

***This Sunday at St. Luke's
April 21, 2024***

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

**10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion with hymns and anthem
Steven Cagle, organist**

The Third Sunday after Easter



Jesus Consoles His Disciples, Raphael Frassinetti, 1900

***Ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful,
but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. John 16:20***

Sorrow turned into joy

The discourse between Jesus and the disciples recorded in this Sunday's Gospel precedes our Lord's death and passion. In it, Jesus speaks of the time of separation and resultant sadness that was coming. "A little while and you no longer have me before your eyes . . . you will be distressed," He says. But this separation will be short-lived, and so will be their sorrow. In a little while they will see Him again. This saying about seeing Him again was meant to refer to the appearances of our Lord to His disciples after the resurrection, but – no doubt – they also refer to Jesus' coming presence. Our Lord's presence in the congregation of His faithful people continues all the way to His Second Coming. We too can experience "the joy that no one can take away."

THE COLLECT FOR EASTER 3

ALMIGHTY God, who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE (H.C.) – 1 St. Peter 2:11-17 (J.B. Phillips)

Your behaviour to the outside world

¹¹ I beg you, as those whom I love, to live in this world as strangers and "temporary residents", to keep clear of the desires of your lower natures, for they are always at war with your souls.

¹² Your conduct among the surrounding peoples in your different countries should always be good and right, so that although they may in the usual way slander you as evil-doers yet when disasters come, they may glorify God when they see how well you conduct yourselves.

¹³⁻¹⁷ Obey every man-made authority for the Lord's sake—whether it is the emperor, as the supreme ruler, or the governors whom he has appointed to punish evil-doers and reward those who do good service. It is the will of God that you may thus silence the ill-informed criticisms of the foolish. As free men you should never use your freedom as an excuse for doing something that is wrong, for you are at all times the servants of God. You should have respect for everyone, you should love our brotherhood, fear God and honour the emperor.

NOTE: The Christian's life has an earthly as well as a heavenly dimension. The writer is describing the Christian's duties to the political state of which he is a citizen. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL (H.C.) – St. John 16:16-22 (J.B. Phillips)

The disciples are puzzled: Jesus explains

¹⁶ “In a little while you will not see me any longer, and again, in a little while you will see me.”

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ At this some of his disciples remarked to each other, “What is this that he tells us now, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again, in a little while you will see me’ and ‘for I am going away to the Father’? What is the ‘little while’ that he talks about?” they were saying. “We simply do not know what he means!”

^{19-23a} Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him what he meant, so he said to them, “Are you trying to find out from each other what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will not see me, and again, in a little while you will see me’? I tell you truly that you are going to be both sad and sorry while the world is glad. Yes, you will be deeply distressed, but your pain will turn into joy. When a woman gives birth to a child, she certainly knows pain when her time comes. Yet as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers her agony for joy that a man has been born into the world. Now you are going through pain, but I shall see you again and your hearts will thrill with joy—the joy that no one can take away from you—and on that day you will not ask me any questions.

^{23b-24} “I assure you that whatever you ask the Father he will give you in my name. Up to now you have asked nothing in my name; ask now, and you will receive, that your joy may be overflowing.

NOTE: This section from the discourses in the Upper Room is saying that, beyond the death and resurrection and ascension of the Lord, those who believe in Him will find new hope and new life.

LECTIONARY READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – 1 Samuel 2:1-10 (RSV)

Hannah's sorrow is turned to joy

¹ Hannah also prayed and said,
“My heart exults in the LORD;
my strength is exalted in the LORD.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in thy salvation.

² “There is none holy like the LORD,
there is none besides thee;
there is no rock like our God.

³ Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;

for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.
⁴ The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.
⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.
⁶ The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
⁷ The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts.
⁸ He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.
For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,
and on them he has set the world.
⁹ "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones;
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;
for not by might shall a man prevail.
¹⁰ The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces;
against them he will thunder in heaven.
The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king,
and exalt the power of his anointed."

NOTE: This is Hannah's thanksgiving song for her son Samuel. (Cf. Luke 1:46-55.) The appropriateness is that the Lord who humbles men can also exalt them. (William Sydnor)

Sunday Worship Options

In-church.

