



This Sunday at St. Luke's
October 25, 2026

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)
10:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer and Sermon together with
Shortened Holy Communion
Susan Gooch, pianist / St. Luke's Singers

The Twentieth-first Sunday after Trinity



Jesus heals the royal official's son from afar

In today's Gospel, we find much more than a miracle of compassion. Who can doubt that Jesus knew that His acts of mercy and compassion, indeed all the the miracles He performed, would be recorded after His death and resurrection for future generations. Thus, there is a lesson here for us: some must see to believe,

but blessed are those who believe without seeing. How strong is your faith?
Can you sense the hand of God even without seeing the miracles He performs daily?

COLLECT FOR THE TWENTIETH-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

GRANT, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – Ephesians 6:10-20 (J.B. Phillips)

Be forewarned and forearmed in your spiritual conflict

¹⁰⁻¹⁸ In conclusion be strong—not in yourselves but in the Lord, in the power of his boundless resource. Put on God’s complete armour so that you can successfully resist all the devil’s methods of attack. For our fight is not against any physical enemy: it is against organisations and powers that are spiritual. We are up against the unseen power that controls this dark world, and spiritual agents from the very headquarters of evil. Therefore you must wear the whole armour of God that you may be able to resist evil in its day of power, and that even when you have fought to a standstill you may still stand your ground. Take your stand then with truth as your belt, righteousness your breastplate, the Gospel of peace firmly on your feet, salvation as your helmet and in your hand the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. Above all be sure you take faith as your shield, for it can quench every burning missile the enemy hurls at you. Pray at all times with every kind of spiritual prayer, keeping alert and persistent as you pray for all Christ’s men and women.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ And pray for me, too, that I may be able to speak freely here to make known the secret of that Gospel for which I am, so to speak, an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may speak out about it as my plain and obvious duty.

NOTE: Paul sums up the qualities of life which a Christian ought to possess as parts of the armor of God. This is the protection which the “children of light” have against “the rulers of the darkness of this world.” The Lord is the Light of the world and those who belong to Him fight under His banner against the Prince of Darkness. (See Ephesians 5:8-13).

THE GOSPEL – St. John 4:46-54 (J.B. Phillips)

Jesus, in Cana again, heals in response to faith

At Capernaum there was an official whose son was very ill. When he heard that Jesus had left Judea and had arrived in Galilee, he went off to see him and begged him to come down and heal his son, who was by this time at the point of death.

⁴⁸ Jesus said to him, “I suppose you will never believe unless you see signs and wonders!”

⁴⁹ “Sir,” returned the official, “please come down before my boy dies!”

⁵⁰ “You can go home,” returned Jesus, “your son is alive and well.” And the man believed what Jesus had said to him and went on his way.

⁵¹⁻⁵⁴ On the journey back his servants met him with the report, “Your son is alive and well.” So he asked them at what time he had begun to recover, and they replied: “The fever left him yesterday at one o’clock in the afternoon”. Then the father knew that this must have happened at the very moment when Jesus had said to him, “Your son is alive and well.” And he and his whole household believed in Jesus. This, then, was the second sign that Jesus gave on his return from Judea to Galilee.

NOTE: The account of the healing of the noble-man’s son contains the words, “the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him.” This faith places one within the orbit of Christ’s saving power. In the case of the nobleman, the result was new life – physically for the boy, spiritually for the entire household.

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – 2 Kings 5:1-15 (RSV)

An outsider finds healing and the living God

Na’aman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. ² Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little maid from the land of Israel, and she waited on Na’aman’s wife. ³ She said to her mistress, “Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samar’ia! He would cure him of his leprosy.” ⁴ So Na’aman went in and told his lord, “Thus and so spoke the maiden from the land of Israel.” ⁵ And the king of Syria said, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.”

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten festal garments. ⁶ And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, “When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Na’aman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy.” ⁷ And when the king of Israel read the letter, he rent his clothes and said, “Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me.”

⁸ But when Eli’sha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, “Why have you rent your clothes? Let him come now to me,

that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel.” ⁹ So Na’aman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the door of Eli’sha’s house. ¹⁰ And Eli’sha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” ¹¹ But Na’aman was angry, and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper. ¹² Are not Aba’na and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, if the prophet had commanded you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much rather, then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

¹⁵ Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him; and he said, “Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant.”

NOTE: Elisha, the prophet who followed Elijah, demonstrated God’s sovereign power to heal to a military man outside of Israel. In this way, Elisha anticipated Jesus the great healer and the one who was more than a prophet.

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. David B. Alenskis



Dr. Alenskis completed his PhD in Theological Studies in 2026 from the University of Toronto / Wycliffe College, focusing his research on Long Reformation theologies, Christology, and the theologian Richard Hooker. He also holds an MDiv from Westminster Seminary California (2009) and dual degrees in Philosophy and Mechanical Engineering from Cedarville University (2005). He has served as a missionary with the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders (SAMS-USA) since 2011. His missionary journeys and pastoral work have taken him to Peru, Argentina, and Belize. Alongside his wife, Mary Beth, his career trajectory includes serving as missionary professors at the Tyndale

Theological Seminary in Amsterdam.

Lector – Tim Kirby

Acolyte – Sally Hess

Verger – Dr. Alvin Cash

Ushers – Judy Brooten and Tim Kirby

(New usher volunteers and altar servers are needed! Why not put your name in this blank? Speak to Tim Kirby about being an usher; to Jim about being a being a reader or acolyte.

OLD FASHIONED SUNDAY SCHOOL

“These Things We Believe: A Look at the Nicene Creed”

Grab a cup of coffee and join us!

Adult Sunday school will meet at 9:15 a.m. in the Skelton Conference Room in the Parish House next door. The study for the next few weeks will focus on the Nicene Creed. A video series featuring RC Bishop Barron will be used. The Rector will be the facilitator.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Eastern Orthodox Divine Liturgy** – Sunday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m.
- **Memorial Service for the Rev. Ronald Oke Wikander**, Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026
- **Vestry Meeting** – Sunday, Oct. 25, following 10:30 a.m. service
- **St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles** – Wednesday, Oct. 28, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.

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 Marie Cowart for lining up those who wish to eat together following the 10:30 a.m. service and forwarding them to a local restaurant.



JOIN THE CHOIR!

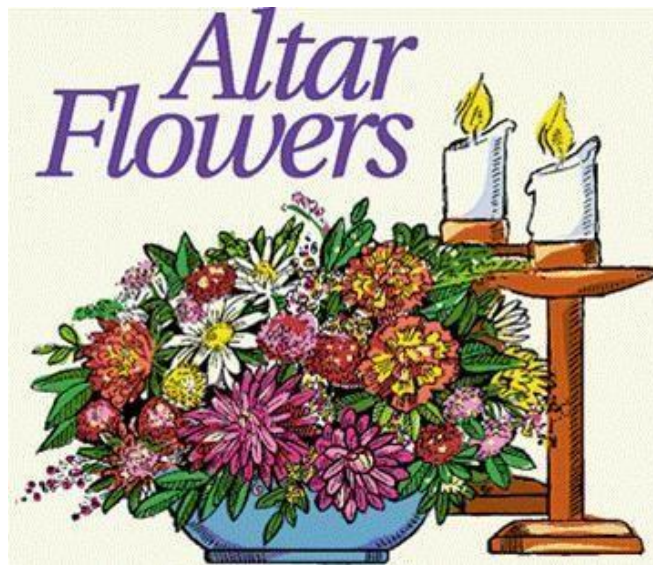


For information, contact, Diana Burden Mark at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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 2027

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 2027.

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.