



This Sunday at St. Luke's
August 24, 2025

8:15 Holy Communion (said service)

10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion with Hymns and Choir

George Atwell, organist

Susan Gooch, pianist

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity



Work of transformation continues in Jacob's life

As we continue to look at the Patriarchs (the fathers from which came the nation of Israel and later Jesus) we leap forward from the story of Jacob's ladder (last week's lectionary reading) to a story equally dramatic, the story of

Jacob wrestling with God. Much has happened in the twenty years between these two episodes. Jacob has gone to live with his mother Rebekah's people in Haran. There he has married two sisters, Leah and Rachel, started a family, and become rich in terms of livestock.

The story of Jacob's marriage is full of drama. Jacob who in the past was known for trickery himself gets tricked. He is in love with Rachel the younger of the two sisters. In response to an offer by her father Laban agrees to work seven years for her hand. But when the terms of the agreement are met, Laban switches girls. Leah is in fact under the veil.

When Jacob complains, his father-in-law tells him that if he will work an additional seven years, he will give him Rachel also. Jacob agrees and immediately takes Rachel as his wife along with Leah.

In today's passage, we find Jacob making the return journey to Canaan, the land he and his offspring had been promised. Even though he is going at God's prompting, he is nevertheless concerned about what kind of reception he will receive from his brother Esau.

To curry Esau's favour, Jacob places at the head of his caravan all manner of gifts for his elder brother. Also, as a buffer he places his wife and family . . . not a very chivalrous act, from our point of view!

When we find him in today's passage, the others have passed on, and Jacob is all alone. He prays. Then, a mysterious man shows up (perhaps in a vision or perhaps in person). The two wrestle all night with Jacob refusing to concede. The contest ends with the Man (who turns out to be none other than the Angel of the Lord, likely a manifestation of the pre-incarnate Christ) dislocating Jacob's hip, For the remainder of his life, Jacob will limp. It will be to him what the 'thorn in the flesh' was to Paul in the New Testament (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). Jacob's limp will serve as a reminder to lean on the Lord and not on his own cleverness.

At the same time, Jacob receives a new name. His old name means "heel grasper". His new name Israel means "God contends, or one who struggles with God".

What we see going on in this passage is God continuing to 'convert' Jacob, to turn him from a schemer into a vessel of honour. In the end, Jacob prevailed by losing, losing himself to God and God's purposes for his life. He was in some sense 'converted' 20 years earlier when God's initial call came to him in the vision of the ladder, but more work was needed to fully capture him.

The same is true in our lives. "Being converted" is an ongoing process. After we believe, God continues to work in our lives, continues to transform us into the likeness

of His Son, continues to cut away old habits and patterns of thinking and doing. In New Testament terms, those whom God calls and who in turn give their allegiance to Jesus Christ are called to “grow in grace.” We see this happening in Jacob’s life. May the same be true in our lives. (VHM)

THE COLLECT FOR THE TENTH SUNDAY

LET thy merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of thy humble servants; and, that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (J.B. Phillips)

The Holy Spirit imparts spiritual gifts

12¹ Now I want to give you some further information in some spiritual matters.

2-3 You have not forgotten that you were Gentiles, following dumb idols just as you had been taught. Now I want you to understand, as Christians, that no one speaking by the Spirit of God could call Jesus accursed, and no one could say that he is the Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

4-7 Men have different gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them. There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served. God works through different men in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves his purposes through them all. Each man is given his gift by the Spirit that he may make the most of it.

8-11 One man’s gift by the Spirit is to speak with wisdom, another’s to speak with knowledge. The same Spirit gives to another man faith, to another the ability to heal, to another the power to do great deeds. The same Spirit gives to another man the gift of preaching the word of God, to another the ability to discriminate in spiritual matters, to another speech in different tongues. Behind all these gifts is the operation of the same Spirit, who distributes to each individual man, as he wills.

NOTE: This is St. Paul’s fullest description of the diversity of God-given abilities among members of the Body of Christ. (See Romans 12:4-8) (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. Luke 19:41-47 (J.B. Phillips)

Jesus weeps at the blindness of Jerusalem

19⁴¹⁻⁴⁴ And as he came still nearer to the city, he caught sight of it and wept over it, saying, “Ah, if you only knew, even at this eleventh hour, on what your peace depends—but you cannot see it. The time is coming when your enemies will encircle you with ramparts, surrounding you and hemming you in on every side. And they will hurl you

and all your children to the ground—yes, they will not leave you one stone standing upon another—all because you did not know when God Himself was visiting you!”

⁴⁵ Then he went into the Temple, and proceeded to throw out the traders there.

⁴⁶ “It is written,” he told them, “‘My house is a house of prayer’, but you have turned it into a ‘den of thieves!’”

⁴⁷⁻⁴⁸ Then day after day he continued teaching inside the Temple.

