

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)
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October 18, 2020

St. Luke, Evangelist

The order of worship is based upon Divine Service Setting One, Lutheran Service Book p. 151.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

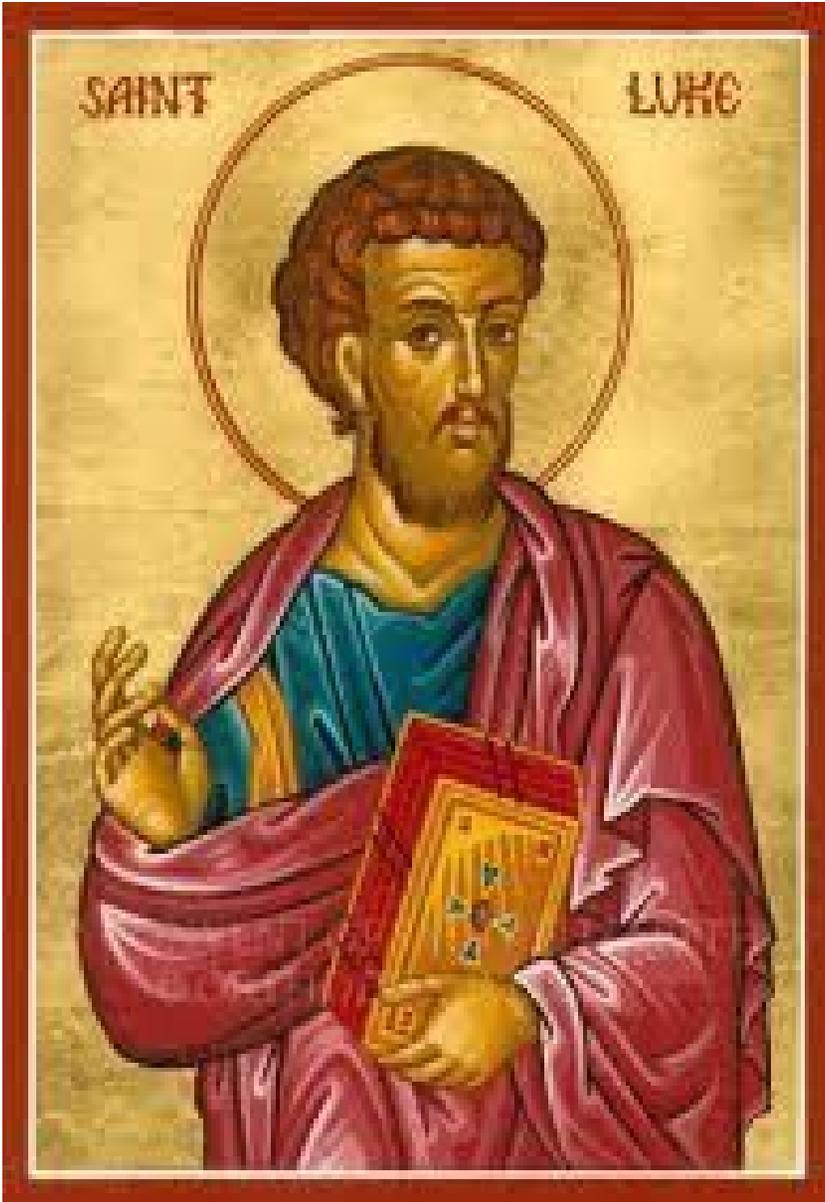
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit (*Psalm 92:1–5; antiphon: Luke 24:46–47*)

Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of



sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
**to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,**
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

**For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

How great are your works, O Lord!
Your thoughts are very deep!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our Father, Your blessed Son called Luke the physician to be an evangelist and physician of the soul. Grant that the healing medicine of the Gospel and the Sacraments

may put to flight the diseases of our souls that with willing hearts we may ever love and serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:5-8

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalms 119:105, 103; 45:1a, c

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

**How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

My heart overflows with a pleasing theme;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

Epistle

2 Timothy 4:5-18

⁵As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

⁹Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.

Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. ¹²Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴Alexander the copper-smith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. ¹⁵Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 10:1-9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the tenth chapter.

C Glory be to You, O Lord.

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ²And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

After the reading

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 518 By All Your Saints in Warfare *sts. 1, 26, 3*

St. Luke, Evangelist

1 By all Your saints in war - fare, For
 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And
 all Your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O
 wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the
 Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blest! For
 Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till
 You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the
 all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the
 crown; And now they shine in glo - ry
 throne, As - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry
 Re - flect - ed to from God Your throne.
 And praise to God a - lone.

