

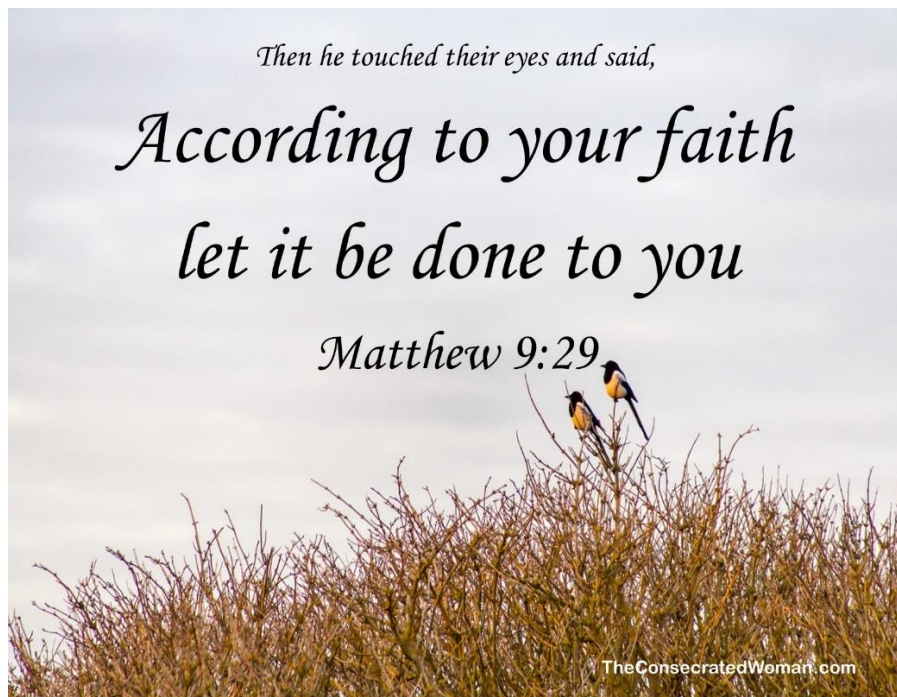


*This Sunday at St. Luke's*  
*November 19, 2023*

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

**10 a.m. – Holy Communion with hymns**  
Steven Cagle, organist

# The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity



Faith is the key which unlocks the casket of God's blessings, as seen in this week's Gospel which records the healing of the the servant of a certain ruler and an afflicted woman. The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews puts us on the right track when he says: "But without faith it is

impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them.”

## THE COLLECT FOR TRINITY 24

O LORD, we beseech thee, absolve thy people from their offences; that through thy bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the bands of those sins, which by our frailty we have committed. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

### THE EPISTLE – Colossians 1:3-12 (J.B. Phillips)

*We thank God for you and pray constantly for you*

<sup>3-6</sup> I want you to know by this letter that we here are constantly praying for you, and whenever we do we thank God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ because you believe in Christ Jesus and because you are showing true Christian love towards other Christians. We know that you are showing these qualities because you have grasped the hope reserved for you in Heaven—that hope which first became yours when the truth was brought to you. It is, of course, part of the Gospel itself, which has reached you as it spreads all over the world. Wherever that Gospel goes, it produces Christian character, and develops it, as it had done in your own case from the time you first heard and realised the amazing fact of God’s grace.

<sup>7-10</sup> You learned these things, we understand, from Epaphras who is in the same service as we are. He is a most well-loved minister of Christ, and has your well-being very much at heart. As a matter of fact, it was from him that we heard about your growth in Christian love, so you will understand that since we heard about you we have never missed you in our prayers. We are asking God that you may see things, as it were, from his point of view by being given spiritual insight and understanding. We also pray that your outward lives, which men see, may bring credit to your master’s name, and that you may bring joy to his heart by bearing genuine Christian fruit, and that your knowledge of God may grow yet deeper.

*We pray for you to have real Christian experience*

<sup>11-14</sup> As you live this new life, we pray that you will be strengthened from God’s boundless resources, so that you will find yourselves able to pass through any experience and endure it with courage. You will even be able to thank God in the midst of pain and distress because you are privileged to share the lot of those who are living in the light. For we must never forget that he rescued us from the power of darkness, and re-established us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, that is, in the kingdom of light. For it is by his Son alone that we have been redeemed and have had our sins forgiven.

