



*This Sunday at St. Luke's*  
**July 28, 2024**

**8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)**

**10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion with Hymns**  
**Diana Burden, pianist**

## **The Ninth Sunday after Trinity**



Christ and the Woman taken in Adultery' by Sebastiano Conca

**LIVING OUT OUR FAITH** continues to be the focus of the Trinity season.

Receiving and extending forgiveness lies at the heart of following Jesus. Jesus freely bestowed forgiveness on the unworthy; however, those He forgave were summoned to a higher plane. His words to the woman caught in the act of adultery in this week's New Testament lesson was: Go and sin no more. This approach must be the way of the Church as well. God's extravagant mercy should be celebrated and announced, but the upward call to a new way of life should not be left behind.

## THE COLLECT FOR THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

GRANT to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### THE EPISTLE – 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (J.B. Phillips)

*Beware of over self-confidence*

**10** <sup>1-7</sup> For I should like to remind you, my brothers, that our ancestors all had the experience of being guided by the cloud in the desert and of crossing the sea dry-shod. They were all, so to speak, “baptised” into Moses by these experiences. They all shared the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink (for they drank from the spiritual rock which followed them, and that rock was Christ). Yet in spite of all these wonderful experiences many of them failed to please God, and left their bones in the desert. Now in these events our ancestors stand as examples to us, warning us not to crave after evil things as they did. Nor are you to worship false gods as they did. The scripture says—‘The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.’

<sup>8-10</sup> Neither should we give way to sexual immorality as did some of them, for we read that twenty-three thousand fell in a single day! Nor should we dare to exploit the goodness of God as some of them did, and fell victims to poisonous snakes. Nor yet must you curse the lot that God has appointed to you as they did, and met their end at the hand of the angel of death.

<sup>11</sup> Now these things which happened to our ancestors are illustrations of the way in which God works, and they were written down to be a warning to us who are the heirs of the ages which have gone before us.

<sup>12</sup> So let the man who feels sure of his standing today be careful that he does not fall tomorrow.

<sup>13</sup> No temptation has come your way that is too hard for flesh and blood to bear. But God can be trusted not to allow you to suffer any temptation beyond your powers of endurance. He will see to it that every temptation has a way out, so that it will never be impossible for you to bear it.

NOTE: In a section of Christian freedom (8:1-11:1) the apostle Paul warns of temptations which beset God’s people and against too great self-confidence. The Israelites in the wilderness succumbed to the temptation to worship idols. Christians should likewise be on guard against temptation. The good news is we are not alone in the fight against sin, the world and the devil. God stands by us and helps us. (William Sydnor)

## **THE GOSPEL – St. Luke 15:11-32 (J.B. Phillips)**

*Jesus speaks of the love of God for “the lost”*

**15** <sup>11-19</sup> Then he continued, “Once there was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the property that will come to me.’ So he divided up his property between the two of them. Before very long, the younger son collected all his belongings and went off to a foreign land, where he squandered his wealth in the wildest extravagance. And when he had run through all his money, a terrible famine arose in that country, and he began to feel the pinch. Then he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country who sent him out into the fields to feed the pigs. He got to the point of longing to stuff himself with the food the pigs were eating and not a soul gave him anything. Then he came to his senses and cried aloud, ‘Why, dozens of my father’s hired men have got more food than they can eat and here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go back to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have done wrong in the sight of Heaven and in your eyes. I don’t deserve to be called your son any more. Please take me on as one of your hired men.”’”

<sup>20-24</sup> So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still some distance off, his father saw him and his heart went out to him, and he ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. But his son said, ‘Father, I have done wrong in the sight of Heaven and in your eyes. I don’t deserve to be called your son any more ....’ ‘Hurry!’ called out his father to the servants, ‘fetch the best clothes and put them on him! Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet, and get that calf we’ve fattened and kill it, and we will have a feast and a celebration! For this is my son—I thought he was dead, and he’s alive again. I thought I had lost him, and he’s found!’ And they began to get the festivities going.

