This Sunday at St. Luke's
November 1, 2026

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

All Saints' Day

(Trinity 22)

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1

Gaining strength and resolve from our spiritual forebearers

All Saints' celebrates exemplary, though not "perfect," Christians. It recognizes those in whom an aspect of God's grace shone so brightly that it inspired the acclaim of many. We commemorate the Patriarchs, the Prophets, and Mary, Joseph, the Apostles, and so many other biblical saints. We also commemorate the saints of the Christian Church, including martyrs like Perpetua, teachers like Augustine, and mystics like St. Teresa of Avila. But among these giants, we don't neglect all faithful believers, most of them who have not made the pages of history yet who are known of God and held in His care and who await the final resurrection at the last day.

This focus on those who have gone before helps us gain wisdom and strength for the living of these days. They remind us we are not the first Christians. Though hidden from our sight, the faithful in the past still speak. The Church consists of two parts: the Church militant on earth and the Church expectant in heaven. Only a thin veil separates the two. At Holy Communion, we join with those who have gone before when we say: "Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name: evermore praising thee, and saying, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY . . ."

COLLECT FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY

ALMIGHTY God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord; Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love thee; through the same, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR THE TWENTIETH-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

LORD, we beseech thee to keep thy household the Church in continual godliness; that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE –- Revelation 7:2-4, 9-17 (J.B. Phillips)

A vision of the faithful

7 [2-3] Then I saw another angel ascending out of the east, holding the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who had the power to harm the

earth and the sea: “Do no harm to the earth, nor to the sea, nor to the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads.”
4-8 I heard the number of those who were thus sealed and it was 144,000, from every tribe of the sons of Israel. [Twelve thousand were sealed from the tribe of Judah; twelve thousand from the tribe of Reuben; twelve thousand from the tribe of Gad; twelve thousand from the tribe of Asher; twelve thousand from the tribe of Naphtali; twelve thousand from the tribe of Manasseh; twelve thousand from the tribe of Simeon; twelve thousand from the tribe of Levi; twelve thousand from the tribe of Issachar; twelve thousand from the tribe of Zebulun; twelve thousand from the tribe of Joseph; and twelve thousand from the tribe of Benjamin.]

The countless host of the redeemed

9-10 When this was done I looked again, and before my eyes appeared a vast crowd beyond man’s power to number. They came from every nation and tribe and people and language, and they stood before the throne of the Lamb, dressed in white robes with palm-branches in their hands. With a great voice they shouted these words: “Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb!”
11-12 Then all the angels stood encircling the throne, the elders and the four living creatures, and prostrated themselves with heads bowed before the throne and worshipped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength be given to our God for timeless ages!”

The countless host explained

13 Then one of the elders addressed me and asked, “These who are dressed in white robe—who are they, and where do they come from?!
14a “You know, my Lord,” I answered him.
14b-17 Then he told me, “These are those who have come through the great oppression: they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. That is why they now have their place before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits upon the throne will be their shelter. They will never again know hunger or thirst. The sun shall never beat upon them, neither shall there be any scorching heat, for the Lamb who is in the centre of the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

NOTE: Here is a prose-poetry picture of John’s vison of the heavenly hosts. Notice the contrast between their former treatment on earth and the gentleness with which they are now treated. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. Matthew 5:1-12 (J.B. Phillips)

Jesus proclaims the new values of the kingdom

5 When Jesus saw the vast crowds he went up the hill-side and after he had sat down his disciples came to him.

2-12 Then he began his teaching by saying to them, "How happy are the humble-minded, for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs! "How happy are those who know what sorrow means for they will be given courage and comfort! "Happy are those who claim nothing, for the whole earth will belong to them! "Happy are those who are hungry and thirsty for goodness, for they will be fully satisfied! "Happy are the merciful, for they will have mercy shown to them! "Happy are the utterly sincere, for they will see God! "Happy are those who make peace, for they will be sons of God! "Happy are those who have suffered persecution for the cause of goodness, for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs! "And what happiness will be yours when people blame you and ill-treat you and say all kinds of slanderous things against you for my sake! Be glad then, yes, be tremendously glad—for your reward in Heaven is magnificent. They persecuted the prophets before your time in exactly the same way.

NOTE**:** This is our Lord's description of those who have a place in the Kingdom of Heaven. Another word for them is 'saints'. (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

LESSON – Wisdom 3:1-9

The Destiny of the Righteous

3 But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
2 In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be an affliction,
3 and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.
4 For though in the sight of men they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
5 Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
6 like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

[7] In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.
[8] They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them for ever.
[9] Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his elect,
and he watches over his holy ones.

NOTE: The purpose of the section from which this passage comes is to encourage the readers to hold to their faith in spite of mockery and even persecution. This passage is a vindication of the godly lives and earthly sufferings of righteous men. Our Lord deals with the same theme in the Upper Room (See John 16:1-4 and 17:15-26.) (William Sydnor)

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Lector (OT lesson) – John Kautz
Lector (Epistle) – Kathryn Noblett
Acolyte – Reed Ferrell
Verger – Dr. Alvin Cash
Ushers – Jordan Van Horn and Tim Kirby

(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.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

November

- **SLMG Monthly Meeting –** Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 11 a.m.
- **AARP Good Driver Class –** Saturday, Nov. 7, at 10a.m.
- **Veteran's Day Remembrance Service –** Sunday, Nov. 8, at the 10:30 service.
- **WSL Bi-Monthly Meeting –** Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 9:30 a.m.
- **SLMG Retreat** – Monteagle, TN Nov. 17-18.
- **Vestry Meeting –** Sunday, Nov. 22 following the 10:30 service.
- **Thanksgiving Day Service –** Thursday, Nov. 26, at 11 a.m. followed by a Thanksgiving dinner.

- **St. Andrew the Apostle –** Monday, Nov. 30, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.

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.

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.

Tip of the Canterbury Cap to all who serve as ushers in this church. Ushers are often the first ones visitors encounter upon visiting a church, thus creating a first impression.

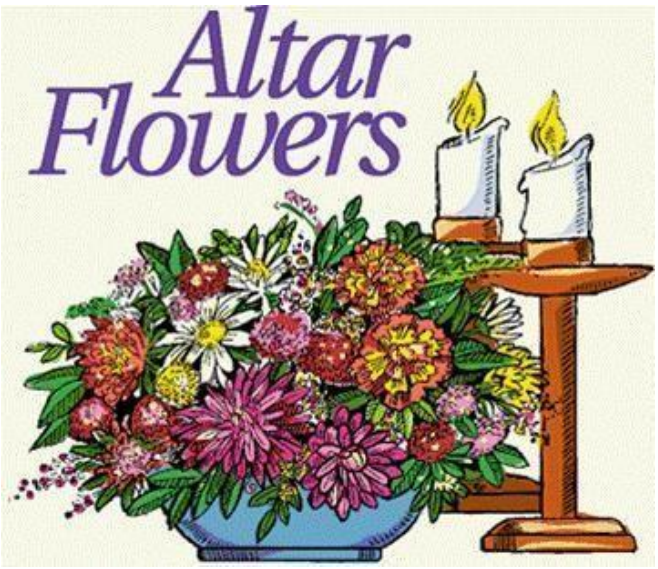
JOIN THE CHOIR!

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.