NOTE: The apostle Paul is deeply thankful for the abiding faith in Christ and love for one another which characterized the members of the Church in Colossae. More than that, he prays for them. Christian ministers and indeed all Christians should follow his example of praying for those in their own Christian community. (William Sydnor)

## **THE GOSPEL – St. Matthew 9:18-26 (J.B. Phillips)**

*Jesus heals a young girl, and several others in need*

**9**<sup>18</sup> While he was saying these things to them an official came up to him and, bowing low before him, said, “My daughter has just this moment died. Please come and lay your hand on her and she will come back to life!”

<sup>19-20</sup> At this Jesus got to his feet and followed him, accompanied by his disciples. And on the way a woman who had a haemorrhage for twelve years approached him from behind and touched the edge of his cloak.

<sup>21</sup> “If I can only touch his cloak,” she kept saying to herself, “I shall be all right.”

<sup>22</sup> But Jesus turned right round and saw her. “Cheer up, my daughter,” he said, “your faith has made you well!” And the woman was completely cured from that moment.

<sup>23-24</sup> Then when Jesus came into the official’s house and noticed the flute-players and the noisy crowd he said, “You must all go outside; the little girl is not dead, she is fast asleep.”

<sup>25-26</sup> This was met with scornful laughter. But when Jesus had forced the crowd to leave, he came right into the room, took hold of her hand, and the girl got up. And this became the talk of the whole district.

NOTE: Both the “certain ruler” and the afflicted woman had nothing in which to put their hope save in the power of God working through Jesus Christ. They are for prototypes to model after. (William Sydnor)

## **LECTIONARY READING**

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – 2 Chronicles 36:11-23**

*Reign of Zedekiah*

**36**<sup>11</sup> Zedeki’ah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. <sup>12</sup> He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the Lord. <sup>13</sup> He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God; he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord, the God of Israel. <sup>14</sup> All the leading priests and the people likewise were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations; and they polluted the house of the Lord which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.

### *The Fall of Jerusalem*

<sup>15</sup> The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place; <sup>16</sup> but they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words, and scoffing at his prophets, till the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, till there was no remedy.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore he brought up against them the king of the Chalde'ans, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or aged; he gave them all into his hand. <sup>18</sup> And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon. <sup>19</sup> And they burned the house of God, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious vessels. <sup>20</sup> He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, <sup>21</sup> to fulfil the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept sabbath, to fulfil seventy years.

### *Cyrus Proclaims Liberty for the Exiles*

<sup>22</sup> Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: <sup>23</sup> "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the Lord his God be with him. Let him go up.'"

NOTE: The history of the kingdoms of Israel comes to an end with the final overthrow of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar and the deportation of the people into Babylonian exile (586 B.C.). A more vivid account of these events is found in Jeremiah 37:1-40:6. The prophet Jeremiah and a few others put their trust in the Lord during those difficult times.

## **Trinity 24**

### **The Rector**

## Sunday Worship Options

In-church.

