



***This Sunday at St. Luke's***  
***July 12, 2026***

**8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)**  
**10:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer and Sermon together with**  
**Shortened Holy Communion**  
**Steven Cagle, organist**  
**Anna Kathryn Hayes and Owen Malone, vocalists**

## **The Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

**LIVING OUT OUR FAITH** continues to be the focus of the Trinity season. This Sunday's Gospel contains Jesus' call to His followers to go beyond the



'righteousness' of the scribes and Pharisees in their dealings with their fellow human beings. Later Paul in Romans 8 will expand on Jesus' command when He gives the injunction not to "render evil for evil" or as J.B. Phillips paraphrases his words, "Don't pay back a bad turn by a bad turn."

Jesus perfectly demonstrated this principle at the time of His arrest and crucifixion. "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously," says 1 Peter

2:23. King David, the great ancestor of Jesus, exhibited a similar generosity and magnanimous spirit in his dealing with Shemei, one of King Saul's family members. This act of kindness took place on the day of David's return to Jerusalem following an insurrection led by his son Absalom. On his way out of Jerusalem earlier, Shemei

had cursed and hurled insults and stones at David. By all rights, when David was restore to his position of power, he should have had Shemei executed for treason. He did not. Rather, he exercised a mercy that would anticipate that of his greater son, Jesus the Messiah.

## **THE COLLECT FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

O GOD, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding; Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen*.

### **THE EPISTLE – Romans 6:3-11 (J.B. Phillips)**

*Righteousness by faith, in practice*

**6** <sup>3-11</sup> Have you forgotten that all of us who were baptised into Jesus Christ were, by that very action, sharing in his death? We were dead and buried with him in baptism, so that just as he was raised from the dead by that splendid Revelation of the Father's power so we too might rise to life on a new plane altogether. If we have, as it were, shared his death, let us rise and live our new lives with him! Let us never forget that our old selves died with him on the cross that the tyranny of sin over us might be broken—for a dead man can safely be said to be immune to the power of sin. And if we were dead men with him we can believe that we shall also be men newly alive with him. We can be sure that the risen Christ never dies again—death's power to touch him is finished. He died, because of sin, once: he lives for God for ever. In the same way look upon yourselves as dead to the appeal and power of sin but alive and sensitive to the call of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*NOTE: The apostle says that the Christian shares in Christ's death and resurrection. This means, as Ephesians 2:11-14 makes clear, that the old life to which we die includes our hostilities and grudges, and the new life in Christ is one of Christian brotherliness. (William Sydnor)*

### **THE GOSPEL – St. Matthew 5:20-26 (J.B. Phillips)**

*Christ's authority surpasses that of the Law*

<sup>17-20</sup> “You must not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to complete them. Indeed, I assure you that, while Heaven and earth last, the Law will not lose a single dot or comma until its purpose is complete.

This means that whoever now relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men to do the same will himself be called least in Heaven. But whoever teaches and practises them will be called great in the kingdom of Heaven. For I tell you that your goodness must be a far better thing than the goodness of the scribes and Pharisees before you can set foot in the kingdom of Heaven at all!

<sup>21-22</sup> “You have heard that it was said to the people in the old days, ‘You shall not murder’, and anyone who does must stand his trial. But I say to you that anyone who is angry with his brother must stand his trial; anyone who contemptuously calls his brother a fool must face the supreme court; and anyone who looks on his brother as a lost soul is himself heading straight for the fire of destruction.

<sup>23-24</sup> “So that if, while you are offering your gift at the altar, you should remember that your brother has something against you, you must leave your gift there before the altar and go away. Make your peace with your brother first, then come and offer your gift.”

<sup>25-26</sup> “Come to terms quickly with your opponent while you have the chance, or else he may hand you over to the judge and the judge in turn hand you over to the officer of the court and you will be thrown into prison. Believe me, you will never get out again till you have paid your last farthing!”

