

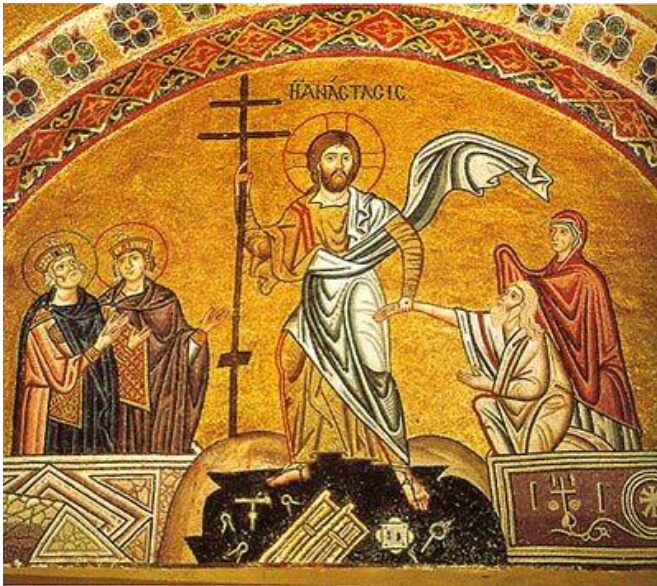
This Sunday at St. Luke's
April 26, 2026

8 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)
10:15 a.m. – Morning Prayer and Sermon together with
Shortened Holy Communion, hymns, choir
and anthem

ORGAN: George Atwell

The Third Sunday after Easter

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." (H.W. Dobson) (The victorious Christ whose abiding brings joy is pictured)

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 – 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 – 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 READING

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

Hannah's sorrow is turned to joy

¹Hannah 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.

³Talk 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.

⁴The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.

⁵Those 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.

⁶The 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)

THE THRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Preacher: The Rector

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Lector – John Kautz

Acolyte – Sally Hess

Verger – Dr. Alvin Cash

Ushers – Bob and Anna Bradley

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

April and May

- **Teaching Tuesday, The Church Sacraments and Rites** - Tuesdays, Apr. 14 - May 19, at 10 a.m. For more information, contact DJ Fulton. 770-713-4202.

- **Vestry Meeting** – Sunday, Apr. 26, following the 10:15 a.m. service.
- **St. Phillip and St. James, Apostles** – Friday, May 1, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **AARP Smart Driver Class** – Saturday, May 2, from 9-4. Contact Kelly Cherry #423-243-8146.
- **SLMG Monthly Meeting** – Tuesday, May 5, 11 a.m.
- **Women’s Enrichment Center Annual BBQ and Yard Sale-**
May 8 and 9. Learn more at wecfamilyresources.org/events.
- **Eastern Orthodox Services** – May 10 and 24, at 2 p.m.
- **WSL Bi-Monthly Meeting** – Wednesday, May 13, at 9:30 a.m.
- **Ascension** – Thursday, May 14, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **Vestry Meeting** – Sunday, May 24, following the 10:15 service.
- **Fellowship Luncheon** – Sunday, May 31, following the 10:15 service.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS

Genesis the Prelude to the Gospel

GENESIS AND CREATION CLASS

Synopsis:

This class meets once a week for 6 weeks. It covers the entire book of Genesis, which is so foundational to an understanding of and earth and civilization are contained in Chapters 1-11, and then the beginnings of the nation of Israel through the lives of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are covered in Chapters 12-50, the last several chapters of which is the story of Joseph, ending with the young nation residing prosperously in Egypt, which is however, not their promised land.

The Instructor:

Charles Lutz, 63 years old, lives in Blairsville, but is from Indiana. For the past 31 years, he has put his seminary training to use in a variety of Christian ministries. He currently is a visiting instructor at a Native American Bible

college, and is a writer and musician. He loves teaching passionately about both books God has written: the Bible and Creation!

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 Darlene Dunnigan for faithfully sending out birthday cards to members.



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!

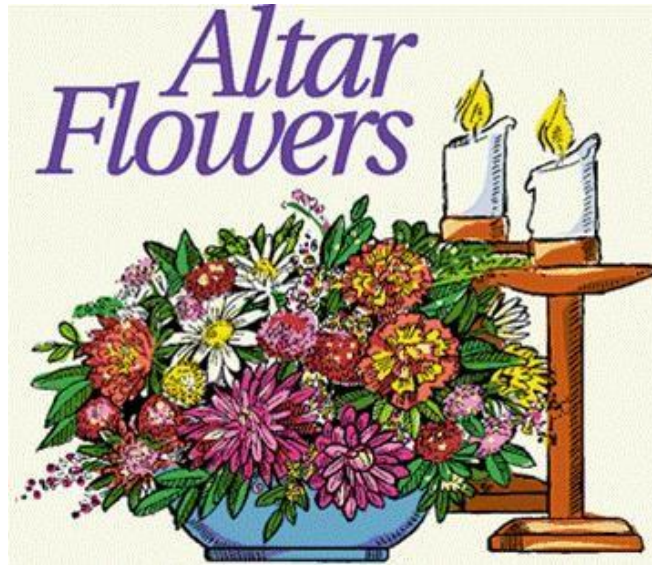


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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.