26 For that below'd physician
 All praise, whose Gospel shows
 The Healer of the nations,
 The one who shares our woes.
 Your wine and oil, O Savior,
 Upon our spirits pour,
 And with true balm of Gilead
 Anoint us evermore.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon



Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give You thanks for all Your goodness and tender mercies, especially for the gift of Your dear Son and for the revelation of Your will and grace. Implant Your Word in us that, with good and honest hearts, we may keep it and bring forth the fruits of faith.

We humbly implore You to rule and govern Your Church throughout the world. Bless all those who proclaim Your truth that we may

be preserved in the pure doctrine of Your saving Word and that faith in You may be strengthened, love toward others increased, and Your kingdom extended. Send forth laborers into Your harvest, and sustain those whom You have sent that the Word of reconciliation may be proclaimed to all people and the Gospel preached in all the world.

Grant health and prosperity to all who are in authority, especially to the president and congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state, and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Grant them grace to rule according to Your good pleasure for the maintenance of righteousness and the hindrance and punishment of wickedness, that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty.

According to Your good pleasure, turn the hearts of our enemies and adversaries that they may cease their hostilities and walk with us in meekness and in peace.

Comfort, O God, with Your Holy Spirit all who are in trouble, want, sickness, anguish of labor, peril of death, or any other adversity. We pray especially for Claris, Joseph, Pam, Paula, Jim and Shirley, Don, John, Bob, Betty, Dick, Delores, Arlyn, Derek, Harley, Lillian, Lynne, Clinton's Family, Crystal, Jodi, Mike, Virginia, Jim, John, Marilyn, Casey, Jim, Drew, Kathleen, Kelly, Carolyn, Carolyn, and Karen. Grant courage and steadfastness especially to those who suffer for Your name's sake that they may receive and accept their afflictions in the confidence that You will acknowledge them as Your own.

Although we have deserved Your righteous wrath and punishment, yet, we ask You, O most merciful Father, not to remember the sins of our youth nor our many transgressions. Out of Your unspeakable goodness and mercy defend us from all harm and danger to body and soul. Preserve us from false doctrine, from war and bloodshed, from plague and pestilence, from all calamity by fire and water, from hail and tempest, from failure of harvest and from famine, from anguish of heart and despair of Your mercy, and from an evil death. In every time of trouble, show Yourself a very present help, the Savior of all, especially to those who believe.

Cause all needed fruits of the earth to prosper that we may enjoy them in due season. Give success to the Christian training of the young, to all lawful occupations on land, sea, and air, and to all pure arts and useful knowledge, crowning them with Your blessing.

Receive, O God, our bodies and souls and all our talents, together with the offerings we bring You, for by His blood Your Son has purchased us to be Your own that we may live under Him in His kingdom.

These and whatsoever other things You would have us ask of You,

O God, grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your only Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Concluding Collect for the Holy Spirit

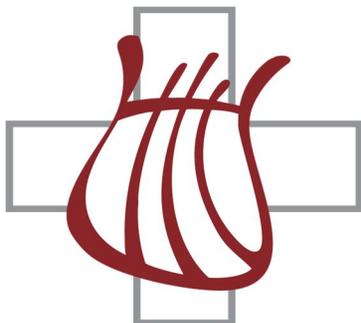
P Let us pray.
O Lord God, heavenly Father, by the blessed light of Your divine Word You have led us to the knowledge of Your Son. Grant us the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may ever walk in the light of Your truth and, rejoicing with sure confidence in Christ, our Savior, be brought unto everlasting salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.



Closing Hymn: 810 O God of God, O Light of Light



1 O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and
2 For deep in proph-ets' sa - cred page, And grand in po - ets'
3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in
4 Then raise to Christ a might - y song, And shout His name, His



King of kings: To You in heav-en's glo - ry bright The song of
wing-ed word, Slow - ly in type, from age to age The na - tions
hate and scorn— These all are past, and now a - bove He reigns, our
mer-cies tell! Sing, heav'n-ly host, your praise pro-long, And all on



praise for - ev - er rings. To Him who sits up - on the throne,
saw their com - ing Lord; Till through the deep Ju - de - an night
King once crowned with thorn. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates!
earth, your an - them swell! All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain!



