



This Sunday at St. Luke's
January 22, 2023

9:30 a.m. – ONE SERVICE – Holy Communion with Hymns
followed by Annual Parish Meeting and Brunch

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany



The Wedding at Cana

This Sunday's Gospel is another manifestation of Christ, of His sympathy and ready help in case of need and of His miraculous power over nature. But to St. John

it is a “sign”. “It sets forth the relation of the old order and the new, of the Law and the Gospel; the latter is seen as the perfecting and transformation of the former” (Bishop Lightfoot).

This is what Jesus does; in this way He ever demonstrates His power. When He comes into life it sparkles like wine; it is no longer drab and uninteresting but exhilarating and exciting, something with purpose. (H. W. Dobson)

THE COLLECT FOR EPIPHANY 3

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – Romans 12:16-21 (J.B. Phillips)

Overpower evil with good

12 ¹⁶ Don’t become set in your own opinions.

¹⁷ Don’t pay back a bad turn by a bad turn, to anyone. Don’t say “it doesn’t matter what people think”, but see that your public behaviour is above criticism.

¹⁸ As far as your responsibility goes, live at peace with everyone.

¹⁹ Never take vengeance into your own hands, my dear friends: stand back and let God punish if he will. For it is written: ‘Vengeance is mine. I will repay’.

²⁰⁻²¹ ... these are God’s words: ‘Therefore if your enemy hungers, feed him; if he thirsts, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head’. Don’t allow yourself to be overpowered with evil. Take the offensive—overpower evil by good!

NOTE: The closing section of Romans 12 deals with the way those who seek to do God’s will cope with their enemies. “Love your enemies,” counsels our Lord, “do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you” (Luke 6:27-28). In a hot and arid country a cup of water was a symbol of great blessing (Mark 9:41) and (Matthew 25:35, 40). The apostle points out that giving drink to the thirsty is a way to “overcome evil with good.” (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. John 2:1-11 (J.B. Phillips)

The Son of God and a village wedding

2¹ Two days later there was a wedding in the Galilean village of Cana.

²⁻³ Jesus’ mother was there and he and his disciples were invited to the festivities.

Then it happened that the supply of wine gave out, and Jesus’ mother told him, “They have no more wine.”

⁴ “Is that your concern, or mine?” replied Jesus. “My time has not come yet.”

⁵ So his mother said to the servants, “Mind you do whatever he tells you.”
⁶⁻¹¹ In the room six very large stone water-jars stood on the floor (actually for the Jewish ceremonial cleansing), each holding about twenty gallons. Jesus gave instructions for these jars to be filled with water, and the servants filled them to the brim. Then he said to them, “Now draw some water out and take it to the master of ceremonies”, which they did. When this man tasted the water, which had now become wine, without knowing where it came from (though naturally the servants who had drawn the water knew), he called out to the bridegroom and said to him, “Everybody I know puts his good wine on first and then when men have had plenty to drink, he brings out the poor stuff. But you have kept back your good wine till now!” Jesus gave this, the first of his signs, at Cana in Galilee. He demonstrated his power and his disciples believed in him.

NOTE: In the wedding feast in Cana, Jesus Christ manifested forth His glory. This is a central emphasis of the Epiphany season. He who gives wine here is also the giver of living water (John 4:14). (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Isaiah 41:8-10, 17-20 (RSV)

Israel assured of God's help

⁴¹⁸ But you, Israel, my servant,
 Jacob, whom I have chosen,
 the offspring of Abraham, my friend;
⁹ you whom I took from the ends of the earth,
 and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, “You are my servant,
 I have chosen you and not cast you off”;
¹⁰ fear not, for I am with you,
 be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
 I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
 in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.

¹⁷ When the poor and needy seek water,
 and there is none,
 and their tongue is parched with thirst,
I the LORD will answer them,

I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
¹⁸ I will open rivers on the bare heights,
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
and the dry land springs of water.
¹⁹ I will put in the wilderness the cedar,
the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive;
I will set in the desert the cypress,
the plane and the pine together;
²⁰ that men may see and know,
may consider and understand together,
that the hand of the LORD has done this,
the Holy One of Israel has created it.
²⁸ But when I look there is no one;
among these there is no counselor
who, when I ask, gives an answer.
²⁹ Behold, they are all a delusion;
their works are nothing;
their molten images are empty wind.

NOTE: Here are two stanzas of a long poem (41:1-42:4) dealing with the trial of the nations. The prophet, in one of the Bible's loveliest passages, tells us of God's concern for His people. God's lovingkindness toward Israel is pictured in terms of springs of water in a dry land. This rewarding passage deserves to be read aloud, meditated upon, and memorized. (William Sydnor)

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

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 Pat Dearing for agreeing to assume the position of Senior Warden. Mr. Dearing, a son of the Protestant Episcopal Church (his father was a clergyman), is one of the most knowledge layman at St. Luke’s and perhaps the state. Let’s see if he can keep the rector in line and out of jail!



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.

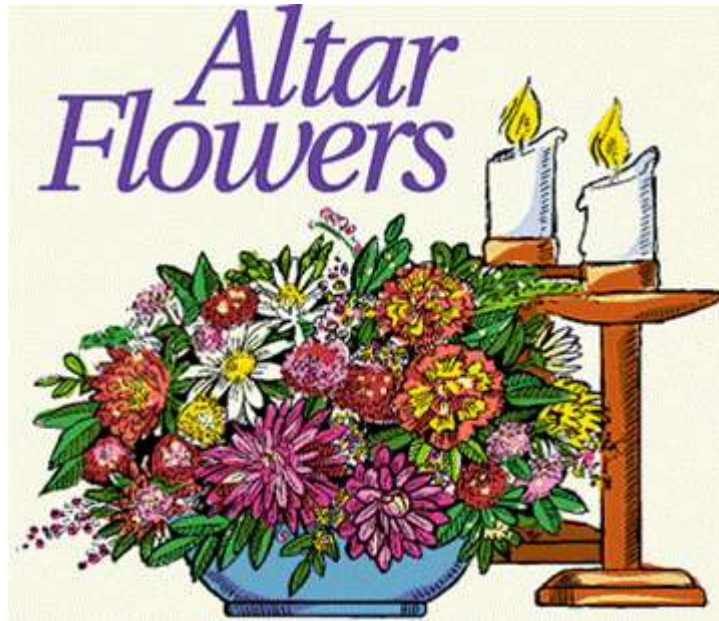
Name

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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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.