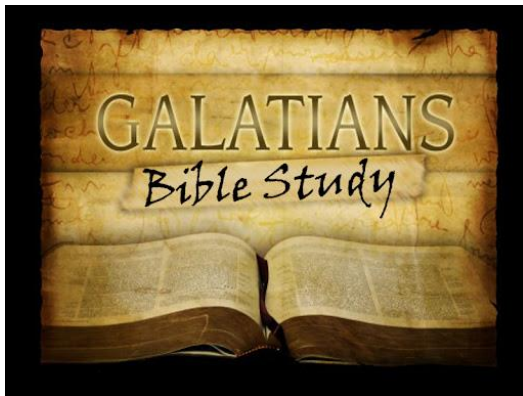
Drive-in. Those choosing this option are asked
to remain in their automobile and listen to the

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.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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



GALATIANS STUDY CONTINUES

Galatians: A Manifesto of Freedom continues through Wednesday, May 15. D.J. Fulton is chairman of St. Luke’s Education Committee.

FROM TERESA WANKEL:

In preparation for this Wednesday's Bible study, please read Galatians Chapter 2 and listen to Dr John Howe's lecture titled "Justified by Faith" [GALATIANS - 2. Justified By Faith \(biblebanquet.com\)](#)

Below is the Zoom link. Please contact me at 404 375-6702 if you have any problems logging into the meeting.

Teresa Wankel is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: St Paul's Epistle to the Galatians

Time: Apr 17, 2024 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Wed, until May 15, 2024, 5 occurrence(s)

Apr 17, 2024 10:30 AM

Apr 24, 2024 10:30 AM

May 1, 2024 10:30 AM

May 8, 2024 10:30 AM

May 15, 2024 10:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88978683164?pwd=cHpKdERtcGEvM2dOUIN3NnA2dU9PQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 7868 3164

Passcode: 547606

GALATIANS 2 – This week’s passage (New Testament for Everyone)

Standing firm against opposition

2 Then, after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem. I took Barnabas with me, and Titus. ² I went up because of a revelation. I laid before them the gospel which I announce among the Gentiles (I did this privately, in the presence of the key people), in case somehow I might be running, or might have run, to no good effect. ³ But even the Greek, Titus, who was with me, was not forced to get circumcised . . . ⁴ but because of some pseudo-family members who had been secretly smuggled in, who came in on the side to spy on the freedom which we have in the Messiah, Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery . . . ⁵ I didn’t yield authority to them, no, not for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be maintained for you.

Paul’s agreement with Peter and James

⁶ However, those who appeared to be Something—what sort of “thing” they were makes no difference to me, God shows no partiality—those of reputation added nothing extra to me. ⁷ On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcision, just as Peter had been with the gospel for the circumcision ⁸ (for the one who gave Peter the power to be an apostle to the circumcision gave me the power to go to the Gentiles). They knew, moreover, the grace that had been given to me. ⁹ So James, Cephas and John, who were reputed to be “pillars,” gave to Barnabas and me

the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcision. ¹⁰ The only extra thing they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor—the very thing I was eager to do.

Paul confronts Peter in Antioch

¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I stood up to him face to face. He was in the wrong. ¹² Before certain persons came from James, Peter was eating with the Gentiles. But when they came, he drew back and separated himself, because he was afraid of the circumcision-people. ¹³ The rest of the Jews did the same, joining him in this play-acting. Even Barnabas was carried along by their sham. ¹⁴ But when I saw that they weren't walking straight down the line of gospel truth, I said to Cephas in front of them all: "Look here: you're a Jew, but you've been living like a Gentile. How can you force Gentiles to become Jews?"

Justified by faith, not works of law

¹⁵ We are Jews by birth, not "Gentile sinners." ¹⁶ But we know that a person is not declared "righteous" by works of the Jewish law, but through the **faithfulness of Jesus the Messiah**.

That is why we too believed in the Messiah, Jesus: so that we might be declared "righteous" **on the basis of the Messiah's faithfulness**, and not on the basis of works of the Jewish law. On that basis, you see, no creature will be declared "righteous."

