

This Sunday at St. Luke's
April 5, 2026

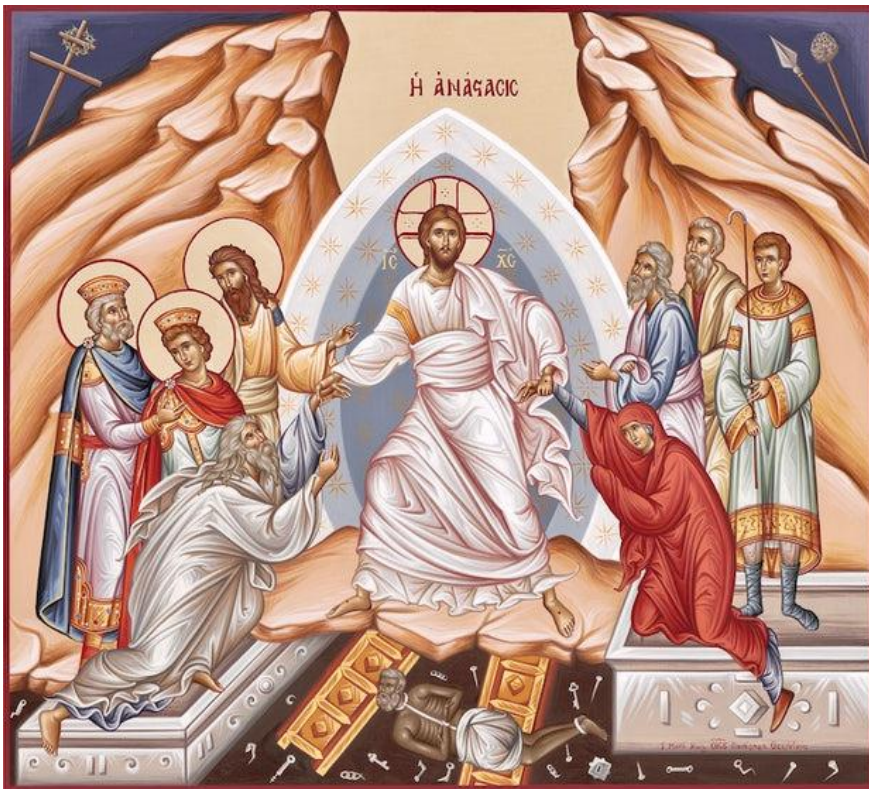
8 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)

**10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion with soaring music featuring
choir, organ, brass and percussion**

ORGAN: Steven Cagle

Easter Day

The Resurrection Changes Everything



According to Luke's telling of the story, some women came very early in the morning on Sunday to anoint Jesus' body, a common custom of the day. To their surprise, they found the tomb open and empty. At this point they see two men, angels no doubt, who give them news they were not expecting: "He is not here, but is risen." This announcement still goes forth today. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. The

thaw of sin and death's long winter has begun. Spring – God's new week of creation – has begun.

The picture above, an Orthodox Resurrection icon, is often called the **Anastasis** or "Descent into Hades." It depicts Christ as a triumphant figure breaking down the gates of hell to resurrect humanity. Instead of the moment of rising from the tomb, it shows Christ pulling Adam and Eve from their graves, symbolizing his victory over death and the salvation of all believers.

THE COLLECT FOR EASTER DAY

ALMIGHTY God, who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life; We humbly beseech thee that, as by thy special grace preventing [going before] us thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – Colossians 3:1-4 (J.B. Phillips)

Live a new life by the power of the risen Christ

3 ¹⁻⁴ If you are then "risen" with Christ, reach out for the highest gifts of Heaven, where your master reigns in power. Give your heart to the heavenly things, not to the passing things of earth. For, as far as this world is concerned, you are already dead, and your true life is a hidden one in Christ. One day, Christ, the secret centre of our lives, will show himself openly, and you will all share in that magnificent dénouement.

⁵⁻⁷ In so far, then, as you have to live upon this earth, consider yourselves dead to worldly contacts: have nothing to do with sexual immorality, dirty-mindedness, uncontrolled passion, evil desire, and the lust for other people's goods, which last, remember, is as serious a sin as idolatry. It is because of these very things that the holy anger of God falls upon those who refuse to obey him. And never forget that you had your part in those dreadful things when you lived that old life.