<sup>25-32</sup> “But his elder son was out in the fields, and as he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants across to him and enquired what was the meaning of it all. ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has killed the calf we fattened because he has got him home again safe and sound,’ was the reply. But he was furious and refused to go inside the house. So his father came outside and called him. Then he burst out, ‘Look, how many years have I slaved for you and never disobeyed a single order of yours, and yet you have never given me so much as a young goat, so that I could give my friends a dinner? But when that son of yours arrives, who has spent all your money on prostitutes, for him you kill the calf we’ve fattened!’ But the father replied, ‘My dear son, you have been with me all the time and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and show our joy. For this is your brother; I thought he was dead—and he’s alive. I thought he was lost—and he is found!’”

**NOTE:** The parable of the prodigal son is the classic picture of God’s loving forgiveness. The father runs to receive his lost son. The father’s action points to God’s willingness to receive those who have lost their way. In context, the prodigal son represented those Jews who were considered ‘sinners’ – people beyond redemption – by the Jewish religious leaders. The son who stayed at home and was

angry at his father's action in receiving his brother represented the Jewish religious leaders who were accusing Jesus of receiving sinners.

## LECTIONARY READINGS

### FIRST LESSON – Wisdom 11:21-12:2 (RSV)

*God's love for sinners*

<sup>21</sup> For it is always in thy power to show great strength,  
and who can withstand the might of thy arm?

<sup>22</sup> Because the whole world before thee is like  
a speck that tips the scales,  
and like a drop of morning dew that falls upon the  
ground.

<sup>23</sup> But thou art merciful to all, for thou canst do all things,  
and thou dost overlook men's sins, that they may repent.

<sup>24</sup> For thou lovest all things that exist,  
and hast loathing for none of the things which thou hast  
made,  
for thou wouldst not have made anything if thou hadst  
hated it.

<sup>25</sup> How would anything have endured if thou hadst not  
willed it?

Or how would anything not called forth by thee  
have been preserved?

<sup>26</sup> Thou sparest all things, for they are thine, O Lord who  
lovest the living.

12 <sup>1</sup> For thy immortal spirit is in all things.

**NOTE:** This beautiful passage is a gem of almost-Christian belief in God's love for sinners.  
(William Sydnor)

### SECOND LESSON – St. John 8:1-11 (J.B. Phillips)

*Jesus deflates the rigorists*

<sup>2-5</sup> Early next morning he returned to the Temple and the entire crowd came to him. So he sat down and began to teach them. But the scribes and Pharisees brought in to him a woman who had been caught in adultery. They made her stand in front, and then said to him, "Now, master, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act.

According to the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women to death. Now, what do you say about her?”

<sup>6-9a</sup> They said this to test him, so that they might have some good grounds for an accusation. But Jesus stooped down and began to write with his finger in the dust on the ground. But as they persisted in their questioning, he straightened himself up and said to them, “Let the one among you who has never sinned throw the first stone at her.” Then he stooped down again and continued writing with his finger on the ground. And when they heard what he said, they were convicted by their own consciences and went out, one by one, beginning with the eldest until they had all gone.

<sup>9b-10</sup> Jesus was left alone, with the woman still standing where they had put her. So he stood up and said to her, “Where are they all—did no one condemn you?”

<sup>11</sup> And she said, “No one, sir.” “Neither do I condemn you,” said Jesus to her. “Go home and do not sin again.”

*NOTE: The account of Jesus and the woman taken in the act of adultery illustrates Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:28, 7:1 also Romans 2:1). (William Sydnor)*

## **THIS SUNDAY**

**Preacher: The Rector**

### **Options**

**In-church.**

**Online.** Services are livestreamed on Facebook and available for viewing following the service on You Tube. To access both put “Parish Church of St. Luke, Blue Ridge, Ga.” In the search bar.

## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Sharing Tuesday – Bible Study** continues on Tuesdays at 9:45 a.m. downstairs in the Yellow Room.



### FUTURE FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCKS DATES

St. Luke's will have one service at 9:30 a.m. on Fifth Sundays with a potluck lunch following. Dates for future events are Sept 29 and Dec. 29.



