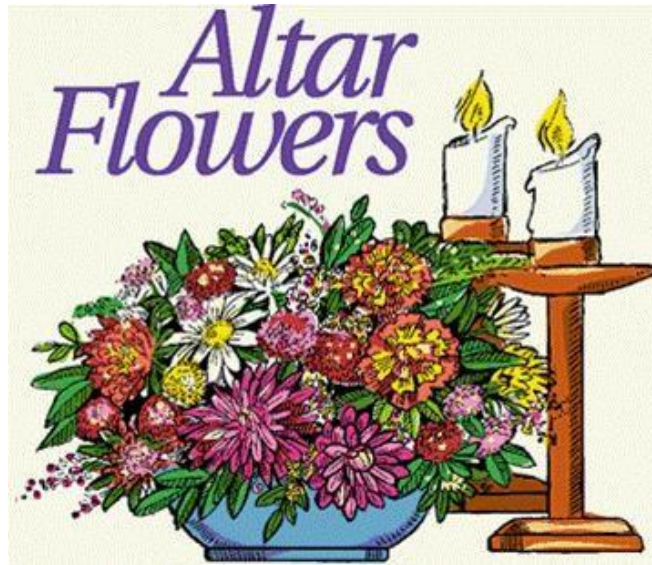


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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;
www.stlukesblueridge.org; stlukes@tds.net.