NOTE: The Christian is one whose life has at its center the risen Lord who has conquered both sin and death. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. John 20:1-10 (J.B. Phillips)

The first day of the week: the risen Lord

20 ¹⁻² But on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala arrived at the tomb, very early in the morning, while it was still dark, and noticed that the stone had been taken away

from the tomb. At this she ran, found Simon Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don’t know where they have put him.”

³⁻¹⁰ Peter and the other disciple set off at once for the tomb, the two of them running together. The other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. He stooped and looked inside and noticed the linen cloths lying there but did not go in himself. Hard on his heels came Simon Peter and went straight into the tomb. He noticed that the linen cloths were lying there, and that the handkerchief, which had been round Jesus’s head, was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself, a little way apart. Then the other disciple, who was the first to arrive at the tomb, came inside as well, saw what had happened and believed. (They did not yet understand the scripture which said that he must rise from the dead.) So the disciples went back again to their homes.

NOTE: It is because of our unshakable faith that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead that we believe in Him as victor over sin and death. (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Exodus 12:1-14 (RSV)

The Passover

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² “This month shall be for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they shall take every man a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household; ⁴ and if the household is too small for a lamb, then a man and his neighbour next to his house shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old; you shall take it from the sheep or from the goats; ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs in the evening. ⁷ Then they shall take some of the blood, and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them. ⁸ They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled with water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰ And you shall let none of it remain until the morning, anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord’s passover. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of

Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as an ordinance for ever.

NOTE: This is part of the story of the first Passover at the time God delivered the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. As God delivered His people from death in ancient times, so, in Christ, God has freed His faithful people forever from the power of death. (William Sydnor)

Easter Day

Preacher: The Rector

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Lector – Tim Kirby

Acolyte – Reed Ferrell

Verger – Dr. Alvin Cash

Ushers – Tim Kirby and Tom Wall

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

March and April

- **Eastern Orthodox Services** – Apr. 5 and Apr. 12, at 2 p.m.
- **Easter Day** – Apr. 5, Services at 8:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
- **SLMG Monthly Meeting** – Tuesday, Apr. 7 at 11 a.m.
- **Fellowship Luncheon** – Sunday, Apr. 12, following the 10:15 a.m. service.
- **Teaching Tuesday, The Church Sacraments and Rites** - Tuesdays, Apr. 14 - May 19, at 10 a.m. For more information, contact D.J. Fulton at 770-713-4202
- **Vestry Meeting** – Sunday, Apr. 26, following the 10:15 a.m. service.

Options

In-church.

Online. Services are livestreamed on Facebook and available for viewing following the service on YouTube. To access both put “Parish Church of St. Luke, Blue Ridge, Ga.” In the search bar.



Tip of the Canterbury Cap to Randy Wilbur and members of the St. Luke Singers for the majestic music provided at St. Luke's.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED – DONATE A CHILDREN’S BOOK

WSL Women of St. Luke's book drive to benefit The Craddock Center continues this week. Please bring books for children 0 to 5 years old to the collection box downstairs.

JOIN THE CHOIR!

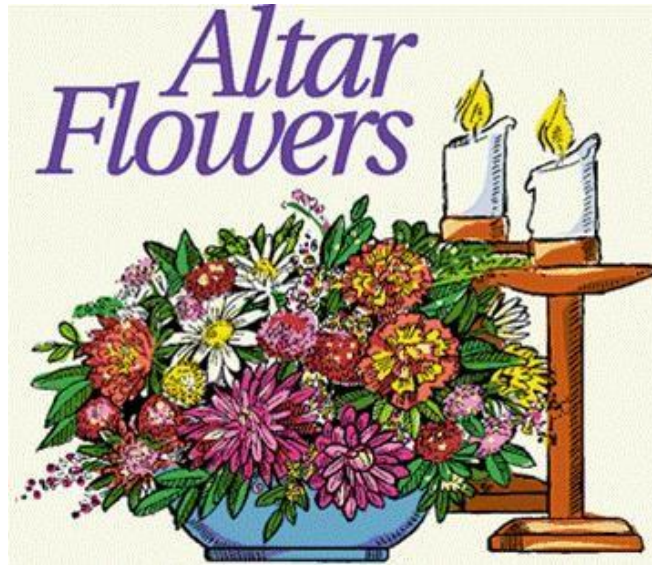


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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 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 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 2025

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.