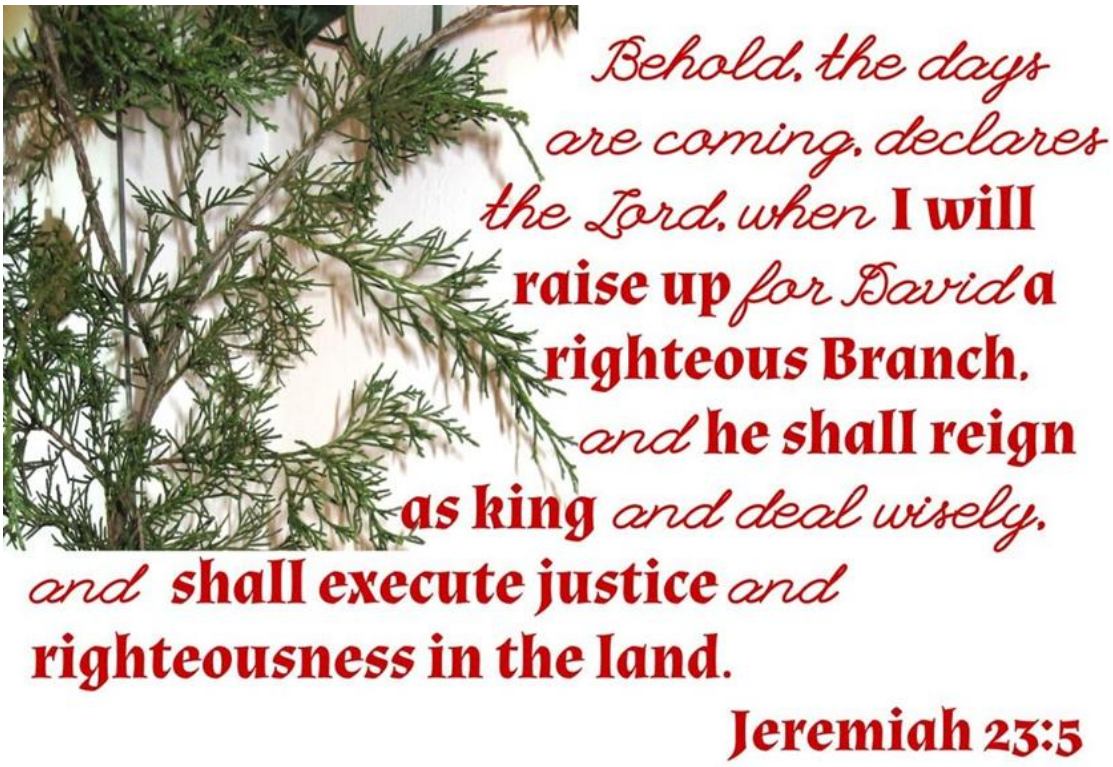
This Sunday at St. Luke's
November 22, 2026

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)
10:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer and Sermon together with Shortened Holy Communion, along with glorious music

Susan Gooch, pianist

Sunday next before Advent

(Trinity 25)



A Look Both Backward and Forward

The Sunday Next Before Advent ends the long Trinity season. It is a transitional Sunday inasmuch as it looks both backward to the territory we have traversed over the past 20-plus weeks and onward to the coming season of Advent. In its backward glance, the Church says to all her sons and daughters, "There, we have shown you duirng all these months how you ought to live; now, to it!" In the words of the Collect for the day, "Stir up our wills." The same imperative applies as we look forward to the next season, Advent. Jesus came according to plan at His First Advent. The same, we can be confident, will be true with His Second Advent. Hence, in the present our focus needs to be on eternal matters.

COLLECT FOR THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

STIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR THE EPISTLE – Jeremiah 3:14-18 (J.B. Phillips)

The coming King

23[5] See, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will cause a new shoot to spring out of David. He will reign as king, he will rule wisely, and he will establish justice and fair-dealing in the land. Under his rule Judah shall be safe, and Israel shall live securely. The name that will be given to him is this: THE LORD IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. So, therefore, the days are coming, says the Lord, when men shall no longer say,
" As surely as the Lord lives who brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt"! But, "As surely as the Lord lives who brought up and led forth the children of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them!" And they shall live in their own land.

NOTE: The prophet foresaw, beyond the last grim days of the kingdom of Judah (587 B.C.), that God would send His Deliverer – a righteous King -- to save His people This would be a time of judgment as well as of renewed justice. From our vantage point, we know Jesus is the King Jeremiah foretold. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. John 6:5-14 (J.B. Phillips)

Feeding of the 5000

6 [5-6] So Jesus, raising his eyes and seeing a great crowd on the way towards him, said to Philip, "Where can we buy food for these people to eat?" (He said this to test Philip, for he himself knew what he was going to do.)

