

This Sunday at St. Luke's
April 12, 2026

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

**10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion with organ, hymns and duet by
Anna Kathryn and Owen Malone**

ORGAN: George Atwell

The First Sunday after Easter



The First Sunday after Easter is often called *Low Sunday*. Some think this came about because of the contrast between it and the great festival of the Sunday before. But *low* may be a corruption of *Laudes*, the first word of the ancient Latin sequence for the day – *Laudes Salvatori voce modulemur supplici* (“Let us sing praises to the Saviour with humble

voice”). A sequence (Latin: *sequentia*) is a chant or hymn sung or recited before the proclamation of the Gospel.

Regardless of the meaning of “Low Sunday”, the resurrection of Jesus remains the focus of this Sunday. Jesus breathing on the disciples and the reference to the Spirit in today’s Gospel is an anticipation of Pentecost. Also, we should see Jesus’

action and hear His words alongside those found in Genesis 1:1 – “And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” Jesus’ resurrection signals new creation . . . a new world order emerging. The above picture shows Jesus showing his disciples His hands after coming among them in the Upper Room.

THE COLLECT FOR EASTER 1

ALMIGHTY Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification; Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – 1 St. John 5:4-12 (J.B. Phillips)

The life of Christ in the believer

5⁴⁻⁵ For God’s “heredity” within us will always conquer the world outside us. In fact, this faith of ours is the only way in which the world has been conquered. For those who could ever be said to conquer the world, in the true sense, except the man who really believes that Jesus is God’s Son?

6-12 Jesus Christ himself is the one who came by water and by blood—not by the water only, but by the water and the blood. The Spirit bears witness to this, for the Spirit is the truth. The witness therefore is a triple one—the Spirit in our own hearts, the signs of the water of baptism and the blood of atonement—and they all say the same thing. If we are prepared to accept human testimony, God’s own testimony concerning his own Son is surely infinitely more valuable. The man who really believes in the Son of God will find God’s testimony in his own heart. The man who will not believe God is making him out to be a liar, because he is deliberately refusing to accept the testimony that God has given concerning his own Son. This is, that God has given men eternal life and this real life is to be found only in his Son. It follows naturally that any man who has genuine contact with Christ has this life; and if he has not, then he does not possess this life at all.

NOTE: Because of our faith in the crucified and risen Christ we have confidence in God’s power both to overcome the evils and dangers of this world and to give us eternal life. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. John 20:19-23 (J.B. Phillips)

The living Christ will be in the Church

20¹⁹⁻²³ In the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples had met together with the doors locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood right in the middle of them and said, “Peace be with you!”

²⁰ Then he showed them his hands and his side, and when they saw the Lord the disciples were overjoyed.

²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Yes, peace be with you! Just as the Father sent me, so I am now going to send you.”

²²⁻²³ And then he breathed upon them and said, “Receive holy spirit. If you forgive any men’s sins, they are forgiven, and if you hold them unforgiven, they are unforgiven.”

NOTE: The Fourth Gospel ties in the giving of the Holy Spirit with one of the Resurrection appearances. In the minds of N.T. writers, the gift of the Spirit and the blessing of eternal life were closely associated. (See 2 Cor. 5:4-5 and Eph. 4:30.) (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Isaiah 43:1-12 (RSV)

Restoration and protection promised

43 But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my eyes,
and honored, and I love you,

I give men in return for you,
peoples in exchange for your life.

⁵ Fear not, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, Give up,
and to the south, Do not withhold;

bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the end of the earth,

⁷ every one who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

⁸ Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes,
who are deaf, yet have ears!

⁹ Let all the nations gather together,
and let the peoples assemble.

Who among them can declare this,
and show us the former things?

Let them bring their witnesses to justify them,
and let them hear and say, It is true.

¹⁰ “You are my witnesses,” says the LORD,

“and my servant whom I have chosen,
that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am He.

Before me no god was formed,
nor shall there be any after me.

¹¹ I, I am the LORD,
and besides me there is no savior.

¹² I declared and saved and proclaimed,
when there was no strange god among you;
and you are my witnesses,” says the LORD.

NOTE: Some of the deepest spiritual insights of the whole O.T. are found in the poems found in chapters 40-66 of Isaiah. An evidence of this is seen in that portion of one of these poems which is appropriately read in the Easter Season. God describes Himself as “your Saviour”; “I have redeemed you” (vv.1 and 30. And to the people who have experienced the wonderful goodness of God, He says, “You are my witnesses” (v.10. Truly the insights of the spiritual seers of the spiritual seers of the O.T. longed for, and anticipated in faith, God’s mighty revelation of himself in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (William Sydnor)

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Preacher: The Rector

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Lector – Tim Kirby

Acolyte – Reed Ferrell

Verger – Dr. Alvin Cash

Ushers – Tim Kirby and Tom Wall

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

March and April

- **Eastern Orthodox Service** – Apr. 12, at 2 p.m.
- **Easter Day** – Apr. 5, Services at 8:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
- **Fellowship Luncheon** – Sunday, Apr. 12, following the 10:15 a.m. service.
- **Teaching Tuesday, The Church Sacraments and Rites** - Tuesdays, Apr. 14 - May 19, at 10 a.m. For more information, contact D.J. Fulton at 770-713-4202
- **Vestry Meeting** – Sunday, Apr. 26, following the 10:15 a.m. service.

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 Tim Kirby for preparing the churchyard for spring . . . making it a little bit of heaven.



St. Luke's Music

Anna Kathryn Hayes and Owen Malone

Sunday, April 12th
10:15 AM



Anna Kathryn Hayes

Soprano



Owen Malone

Tenor

St. Luke's Anglican Church
7 Ewing St. ~ Blue Ridge, GA
706-632-8245
www.stlukesblueridge.org



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED – DONATE A CHILDREN’S BOOK

WSL Women of St. Luke's book drive to benefit The Craddock Center continues this week. Please bring books for children 0 to 5 years old to the collection box downstairs.

JOIN THE CHOIR!

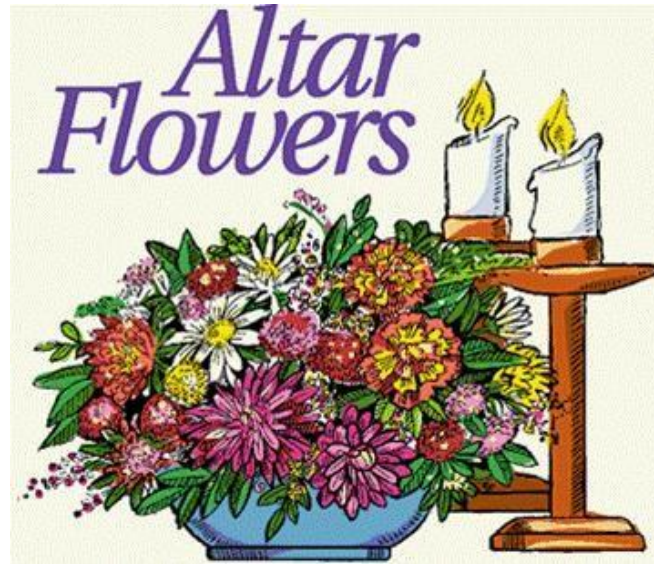


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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 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 2025

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.