¹⁷ Well, then; if, in seeking to be declared "righteous" in the Messiah, we ourselves are found to be "sinners," does that make the Messiah an agent of "sin"? Certainly not! ¹⁸ If I build up once more the things which I tore down, I demonstrate that I am a lawbreaker.

¹⁹ Let me explain it like this. Through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with the Messiah. ²⁰ I am, however, alive—but it isn't me any longer, it's the Messiah who lives in me. And the life I do still live in the flesh, I live within **[by] the faithfulness of the son of God**, who loved me and gave himself for me.

²¹ I don't set aside God's grace. If "righteousness" comes through the law, then the Messiah died for nothing.

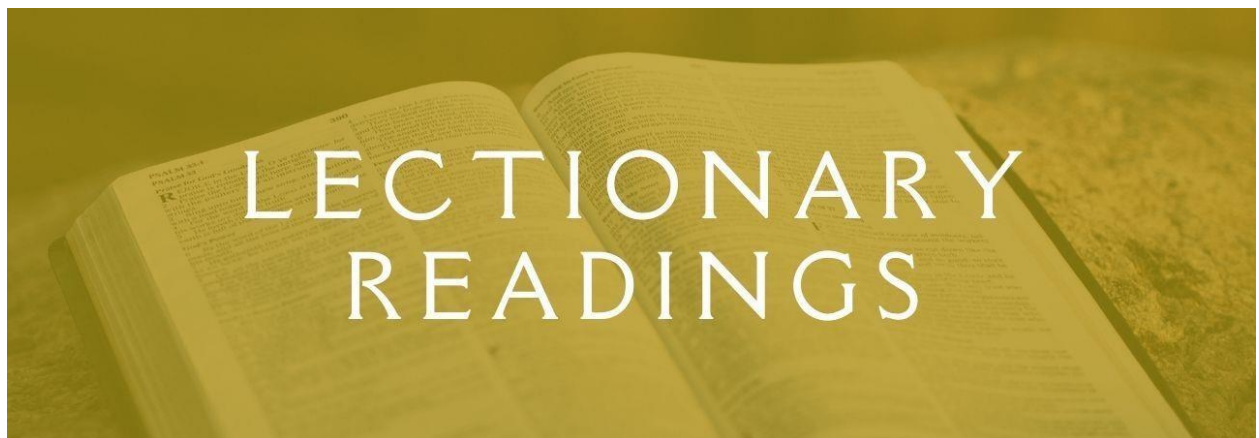


FUTURE FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCKS DATES

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 June 30; Sept 29; and Dec. 29.



Tip of the Canterbury Cap to Ruth and Roger Johnson for their generous contribution of a new garage and side door for the garage.



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

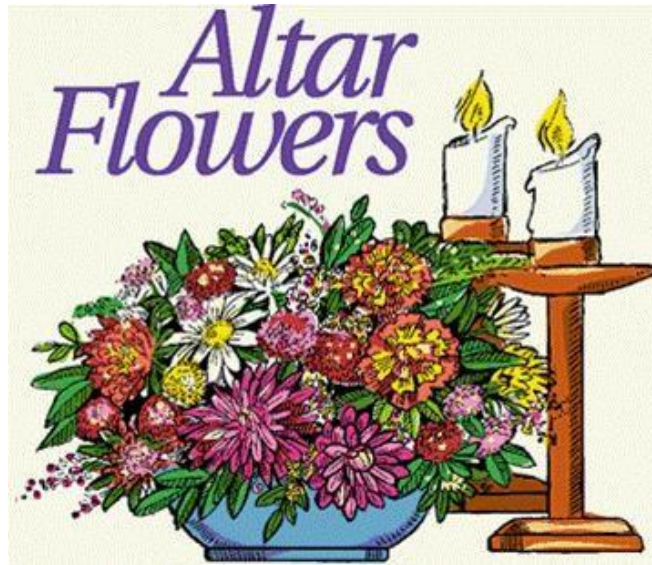


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email
dburden6907@gmail.com.



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)



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.