NOTE: The Pharisees were very moral and law-abiding people. Our Lord says His followers must go beyond the letter of the law to the spirit. His command, which goes beyond personal rights and legal requirements, is “be reconciled with thy brother.” (William Sydnor)

## LECTIONARY READINGS

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – 2 Samuel 19:16-23 (RSV)

#### *David exercises extraordinary mercy*

And Shim'e-i the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, from Bahu'rim, made haste to come down with the men of Judah to meet King David; <sup>17</sup> and with him were a thousand men from Benjamin. And Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, with his fifteen sons and his twenty servants, rushed down to the Jordan before the king, <sup>18</sup> and they crossed the ford<sup>[a]</sup> to bring over the king's household, and to do his pleasure. And Shim'e-i the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was about to cross the Jordan, <sup>19</sup> and said to the king, “Let not my lord hold me guilty or remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem; let not the king bear it in mind. <sup>20</sup> For your servant knows that I have sinned; therefore, behold, I have come this day, the first of all the house of Joseph to come down to meet my lord the king.” <sup>21</sup> Abi'shai the son of Zeru'iah answered, “Shall not

Shim'e-i be put to death for this, because he cursed the Lord's anointed?" <sup>22</sup> But David said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeru'iah, that you should this day be as an adversary to me? Shall any one be put to death in Israel this day? For do I not know that I am this day king over Israel?" <sup>23</sup> And the king said to Shim'e-i, "You shall not die." And the king gave him his oath.

NOTE This snapshot of David the gracious king comes into focus only if one knows of the heartbreak of his flight from Jerusalem at the time of his son Absalom's revolt and the despicable conduct of Shimei (a descendant of Israel's first king Saul). On this occasion, Shimei cursed David, pelted him with rocks, showered him with dirt and falsely accused David of bringing down Saul. In today's account, David exhibits the righteousness Jesus in today's New Testament reading enjoins on His followers. He extends mercy rather than extracting vengeance. He seeks to be reconciled to his brother Israelite.

## TRINITY 6

### THIS SUNDAY

**Preacher: The Rector**

Lectors – Roger Johnson

Acolyte – Ruth Johnson

Verger – Jim Noblett

Ushers – Bob and Anna Bradley

### OLD FASHIONED SUNDAY SCHOOL ANGLICANISM 101

*Grab a cup of coffee and join us!*

The Anglican expression of the Christian faith is discussed. Classes begins at 9:15 a.m. and are held in the Yellow Room. **This week's topic will be "Faith and Practice."**

# CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

## July and August

- **Eastern Orthodox Vespers** – Sunday, July 12 and 26, at 2 p.m.
- **Pat Webb Memorial Service** – Saturday, July 25, at 2 p.m.
- **Vestry Meeting** – July 26, following the 10:30 a.m. service.
- **Christmas Bazaar Planning Session**, Tuesday, July 28, at 10 a.m.
- **AARP Good Driver Class** – Saturday, Aug. 1, at 10 a.m.
- **SLMG Monthly Meeting** – Tuesday, Aug. 4, at 11 a.m.
- **The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ** – Thursday, Aug. 6, HC Jennus chapel at noon.
- **Eastern Orthodox Vespers** – Sunday Aug. 9 and 23, at 2 p.m.
- **St. Bartholomew the Apostle** – Monday, Aug. 24, HC Jennus chapel at noon.
- **Charles Lutz Concert** – Thursday, Aug. 27, 6 p.m.
- **Fellowship Luncheon** – Sunday, Aug. 30, following the 10:30 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 all Priscilla Cashman for caring for altar linens and tending the Little Library.



## **JOIN THE CHOIR!**



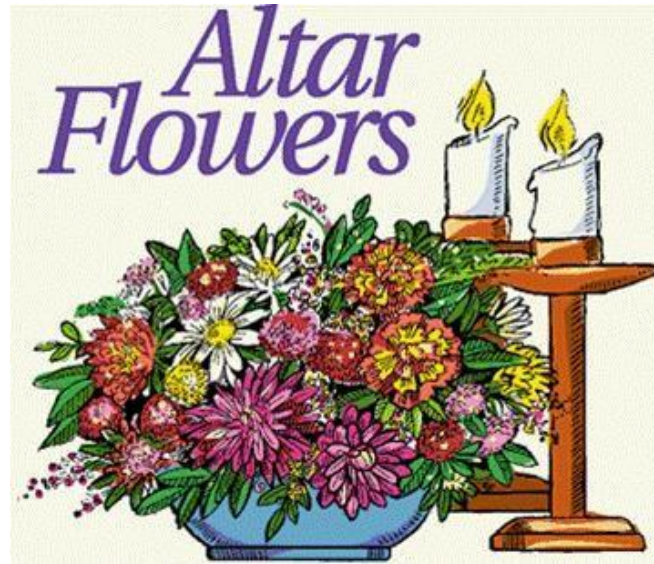
For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email [dburden6907@gmail.com](mailto:dburden6907@gmail.com).



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 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)



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