[7] "Ten pounds' worth of bread would not be enough for them," Philip replied, "even if they had only a little each."
[8-9] Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, another disciple, put in, "There is a boy here who has five small barley loaves and a couple of fish, but what's the good of that for such a crowd?"
[10a] Then Jesus said, "Get the people to sit down."
[10b-12] There was plenty of grass there, and the men, some five thousand of them, sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks for them and distributed them to the people sitting on the grass, and he distributed the fish in the same way, giving them as much as they wanted. When they had eaten enough, Jesus said to his disciples, "Collect the pieces that are left over so that nothing is wasted."
[13-14] So they did as he suggested and filled twelve baskets with the broken pieces of the five barley loaves, which were left over after the people had eaten! When the men saw this sign of Jesus' power, they kept saying, **"This certainly is the Prophet who was to come into the world!"**

NOTE: The Epistle and Gospel are linked with the Advent idea. "This certainly is the Prophet who was to come into the world." Thus the Christian year ends with a message of hope, one that elicits thanksgiving.

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Isaiah 25:1-9 (RSV)

A new day coming

O Lord, thou art my God;
I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name;
for thou hast done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
[2] For thou hast made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.
[3] Therefore strong peoples will glorify thee;
cities of ruthless nations will fear thee.
[4] For thou hast been a stronghold to the poor,
a stronghold to the needy in his distress,
a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat;
for the blast of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall,

5 like heat in a dry place.
Thou dost subdue the noise of the aliens;
as heat by the shade of a cloud,
so the song of the ruthless is stilled.

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined. 7 And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken.

9 It will be said on that day, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

NOTE: The prophet sees beyond the captivity of the Southern Kingdom of Judah to the Messianic age when God will wipe away all tears and bring in a new order.

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Lector – Tim Kirby

Acolyte – Sally Hess

Verger – Dr. Alvin Cash

Ushers – Tim Kirby

(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.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS
November and December

- **SLMG Retreat** – Monteagle, Tenn., Nov. 17-18.
- **Christmas Bazaar Workshop** – Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 10 a.m.
- **Vestry Meeting –** Sunday, Nov. 22 following the 10:30 service.

- **Thanksgiving Day Service –** Thursday, Nov. 26, at 11 a.m. followed by a Thanksgiving dinner.
- **St. Andrew the Apostle –** Monday, Nov. 30, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **SLMG Monthly Meeting –** Tuesday**,** Dec. 1, at 11 a.m.
- **WSL Christmas Bazaar –** Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Christmas by Candlelight Concert –** Saturday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 20, at 3 p.m.
- **St. Thomas the Apostle –** Monday, Dec. 21, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **Christmas Eve Family Service –** Thursday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m.
- **Christmas Eve Traditional late-night communion service –** Thursday, Dec. 24, at 10 p.m.
- **The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day Service –** Friday, Dec. 25, at 9 a.m.
- **Vestry Meeting –** Sunday, Dec. 27, following the 10:30 a.m. service.



All St. Luke's members, friends and strangers are welcomed to eat Thanksgiving dinner on **Thanksgiving Day.** Turkey and ham will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. The dinner will begin at noon, and will be proceeded at 11 a.m. with a service of Holy Communion. A sign-up sheet is available in Thomason Hall.



Stir-Up Sunday

The last Sunday before Advent is 'Stir-up Sunday', the day when traditionally families gather together to prepare the Christmas pudding. The day does not actually get its name from 'stirring the pudding': it gets its name from the Book of Common Prayer. The Collect of the Day for the last Sunday before Advent starts, "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people". However, since Victorian times it has become associated with the rather lovely family custom of preparing for Christmas together by making the Christmas pudding. The pudding (a dense mixture of dried fruit, suet and other ingredients) is steamed and then put away until Christmas Day when it is reheated and often flamed when brought to the table. Recipe:

https://www.misswindsor.uk/uploads/1/0/9/6/109640517/mrs_beeton%E2%80%99s_traditional_british_christmas_pudding.pdf

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.

Options

In-church.

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 Judy Brooten for assisting coordinating the Christmas bazaar and the reception for William Anthony McConnell.



JOIN THE CHOIR!

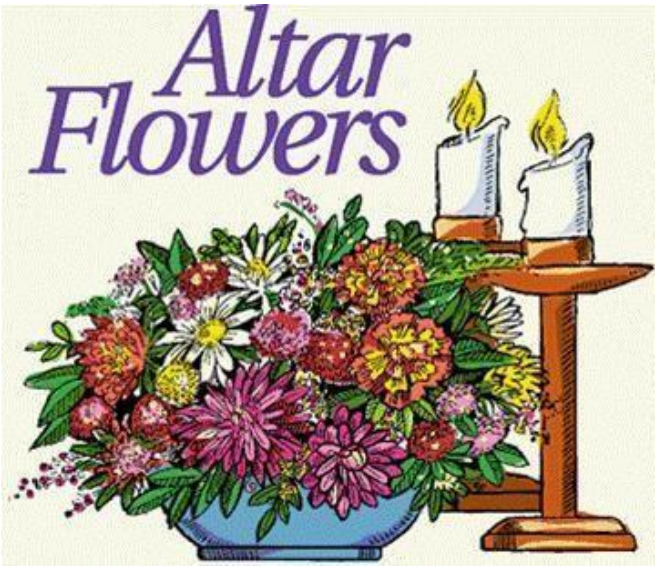


For information, contact, Diana Burden Mark at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.

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.



SIGN-UP FOR FLOWERS

A sign-up sheet for Altar flowers is available in Thomason Hall for 2027. Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate. Flowers are needed throughout the end of the year. Please email or call 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.