NOTE: This is the closing part of St. Luke’s account of our Lord’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem. (William Sydnor)

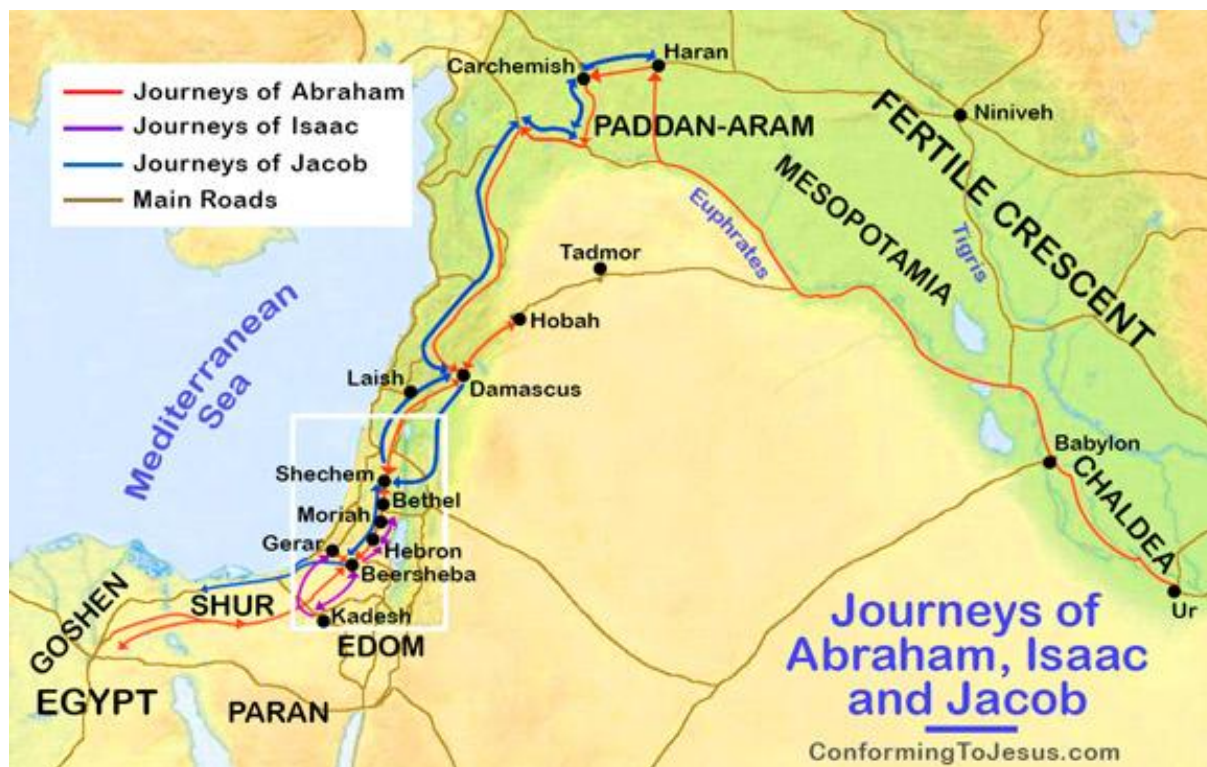
LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Genesis 32:22-31 (RSV)

Jacob wrestles at Peniel

²² The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ And Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and Jacob’s thigh was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” ²⁷ And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸ Then he said, “Your name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel,^[a] for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, “Tell me, I pray, your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peni’el, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.” ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penu’el, limping because of his thigh.

NOTE: Jacob wrestles all night with a stranger who attacks him at the ford of Jabbok. The “stranger” turns out to be God’s messenger [or perhaps the pre-incarnate Christ]. The contest leaves Jacob permanently crippled; henceforth he will have to rely on God’s strength and not on his own impaired abilities. (William Sydnor)



THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector



Tip of the Canterbury Cap to Bill Baio, Jim Noblett and Neil McDonald for risking life and limb to install a new light fixture in the Jennus Chapel. And to Neil McDonald and Gordon Bailey in taping off the church yard in preparation for the Kiwanis Club rodeo..

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2025

- **Outreach Committee**, Tuesday, Aug. 19, 3 p.m., Yellow Room.
- **Bible Study Michaelmas Term, Malachi** – Wednesday, Aug. 27 - Sept. 17, 10 a.m., Yellow Room.

- **WSL Fall Bible Study, “Bad Girls of the Bible”**, Wednesday, Sept. 24 - Oct. 29, 10 a.m. Yellow Room.
- **Christmas Bazaar Workshops:** Wed. Aug. 27 and Wed. Sept. 3 following the Bible study on Malachi. Bring your lunch, noon to 3 p.m. For more information call Judy Brooten. 706-851-6296.
- **Camp Meeting Finale.** Special services continue through **Sunday Aug. 31**, on which there will be a catered barbecue lunch following the 10:15 a.m. service. The event is being staged to honor St. Luke’s volunteers, especially WSL, as well as to welcome St. Luke Singers back



JOIN THE CHOIR!

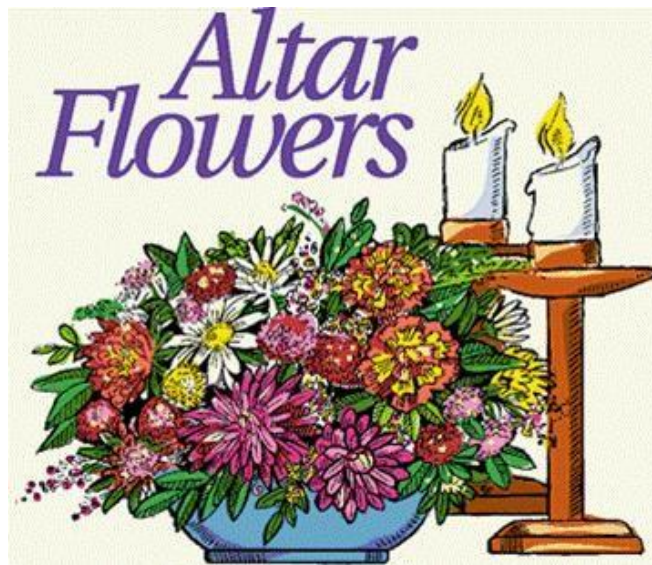


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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

Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate. Flowers are needed throughout the end of the year. Please email or call Diana Burden at the church office to sign up.

Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2025

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.