**Tip of the Canterbury Cap to members of the Altar Guild whose work is done largely outside the eyes of worshippers.**

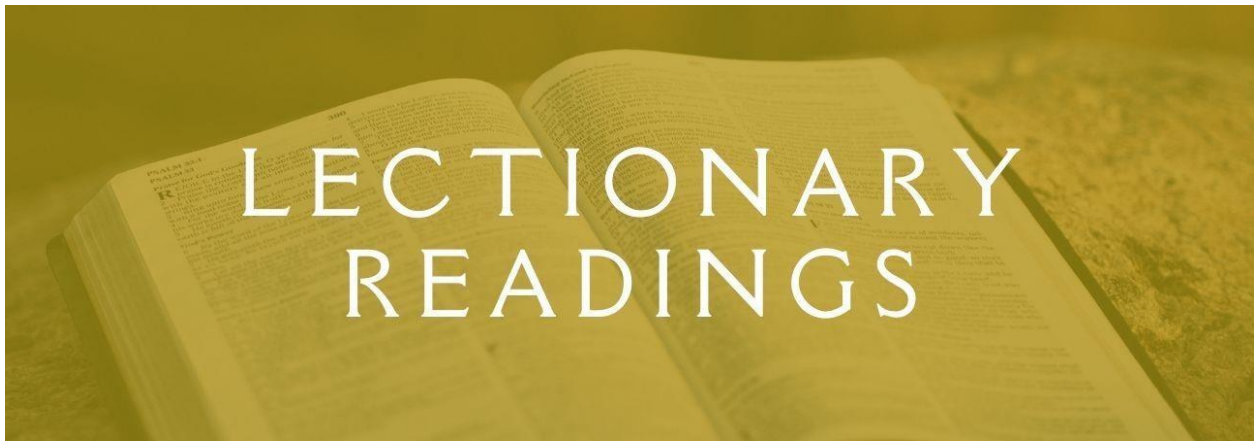


### **5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY BRUNCH September 29, 2024**

Join us September 29, at 9:30 am for a fifth Sunday combined service followed by a fall potluck brunch. Fun food like crusty bread, sausages, kielbasa, fall veggies, etc. will be the fare. We will be serving an



Oktoberfest/autumnal menu. Teresa Wankel and Jennifer Higdon will coordinate it. A sign-up sheet will soon be available in Thomason Hall. A fun time will be had by all!



## **Sharing Tuesdays**

*A Preview of Sunday's Readings*

9:45 a.m. Sharing Tuesdays is your turn!!!  
There are no teachers; no leaders; no presentations;  
no videos; no homework; no assignments. Just  
COME and read the Bible together with your  
brothers and sisters in Christ and share from your  
heart. All thoughts, questions, uncertainties, feelings  
are welcome.

## CHOIR PRACTICE

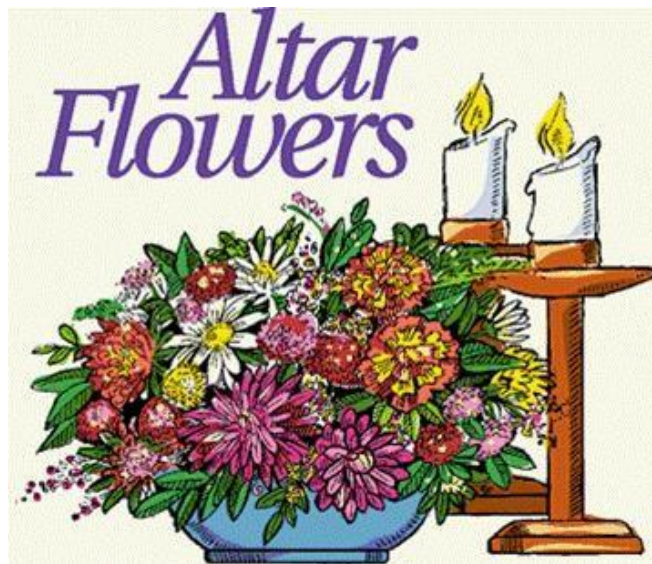


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email [dburden6907@gmail.com](mailto:dburden6907@gmail.com).



### 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 2024.

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 2024

*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 2024*

Name

Address

Amount

\_\_\_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_\_\_ Yearly

(Please tick the appropriate blank)



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