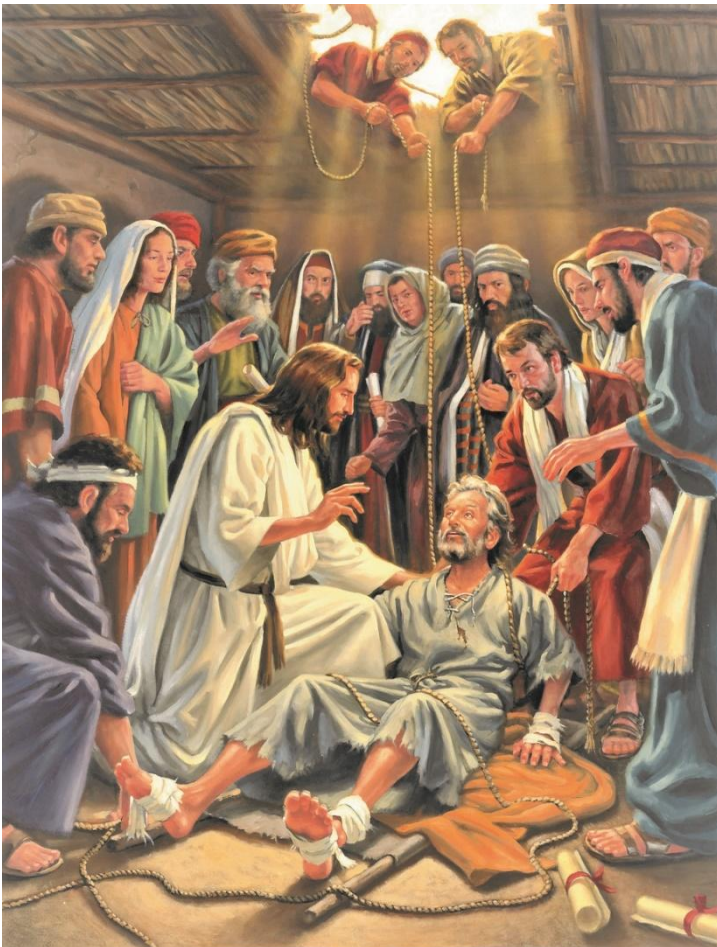




This Sunday at St. Luke's
October 11, 2026

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)
10:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer and Sermon together with
choir, anthem and organ
George Atwell, organist

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity



Jesus heals both soul and body

This Sunday's Gospel is Matthew's account of Jesus healing a paralysed man. This man found not only healing for his body, but new life through the forgiveness of his sins. Christianity is and must be concerned with the "outer life" – with racial tolerance, housing, labor conditions and so on, precisely because physical conditions of life so powerfully help or hinder the pursuit of the good life. But underlying all these there is the deeper need of spiritual healing and reconciliation with God. (H.W. Dobson)

COLLECT FOR THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

O GOD, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee; Mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – Ephesians 4:17-32 (J.B. Phillips)

Have no more to do with the old life! Learn the new

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ This is my instruction, then, which I give you from God. Do not live any longer as the Gentiles live. For they live blindfold in a world of illusion, and cut off from the life of God through ignorance and insensitiveness. They have stifled their consciences and then surrendered themselves to sensuality, practising any form of impurity which lust can suggest.

²⁰⁻²⁴ But you have learned nothing like that from Christ, if you have really heard his voice and understood the truth that he has taught you. No, what you learned was to fling off the dirty clothes of the old way of living, which were rotted through and through with lust's illusions, and, with yourselves mentally and spiritually re-made, to put on the clean fresh clothes of the new life which was made by God's design for righteousness and the holiness which is no illusion.

²⁵ Finish, then, with lying and tell your neighbour the truth. For we are not separate units but intimately related to each other in Christ.

²⁶⁻²⁷ If you are angry, be sure that it is not out of wounded pride or bad temper. Never go to bed angry—don't give the devil that sort of foothold.

The new life means positive good

²⁸ If you used to be a thief you must not only give up stealing, but you must learn to make an honest living, so that you may be able to give to those in need.

²⁹ Let there be no more foul language, but good words instead—words suitable for the occasion, which God can use to help other people.

³⁰ Never hurt the Holy Spirit. He is, remember, the personal pledge of your eventual full redemption.

³¹⁻³² Let there be no more resentment, no more anger or temper, no more violent self-assertiveness, no more slander and no more malicious remarks, Be kind to each other, be understanding. Be as ready to forgive others as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.