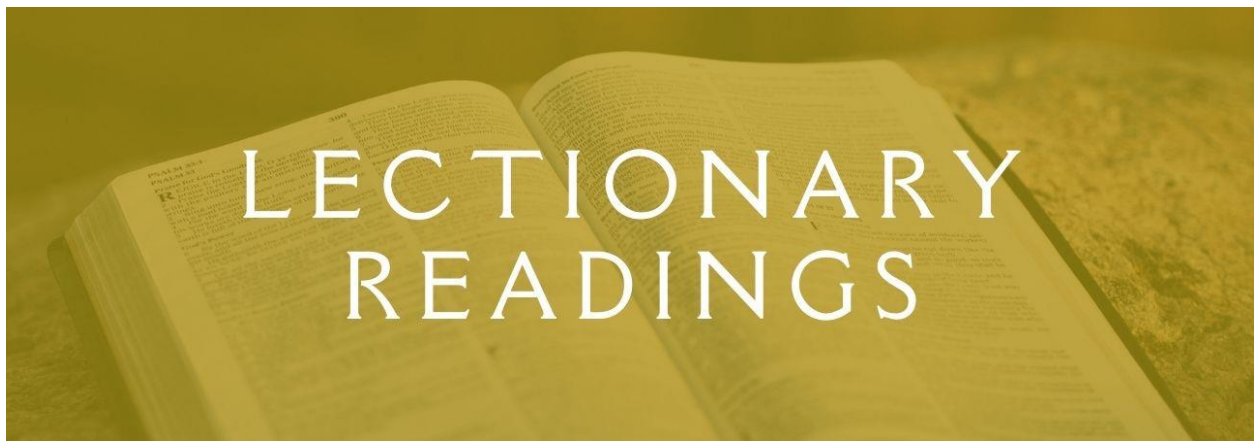
Drive-in. Those choosing this option are asked to remain in their automobile and listen to the service via their car radio (FM 98.1). Holy Communion will be provided.

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.



**Tip of the Canterbury Cap to Deacon Tony McConnell and the Rev. Ronald O. Wikander for taking charge of the service for Andy Lebkuecher.**



**Sharing Tuesdays**

*A Preview of Sunday's Readings*

10 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. This coming Tuesday, we shall be looking Jeremiah 3:14-18; Jeremiah 23:5-8; and John 6:5-14. Please join us.

## CHOIR PRACTICE



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

## CONCERT SCHEDULE 2023

**Georgia Festival Ensemble Chorus**, Sunday, December 3, 7 p.m.

*The Georgia Festival Chorus was begun in the fall of 1987 as the Cobb Festival Chorus, under the direction of Frank Boggs. After 23 years at Westminster School, he directed the choral groups and started the orchestra program. Randall F. Roming is the accompanist.*

**North Georgia Chamber Symphony Concert**, Sunday, December 10, 3 p.m.

*The Chamber Symphony Orchestra of North Georgia (SONG) is a group of musicians from the Dahlonega area whose mission is to bring first class music to N. Georgia. The ensemble is under the direction of Laurin Smith and is composed of five string players with a keyboard and a singer.*

**CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT**, under the direction of Randy Wilbur,  
Saturday, December 16, 5 p.m.

*FEATURING: Singers of North Georgia (SONG)*

*Misty Mountain Wind Quintet*

*Percussionist - Dr. Hayes Bunch*

*Accompanist: Cody Killian*



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.

## Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2023

*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 2023.*

Name

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Address

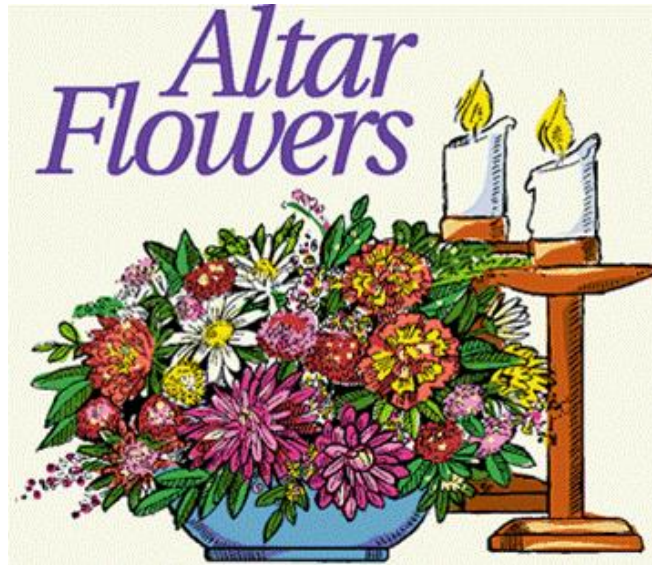
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Amount

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

(Please tick the appropriate blank)



### **SIGN-UP FOR FLOWERS**

A sign-up sheet for Altar flowers is available in Thomason Hall for 2023.

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.

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(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](http://www.stlukesblueridge.org); [stlukes@tds.net](mailto:stlukes@tds.net).