



This Sunday at St. Luke's
October 18, 2026

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)
10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion together with choir, anthem
and organ
Steven Cagel, organist

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

The Royal Invitation

By Jesus' time, a wedding or marriage feast, where there is always much light, joy and merriment in the presence of the groom and bride, was a symbol of the arrival



of God's new age, the Kingdom of God. The ones expected to be present at this feast were the descendants of Abraham. Jesus in the parable to be explored this Sunday highlights the unbelief of the Jews – they are represented by those who refuse to come to the feast. He also

sees the day coming when the door to this feast will be thrown open to all and sundry. When the Gospel is announced, many still refuse to come. This parable contains a

warning and summons to respond without delay. In the words of the Psalmist, “To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts” (92:8)

COLLECT FOR THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things which thou wouldest have done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – Ephesians 5:15-21 (J.B. Phillips)

You know the truth—let your life show it!

¹⁵⁻²¹ Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days. Don’t be vague but firmly grasp what you know to be the will of God. Don’t get your stimulus from wine (for there is always the danger of excessive drinking), but let the Spirit stimulate your souls. Express your joy in singing among yourselves psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making music in your hearts for the ears of God! Thank God at all times for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. And “fit in with” each other, because of your common reverence for Christ.

NOTE: In his summary of a section in which the author exhorts his readers to turn from pagan ways (4:17-5:20) St. Paul says, “walk circumspectly.” This means pay careful attention to what it means to be a Christian. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. Matthew 22:1-14 (J.B. Phillips)

The kingdom is not to be lightly disregarded

22 Then Jesus began to talk to them again in parables.

²⁻¹⁴ “The kingdom of Heaven,” he said, “is like a king who arranged a wedding for his son. He sent his servants to summon those who had been invited to the festivities, but they refused to come. Then he tried again; he sent some more servants, saying to them, ‘Tell those who have been invited, “Here is my wedding-breakfast all ready, my bullocks and fat cattle have been slaughtered and everything is prepared. Come along to the festivities.”’ But they took no notice of this and went off, one to his farm, and another to his business. As for the rest, they got hold of the servants, treated them disgracefully, and finally killed them. At this the king was very angry and sent his troops and killed those murderers and burned down their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is quite ready, but those who were invited were not good enough for it. So go off now to all the street corners and invite everyone you find there to the

feast.’ So the servants went out on to the streets and collected together all those whom they found, bad and good alike. And the hall became filled with guests. But when the king came in to inspect the guests, he noticed among them a man not dressed for a wedding. ‘How did you come in here, my friend,’ he said to him, ‘without being properly dressed for the wedding?’ And the man had nothing to say. Then the king said to the ushers, ‘Tie him up and throw him into the darkness outside. There he can weep and regret his folly!’ For many are invited but few are chosen.”

NOTE: The parable of the marriage feast is about those who refused and those accepted the Lord’s invitation to the kingdom party. It could be said that to be prepared to accept the King’s invitation is a part of what it means to serve him diligently. (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Jeremiah 31:31-37 (RSV)

A new covenant

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

³⁵ Thus says the LORD,

who gives the sun for light by day

and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night,

who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—

the LORD of hosts is his name:

³⁶ “If this fixed order departs

from before me, says the LORD,

then shall the descendants of Israel cease

from being a nation before me for ever.”

³⁷ Thus says the LORD:

“If the heavens above can be measured,

and the foundations of the earth below can be explored,

then I will cast off all the descendants of Israel

for all that they have done,
says the LORD.”

NOTE: This is one of the high points in the prophet’s thinking and in the Old Testament. The new covenant will not be a new law replacing that of Moses; rather, it will be a new inner motivation and power for fulfilling the law already known. The passage is quoted in Hebrews 8:8 ff and 10:16 ff. Some of the words of the Lord’s Supper have their origin here also. (See 1 Corinthians 11:25.) 2 Corinthians 3:5-14 and the terms “Old Testament” and New Testament” also have this root. (William Sydnor)

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Lector – Lois Joldersma

Acolyte – John Kautz

Verger – Dr. Alvin Cash

Ushers – Roger, Teresa and Stephen Wankel

(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

- **Annual Church Picnic** – Sunday, Oct. 11, following the 10:30 a.m. service.
- **Eastern Orthodox Divine Liturgy** – Sunday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m.
- **Young Harris Concert** – Sunday, Oct. 18, at 6 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 Neil McDonald and members of the St. Luke’ Men’s Group for sponsoring last Sunday’s parish lunch.



JOIN THE CHOIR!



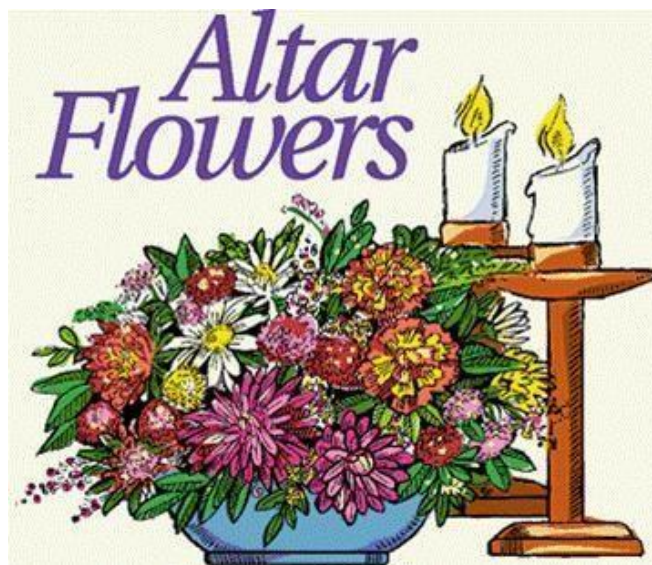
For information, contact, Diana Burden Mark at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



The Anglican Relief
and Development Fund

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.