



***This Sunday at St. Luke's*
*February 15, 2026***

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

10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion with hymns, choir and organ
Steven Cagle, organist

Quinquagesima
(The Sunday next before Lent)



Christian Service

Quinquagesima is the Latin for fiftieth; it is exactly 50 days to Easter.

Collect: “that most excellent gift of charity.” Today “charity” means giving to good causes, and the good causes themselves are often called “charities”, but in 1549 when the first Prayer Book was

compiled, the word had a wider meaning and expressed the idea of love as set forth by Jesus.

Unfortunately the word “love”, which we must use because there is no other, has its drawbacks too; it can mean one thing on the cinema screen, another in everyday talk, and yet another in church. Loving in our Lord’s sense is not simply being fond of things or people, nor is it a sloppy sentiment. It is activity rather than feeling – doing all the good you can, to every one you can, in every way you can. The Epistle for

Quinquagesima sets out what Christian love means. Notice how, in this kind of love, activities are turned away from self towards others and their well-being.

As Quinquagesima is the Sunday immediately before Lent, the Collect and Epistle may have been chosen with the keeping of Lent in mind. Self-denial, fasting, and all the disciplines of Lent are valuable and important, but they can be obeyed for the wrong reasons. The only reason is to help each Christian to live a fuller life and so be better fitted to play his part in building the true Kingdom of God.

Jesus not only gave His disciples the new commandment of love – love for God and love for others – He practised it Himself. The Gospel shows both Jesus' patience with the disciples and His willingness to hear the cry of a blind beggar. (H.W. Dobson)

COLLECT FOR QUINQUAGESIMA

O LORD, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – 1 Corinthians 13 (J.B. Phillips)

Christian love—the highest and best gift

13 ¹⁻³ If I speak with the eloquence of men and of angels, but have no love, I become no more than blaring brass or crashing cymbal. If I have the gift of foretelling the future and hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but the very secrets of God, and if I also have that absolute faith which can move mountains, but have no love, I amount to nothing at all. If I dispose of all that I possess, yes, even if I give my own body to be burned, but have no love, I achieve precisely nothing.

4 This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience—it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive: it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance.

5-6 Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy. It does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad with all good men when truth prevails.

7-8a Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen.

All gifts except love will be superseded one day

8b-10 For if there are prophecies they will be fulfilled and done with, if there are “tongues” the need for them will disappear, if there is knowledge it will be swallowed up in truth. For our knowledge is always incomplete and our prophecy is always incomplete, and when the complete comes, that is the end of the incomplete.

¹¹ When I was a little child I talked and felt and thought like a little child. Now that I am a man my childish speech and feeling and thought have no further significance for me.

¹² At present we are men looking at puzzling reflections in a mirror. The time will come when we shall see reality whole and face to face! At present all I know is a little fraction of the truth, but the time will come when I shall know it as fully as God now knows me!

¹³ In this life we have three great lasting qualities—faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love.

NOTE: This is St. Paul's great hymn in praise and description of Christian love. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. Luke 18:31-43 (J.B. Phillips)

Jesus foretells his death and resurrection

³¹⁻³³ Then Jesus took the twelve on one side and spoke to them, “Listen to me. We are now going up to Jerusalem and everything that has been written by the prophets about the Son of Man will come true. For he will be handed over to the heathen, and he is going to be jeered at and insulted and spat upon, and then they will flog and kill him. But he will rise again on the third day.”

³⁴ But they did not understand any of this, His words were quite obscure to them and they had no idea of what he meant.

On the way to Jericho he heals a blind beggar

³⁵⁻³⁸ Then, as he was approaching Jericho, it happened that there was a blind man sitting by the roadside, begging. He heard the crowd passing and enquired what it was all about. And they told him, “Jesus the man from Nazareth is going past you.” So he shouted out, “Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!”

³⁹ Those who were in front tried to hush his cries. But that made him call out all the more, “Son of David, have pity on me!”

⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ So Jesus stood quite still and ordered the man to be brought to him. And when he was quite close, he said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” “Lord, make me see again,” he cried.

⁴²⁻⁴³ “You can see again! Your faith has cured you,” returned Jesus. And his sight was restored at once, and he followed Jesus, praising God. All the people who saw it thanked God too.

NOTE: Our Lord clothes loving concern in flesh and blood as He reaches out to the blind man whom He could easily have ignored. (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 (RSV)

Love for neighbor

And the LORD said to Moses,² “Say to all the congregation of the people of Israel, You shall be holy; for I the LORD your God am holy.

⁹ “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field to its very border, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰ And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.

¹¹ “You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. ¹² And you shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

¹³ “You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. ¹⁴ You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

¹⁵ “You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go up and down as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand forth against the life^[a] of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

¹⁷ “You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason with your neighbor, lest you bear sin because of him. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge against the sons of your own people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the Lord.

NOTE: Here is the ancient law from which our Lord's second great commandment comes (Mark 12:22-31 and Luke 10:27). God is holy and is to be revered (v.2). All of God's creation is therefore holy and should be treated with reverence. This is the underlying reason for loving one's neighbor. Romans 12:19-21 might be considered and elaboration of verses 17-18. (William Sydnor)

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rev. Rick Gilert

Lector (Old Testament), Jordon Van Horn

Lector (Epistle) – John Kautz

Acolyte – Reed Ferrell

Verger – Dr. Alvin Cash

Ushers: Jodi Beauregard and Tim Kirby

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

February

- **WSL Bible Study** – Starting Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 10 a.m. for 6 weeks. For more info contact Judy Brooten, 706-851-6296.
- **Eastern Orthodox service** – Sunday, Feb. 22, at 2:00 p.m.
- **AARP TAX PREPARATION** – Fridays, Feb. 6 – Apr. 10 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** – Feb. 17, begins at 5:00 p.m.
- **Ash Wednesday** – Feb. 18, at noon and 5:30 p.m.
- **Eastern Orthodox Church Baptism / Chrismation** – Saturday, Feb. 21, at 10 a.m.
- **St. Matthias the Apostle** – Tuesday, Feb. 24, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **AARP Smart Driver Class** – Saturday, Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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.



Tip of the Canterbury Cap to Randy Wilbur for bringing the music to a new level of excellence.



JOIN THE CHOIR!

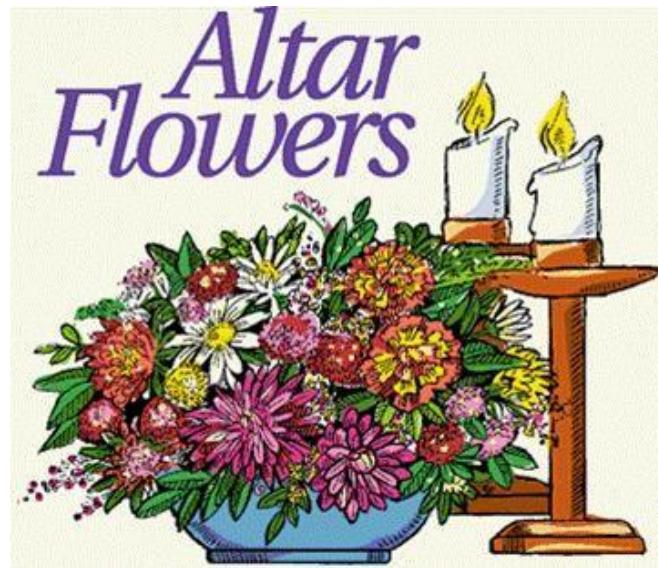


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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 2025

*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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