



This Sunday at St. Luke's
December 14, 2025

8:15 Holy Communion (said service)

**10:15 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon together with
Shortened Holy Communion**

Diana Burden, pianist

The Third Sunday in Advent



1 Corinthians 4:1 KJV

***Let a man so account of us, as of
the ministers of Christ, and
stewards of the mysteries of God.***

The Ministry and Christ's Coming

The Third Sunday in Advent is concerned with the ministry of the Church—its bishops, presbyters [priests] and deacons—those living agents through whom Christ's coming is to be made known and understood.

In the Collect, the clergy are described as the “ministers and stewards of Christ's mysteries”. The first two sentences of the Epistle show what is meant.

Further, the Christian minister's work is to prepare and make ready” the way for Christ

“by the turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just”—a fine description of a parson’s job! He is not only to reveal sin for what it is, and as something to be sorry for, but he is to lead men to a new life of consecrated service. True “wisdom” means loving what God loves, and the “just” are those who make this wisdom the guiding rule of their lives. (H. W. Dobson)

COLLECT FOR ADVENT 3

O LORD Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee; Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

COLLECT FOR THE SEASON

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with the thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 (J.B. Phillips)

Trust us, but make no hasty judgments

4 ¹⁻⁴ You should look upon us as ministers of Christ, as trustees [stewards] of the secrets [mysteries] of God. And it is a prime requisite in a trustee that he should prove worthy of his trust. But, as a matter of fact, it matters very little to me what you, or any man, thinks of me—I don’t even value my opinion of myself—but that doesn’t justify me before God. My only true judge is God himself.

⁵ The moral of this is that we should make no hasty or premature judgments. When the Lord comes he will bring into the light of day all that at present is hidden in darkness, and he will expose the secret motives of men’s hearts. Then shall God himself give each man his share of praise.

NOTE: St. Paul gives us a partial glimpse of the conception of the “ministers of Christ.” Ministers are to be trustworthy, and they should be trusted. He warns against making hasty judgments of the “stewards of the mysteries of God.” The Lord when He comes will judge “the counsels of the hearts” of all men. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. Matthew 11:2-10 (J.B. Phillips)

John enquires about Christ: Christ speaks about John

²⁻³ John the Baptist was in prison when he heard what Christ was doing, and he sent a message through his own disciples asking the question, “Are you the one who was to come or are we to look for somebody else?”

⁴⁻⁶ Jesus gave them this reply, “Go and tell John what you see and hear—that blind men are recovering their sight, cripples are walking, lepers being healed, the deaf hearing, the dead being brought to life and the good news is being given to those in need. And happy is the man who never loses faith in me.”

⁷⁻¹⁰ As John’s disciples were going away Jesus began talking to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the desert to look at? A reed waving in the breeze? No? Then what was it you went out to see?—a man dressed in fine clothes? But the men who wear fine clothes live in the courts of kings! But what did you really go to see—a prophet? Yes, I tell you, a prophet and far more than a prophet! This is the man of whom the scripture says—‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you’.

NOTE: This passage is our Lord’s estimate of John the Baptist. John’s faithfulness to his calling should inspire Christian ministers today to fidelity to their calling.

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19 (RSV)

Jeremiah, not unlike John the Baptist in the New Testament, was called by God from before birth. Both would be fearless spokesmen for God and suffer for it

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’;
for to all to whom I send you you shall go,
and whatever I command you you shall speak.

⁸ Be not afraid of them,

for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put forth his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

“Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to break down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

¹⁶ And I will utter my judgments against them, for all their wickedness in forsaking me; they have burned incense to other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands. ¹⁷ But you, gird up your loins; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. ¹⁸ And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests, and the people of the land. ¹⁹ They will fight against you; but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, says the LORD, to deliver you.”

NOTE: God calls Jeremiah to be His prophet. A point that should not be missed is God's foreknowledge and call of the prophet before he was born. If God knew Jeremiah before he was born, what about you? No doubt God had a plan for your life just as He did Jeremiah. God's call, however, requires a response. Have you said yes? If not, why not? Do it today.

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector



Tip of the Canterbury Cap to Anna Bradley
keeping the Advent wreath and the greens around the
Altar refreshed during this four-week season.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2025

- **Christmas by Candlelight** – Saturday, Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 21 at 3 p.m. For tickets call 706-851-7548 or visit St. Luke's website.
- **St. Thomas the Apostle** – Monday, Dec. 22, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **Christmas Eve Festival Family Service with Carols** – Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.
- **Christmas Eve Festive Choral Communion (traditional late-night candlelight service)** – Dec. 24 at 10 p.m.
- **Christmas Day, Holy Communion**, Dec. 25, 9 a.m.
- **St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr** – Friday, Dec. 26, HC Jennus Chapel at noon

Poinsettias may be purchased for Christmas for \$15.50.
If paying by check, please note at the bottom of the
check that it is for poinsettias.



JOIN THE CHOIR!



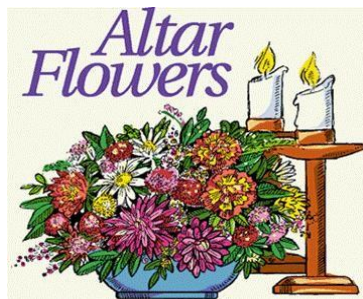
For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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.



Call the church office to reserve a date.



Stewardship

a way of life

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 2026.

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;
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