

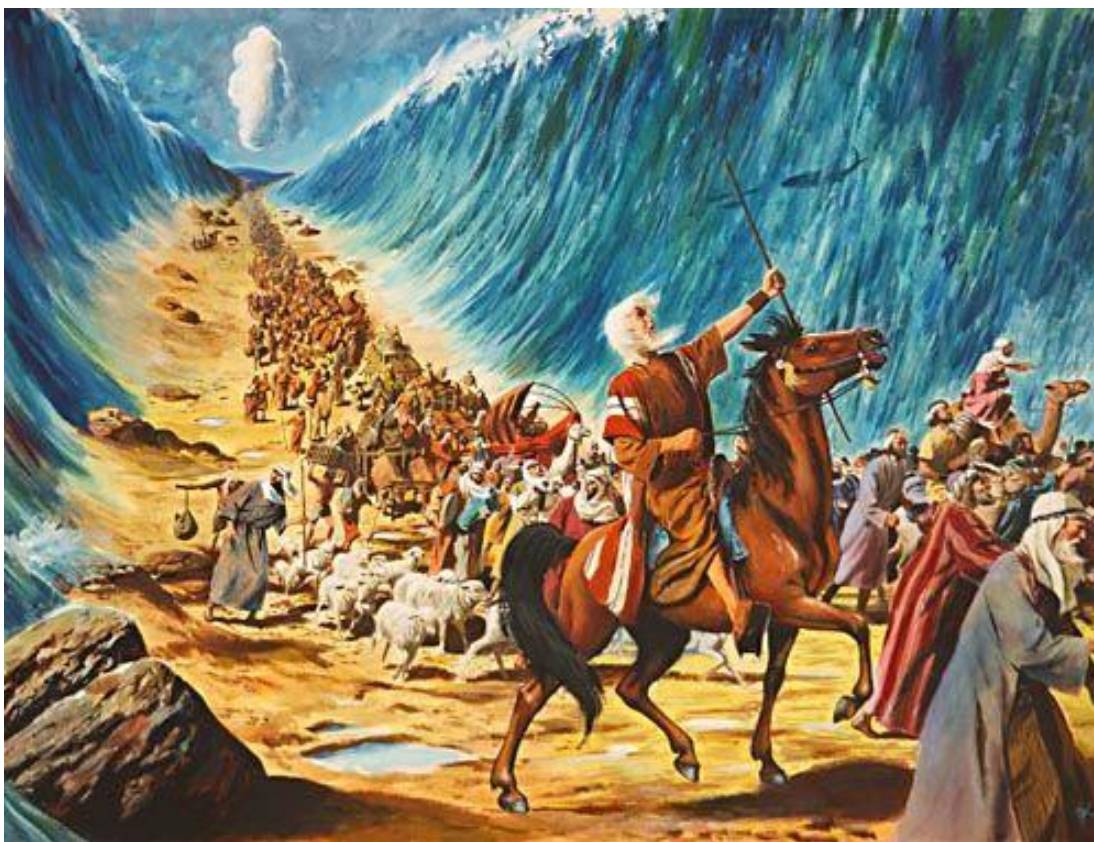


This Sunday at St. Luke's
October 19, 2025

8:15 Holy Communion (said service)

10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion with choir and hymns
Susan Gooch, pianist

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity



God provides a highway of safety for His people

We continue our journey through Salvation History with a look at the story of the parting of the Red Sea waters. The deliverance of the Hebrews from the slavery of Egypt wrought by Moses prefigures the even greater deliverance of God's New Covenant people from sin and death wrought by Jesus.

The parting of the Red Sea and Holy Baptism

The parting of the Red Sea waters has traditionally been seen as a type and prefigurement of the New Covenant Sacrament of Baptism. Both represent deliverance from slavery and involve water. The children of Israel passed through a watery grave as they left behind the slavery of Egypt and began their journey toward the Promised Land. Those who receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism likewise pass through a watery grave: they die with Christ. In so doing, they leave behind bondage to sin, Satan and death and begin their journey toward a new, better promised land, the New Heavens and New Earth promised in Revelation 21. This imagery is picked up in a prayer found in the Baptismal service in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer:

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who of thy great mercy didst save Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water; and also didst safely lead the children of Israel thy people through the Red Sea, figuring thereby thy holy Baptism; and by the Baptism of thy well-beloved Son Jesus Christ, in the river Jordan, didst sanctify Water to the mystical washing away of sin: We beseech thee, for thine infinite mercies, that thou wilt mercifully look upon *this Child*; wash him and sanctify *him* with the Holy Ghost; that *he*, being delivered from thy wrath, may be received into the ark of Christ's Church; and being stedfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, that finally *he* may come to the land of everlasting life, there to reign with thee world without end; 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.*

COLLECT FOR ST. LUKE'S DAY (OCT. 18)

ALMIGHTY God, who didst inspire thy servant Saint Luke the Physician, to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of thy Son; Manifest in thy Church the like power and love, to the healing of our bodies and our souls; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – 1 Corinthians 1:4-8 (J.B. Phillips)

God's help in human life

¹⁴⁻⁹ I am always thankful to God for what the gift of his grace in Jesus Christ has meant to you—how, as the Christian message has become established among you, he has enriched your whole lives, from the words on your lips to the understanding in your hearts. And you have been eager to receive his gifts during this time of waiting for his final appearance. He will keep you steadfast in the faith to the end, so that when his day comes you need fear no condemnation. God is utterly dependable, and it is he who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

NOTE: St. Paul thanks God for the faith which has been given the Corinthians through Jesus Christ. They “come behind in no gift” because they rely on Him, wait for His coming, and confirm in their lives the “testimony of Christ.” (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL (H.C.) – THE GOSPEL (H.C.) – St. Matthew 22:34-46 (J.B. Phillips)

Christ and the law

³⁴⁻³⁶ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees they came up to him in a body, and one of them, an expert in the Law, put this test-question: “Master, what are we to consider the Law’s greatest commandment?”

