

***This Sunday at St. Luke's
April 23, 2023***

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

10 a.m. – Morning Prayer and Sermon

**11 a.m. – Service of Remembrance and Interment
for Gordon Shelby Reinauer,
St. Luke's Memorial Garden**

**11:20 a.m. – Light Lunch with Remembrances
*In-church and online***

**The Second Sunday after Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday**



*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd will give his life for the sake
of his sheep. John 10:11*

Jesus the Good Shepherd

The picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd has often been interpreted too sentimentally. Pretty things are said about sheep and shepherds. But in Biblical scenes, behind all the intimacy and pastoral care, there always lurked the hidden danger. “The good shepherd will give His life for the sake of His sheep . . . and I am giving my life for the sake of the sheep.” This point is taken up in the Epistle appointed for the Second Sunday after Easter: “Christ suffered for you . . . He personally bore our sins in His own body on the cross.” There the Good Shepherd is shown doing something for the sheep that the sheep are powerless to do for themselves – a thought which finds expression in the words of the Collect, “to be unto us a sacrifice for sin.” This is the “inestimable benefit we pray “always most thankfully to receive.” (H.W. Dobson)

THE COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an ensample of godly life; Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same thy son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – 1 St. Peter 2:19-25 (J.B. Phillips)

Following Christ's example

¹⁹⁻²⁰ A man does something valuable when he endures pain, as in the sight of God, though he knows he is suffering unjustly. After all, it is no credit to you if you are patient in bearing a punishment which you have richly deserved! But if you do your duty and are punished for it and can still accept it patiently, you are doing something worthwhile in God's sight.

²¹⁻²⁵ Indeed this is part of your calling. For Christ suffered for you and left you a personal example, and wants you to follow in his steps. ‘Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in his mouth’. Yet when he was insulted he offered no insult in return. When he suffered he made no threats of revenge. He simply committed his cause to the one who judges fairly. And he personally bore our sins in his own body on the cross, so that we might be dead to sin and be alive to all that is good. It

was the suffering that he bore which has healed you. You had wandered away like so many sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

NOTE: Christ who suffered for us has a true shepherd's concern for those who "follow in His steps." (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL (H.C.) – St. John 10:11-16 (J.B. Phillips)

The true shepherd of men

10 ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd will give his life for the sake of his sheep. But the hired man, who is not the shepherd, and does not own the sheep, will see the wolf coming, desert the sheep and run away. And the wolf will attack the flock and send them flying. The hired man runs away because he is only a hired man and has no interest in the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know those that are mine and my sheep know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I am giving my life for the sake of the sheep.

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ "And I have other sheep who do not belong to this fold. I must lead these also, and they will hear my voice. So there will be one flock and one shepherd. This is the reason why the Father loves me—that I lay down my life, and I lay it down to take it up again! No one is taking it from me, but I lay it down of my own free will. I have the power to lay it down and I have the power to take it up again. This is an order that I have received from my Father."

NOTE: Here is the Fourth Gospel description of the Good Shepherd (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Isaiah 40:1-11 (RSV)

God's people are comforted

40¹ Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people is grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;^[b]

lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,^[c]
lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Behold your God!”

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

NOTE: When the prophet wrote of the way God would lead His people [in Babylonia] out of exile to their own land he describes the activity of God in terms of a shepherd and his flock. (William Sydnor)

NEW TESTAMENT – John 10:1-10 (J.B. Phillips)

Jesus is the true shepherd (king)

1¹Then Jesus said, “Believe me when I tell you that anyone who does not enter the sheepfold though the door, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a rogue. It is the shepherd of the flock who goes in by the door. It is to him the door-keeper opens the door and it is his voice that the sheep recognise. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out of the fold, and when he has driven all his own flock outside, he goes in front of them himself, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will never follow a stranger—indeed, they will run away from him, for they do not recognise strange voices.”

6-15 Jesus gave them this illustration but they did not grasp the point of what he was saying to them. So Jesus said to them once more, “I do assure you that I myself am the door for the sheep. All who have gone before me are like thieves and rogues, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If a man goes in through me, he will be safe and sound; he can come in and out and find his food. The thief comes with the sole intention of stealing and killing and destroying, but I came to bring them life, and far more life than before. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd will give his life for the sake of his sheep. But the hired man, who is not the shepherd, and does not own the sheep, will see the wolf coming, desert the sheep and run away. And the wolf will attack the flock and send them flying. The hired man runs away because he is only a hired man and has no interest in the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know those that are mine and my sheep know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I am giving my life for the sake of the sheep.

NOTE: The entire shepherd passage in St. John 10 points back to Old Testament statements describing Israel’s God as a shepherd over His people. Jesus is that God come in the flesh.

The Second Sunday after Easter

The Preacher – 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 Jennifer Higdon and Jodi Beauregard for coordinating the reception for Gordon Reinauer.

TEACHING TUESDAYS

- April 25, The Early Christians and the Church, Claudia Beth Pound
- May 2, The Mission of the Church, D. J. Fulton
- May 9, The Creation of the New Testament, Pat Dearing



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.

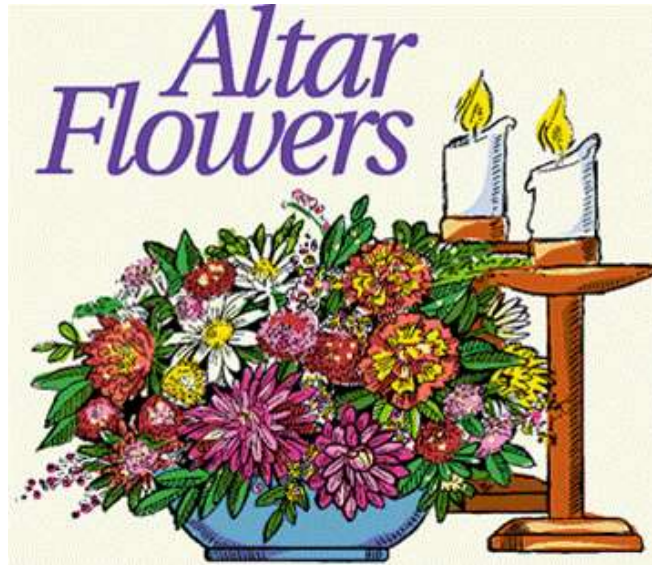
Name

Address

—
Amount

_____ 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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www.stlukesblueridge.org; stlukes@tds.net.