NOTE: The author contrasts the Christian and pagan ways of life. He urges his reader to "put on the new man (nature), which after [the likeness of] God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (v.24). (William Sydnor)

\

THE GOSPEL – St. Matthew 9:1-8 (J.B. Phillips)

Jesus heals in his own town

9¹⁻² So Jesus re-embarked on the boat, crossed the lake, and came to his own town. Immediately some people arrived bringing him a paralytic lying flat on his bed. When Jesus saw the faith of those who brought him he said to the paralytic, “Cheer up, my son! Your sins are forgiven.”

3-8 At once some of the scribes thought to themselves, “This man is blaspheming”. But Jesus realised what they were thinking, and said to them, “Why must you have such evil thoughts in your minds? Do you think it is easier to say to this man, ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or ‘Get up and walk’? But to make it quite plain that the Son of Man has full authority on earth to forgive sins”—and here he spoke to the paralytic—“Get up, pick up your bed and go home.” And the man sprang to his feet and went home. When the crowds saw what had happened they were filled with awe and praised God for giving such power to men.

NOTE: The healing of the paralytic shows the importance of the believing company as a necessary element for the releasing of God’s saving power in the lives of men. Note that on this occasion it was the friends’ faith that preceded this man’s deliverance. (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

FIRST LESSON – Jeremiah 30:12-22 (RSV)

Restoration promised to captives in Babylon

12 “For thus says the Lord:

Your hurt is incurable,
and your wound is grievous.

13 There is none to uphold your cause,
no medicine for your wound,
no healing for you.

14 All your lovers have forgotten you;
they care nothing for you;
for I have dealt you the blow of an enemy,
the punishment of a merciless foe,
because your guilt is great,
because your sins are flagrant.

15 Why do you cry out over your hurt?
Your pain is incurable.
Because your guilt is great,

because your sins are flagrant,
I have done these things to you.
¹⁶ Therefore all who devour you shall be devoured,
and all your foes, every one of them, shall go into captivity;
those who despoil you shall become a spoil,
and all who prey on you I will make a prey.
¹⁷ For I will restore health to you,
and your wounds I will heal,
says the Lord,
because they have called you an outcast:
'It is Zion, for whom no one cares!'
¹⁸ "Thus says the Lord:
Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob,
and have compassion on his dwellings;
the city shall be rebuilt upon its mound,
and the palace shall stand where it used to be.
¹⁹ Out of them shall come songs of thanksgiving,
and the voices of those who make merry.
I will multiply them, and they shall not be few;
I will make them honored, and they shall not be small.
²⁰ Their children shall be as they were of old,
and their congregation shall be established before me;
and I will punish all who oppress them.
²¹ Their prince shall be one of themselves,
their ruler shall come forth from their midst;
I will make him draw near, and he shall approach me,
for who would dare of himself to approach me?
says the Lord.
²² And you shall be my people,
and I will be your God."
²³ Behold the storm of the Lord!
Wrath has gone forth,
a whirling tempest;
it will burst upon the head of the wicked.
²⁴ The fierce anger of the Lord will not turn back
until he has executed and accomplished
the intents of his mind.
In the latter days you will understand this.

NOTE: The prophet promises the exiles in Babylon that the Lord will heal the wounds of Zion. Jesus came acting out and fulfilling this expectation on a one-by-one basis involving individuals such as the paralytic man told about in today's NT lesson.