³⁷⁻⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind’. This is the first and great commandment. And there is a second like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’. The whole of the Law and the Prophets depends on these two commandments.”

Jesus puts an unanswerable question

⁴¹⁻⁴² Then Jesus asked the assembled Pharisees this question: “What is your opinion about Christ? Whose son is he? “The Son of David,” they answered.

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ “How then,” returned Jesus, “does David when inspired by the Spirit call him Lord? He says—‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool?’

⁴⁵ If David then calls him Lord, how can he be his son?”

⁴⁶ Nobody was able to answer this and from that day on no one dared to ask him any further questions.

NOTE: The summary of the Law occurs in three Gospels: St. Matthew 22:34-40; St. Mark 12:28-34; St. Luke 20:25-28. It is a thumbnail analysis of the O.T. presentation of God’s will. (William Sydnor).

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Exodus 14:5-14, 19-21, 24-31 (RSV)

Crossing the Red Sea

14 ⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” ⁶ So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, ⁷ and took six hundred picked chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. ⁸ And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt and he pursued the people of Israel as they went forth defiantly. ⁹ The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-ha-hi’roth, in front of Ba’al-ze’phon.

¹⁰ When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them; and they were in great fear. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord; ¹¹ and they said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” ¹³ And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still.”

¹⁹ Then the angel of God who went before the host of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness; and the night passed without one coming near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

²⁴ And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down upon the host of the Egyptians, and discomfited the host of the Egyptians, ²⁵ clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from before Israel; for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.”

The Pursuers Drowned

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.” ²⁷ So Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its wonted flow when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled into it, and the Lord routed the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not so

much as one of them remained. ²⁹ But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore. ³¹ And Israel saw the great work which the Lord did against the Egyptians, and the people feared the Lord; and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

NOTE: The crossing of the Red Sea was one of the great, dramatic events in Israel's history. It was remembered as the work of the saving God who delivered His people from slavery. Scholars note a parallelism between the central events of the old covenant – the Passover, the Red Sea crossing, and the giving of the Law at Sinai – and the central events of the new covenant – the Last Supper, the Crucifixion and Resurrection, and the coming of the Spirit into men's midst and into their hearts at Pentecost. (William Sydnor)

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector



Tip of the Canterbury Cap to Lord Snowden for assisting Fr. Rick Gillert with his Trout Fishing Grief Ministry booth at last weekend's Arts in the Park and Joe Hartley for cleaning the Parish House kitchen in preparation for last Saturday's picnic.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Appeal for Toys for Tots** continues. Please leave toys in the Narthex or bring to the Parish House.
- **WSL Fall Bible Study - "Bad Girls of the Bible"**, Wednesday, Sept. 24 - Oct. 29, 10 a.m. Yellow Room.
- **Christmas Bazaar Workshops** – Wednesdays at noon after Bible study. Bring your lunch. For information call Lauren Burgreen, 706-400-8761.
- **Young Harris College Music Dept, Concert** – Sunday, Oct. 19, at 5 p.m.
- **Vestry Meeting** – Sunday, Oct. 26, following the 10:15 service

- **The Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude the Apostles** – Tuesday, Oct. 28, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **Eastern Orthodox Vespers** – Sunday, Oct. 26, at 2 p.m.
- **AARP Smart Driver Class** – Saturday, Nov. 1, 8:30-3:30. For registration call or text Kelly Cherry 423-243-8146.



JOIN THE CHOIR!

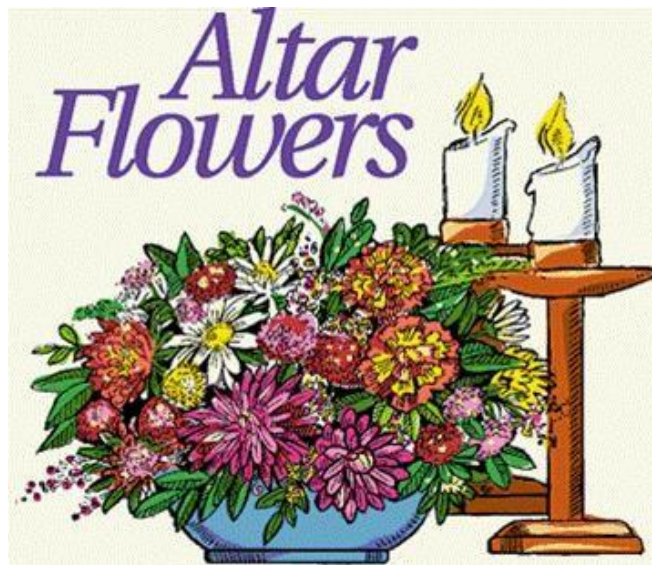


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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

Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate.
Flowers are needed throughout the end of the year. Please email
or call Diana Burden 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 2026.*

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.