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Lector – Daniel Foster

Acolyte – Jim Noblett

Verger – Dr. Alvin Cash

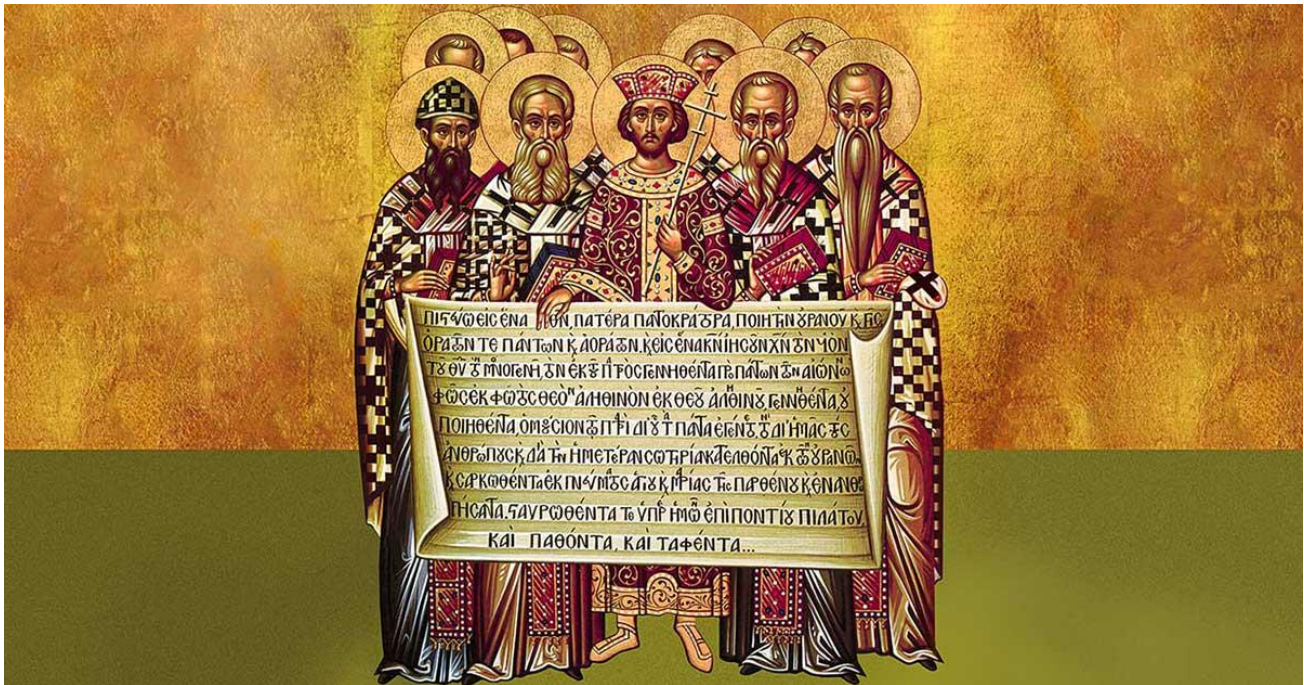
Ushers – Tim Kirby and *put your name in this blank!*

(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.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT IN FOUR WEEKS



Gifted Bible teacher Charles Lutz is leading a four-week Bible study entitled "**The Old Testament in Four Weeks: History and Literature**" on Thursdays through Oct. 8. Gather at 5:30 p.m. for a meal. Study will follow at 6 p.m. Please invite a friend to come with you.



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.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

October.

-
- **The Old Testament in Four Weeks, Charles Lutz instructor** – Thursdays, Sept. 17- Oct. 8, Meal at 5:30 p.m. Study at 6 p.m.
- **WSL Fall Bible Study** – Wednesdays, Sept. 30 – Nov. 4 at 10 a.m.
- **Annual Church Picnic** – Sunday, Oct. 11, following the 10:30 a.m. service.
- **Eastern Orthodox Divine Liturgy** – Sunday, Oct. 11 and 25, at 2 p.m.
- **Young Harris Concert** – Sunday, Oct. 18, at 6 p.m.
- **Vestry Meeting** – Sunday, Oct. 25, following 10:30 a.m. service
- **St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles** – Wednesday, Oct. 28, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.

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 Tim Kirby for coordinating ushers . . . please volunteer!



JOIN THE CHOIR!

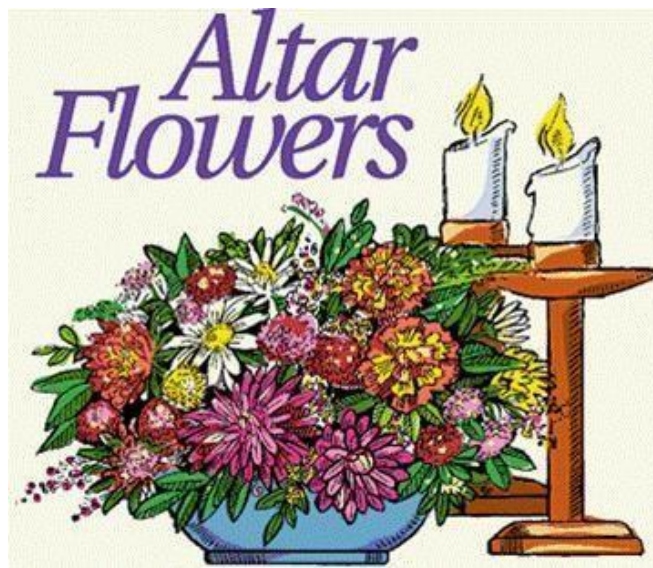


For information, contact, Diana Burden Mark at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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 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.