The Lamb once slain but raised a - gain, Be all the glo - ry
Rang out the song, "Good - will to men!" Sung once by first - born
So sang that host be - yond our ken. Lift up your heads, your
For - ev - er let the song as - cend! Wor - thy the Lamb, en -



He has won, All thanks and praise! A - men, a - men.
sons of light, It ech - oes now, "Good - will!" A - men.
King a - waits. We lift them up. A - men, a - men.
throned to reign, All glo - ry, pow'r! A - men, a - men.

Tune and text: Public domain

At this time the live streaming of the service will end. If anyone does not feel comfortable receiving the Lord's Supper at this time they are welcome to depart. The worship concludes with the Service of the Sacrament.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Institution

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; de-

liver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Today we receive the gift of Holy Communion. Communion is an expression of faith and agreement. If you're our guest this morning, we don't want to place you in a position of agreement with our beliefs before you've had opportunity to study them. Therefore, if you're not a member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you to

St. Luke, Evangelist

October 18, 2020

Texts: Isaiah 35:5-8 (Old Testament Reading); 2 Timothy 4:5-18 (Epistle); Luke 10:1-9 (Gospel)

“St. Luke’s Day”

Dear Christians, grace, mercy, and peace be yours from God the Father through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Today we celebrate St. Luke’s day. So who was Luke? To answer this we have two sources, the Holy Bible and church history (often referred to as traditions).ⁱ To begin, we cannot be certain where Luke is from. While there is a tradition that states Antioch, another states Philippi, so it remains uncertain. We do know that he is a Gentile, for the Apostle Paul, when speaking of his coworkers, lists Luke (and some others) as distinct from the “men of the circumcision” (i.e. Jews).ⁱⁱ We can also state that he was intelligent, well-educated, and meticulous with details, all necessary in his vocations of doctor and, later, historian.ⁱⁱⁱ

The first time that Luke enters the picture is in AD 49 when Paul, on his Second Missionary Journey, is at Troas in Asia. There Paul receives the vision of a man of Macedonia saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”^{iv} And it is there that we have the first occurrence of a “we section” in the book of Acts which indicates that Luke was with Paul.^v So Luke traveled with Paul, Silas, and Timothy, joining them on their missionary work. He then stayed behind in Philippi where he continued to help guide and strengthen the congregations that had formed.

The next time we here of Luke is AD 55 (six years later) when Paul, on his Third Missionary Journey, returns to Philippi and Luke joins up with him again.^{vi} Luke then stays with Paul on his journey back to Jerusalem with the money collected for the Christians there who were suffering during a famine. Thus Luke is present when Paul is attacked by the Jews in the temple, arrested by the Romans, brought before the Sanhedrin, and taken to Caesarea Maritima, the seat of provincial government, where Paul is imprisoned for about two years. It is during this time period that Luke likely carried out the investigations and interviews with people who are the sources for his Gospel, such as the Virgin Mary.

Finally, in later AD 57 Luke was with Paul on the sea voyage to Rome which included a terrible storm at sea and ended in a shipwreck, their washing ashore on the Island of Malta where they remained three months and did missionary work, and finally arriving in Rome in early AD 58 where Paul, under house arrest, continued his work as much as possible through visitors as well as through letters and associates, such as Luke. This lasted until AD 60.

As far as Luke is concerned, the next seven or so years are uncertain. Paul was released from his first Roman imprisonment and went off to Spain for roughly four years. Leaving there he returned to Crete and Ephesus. Perhaps Luke was with him at least some of this time, but we cannot know for sure. Sometime in later 67 Paul was again arrested and taken to Rome. This time it was no house arrest, but time in the dungeon. In the last letter he wrote before his martyrdom under Emperor Nero, Paul writes this to Timothy, “Luke alone is with me.”^{vii}

This lack of people being with Paul was caused by at least three reasons: 1) Many of Paul's associates, like Timothy, Titus, and Silas were working in other places, 2) some, like Demas, deserted Paul by giving up the faith, and 3) perhaps the earthly cause of Demas' desertion, this is the time period when Nero is killing Christians in horrible ways, thus many of the believers may have been arrested, even killed, and the others likely fled or are in hiding. Yet Luke, despite the danger to his own person, continues to be with Paul as much as he can, visiting him in prison as often as allowed. There he remained useful to the mission, keeping Paul up to date as well as bringing letters to Paul and taking the ones he had written. In addition, as in earlier days, he likely using his medical skills to help Paul as much as possible physically speaking, being a doctor of the body, while his loyalty and companionship whereby he encouraged Paul with the Gospel until his bloody death made Luke a true doctor of the soul.

Luke is seen to be a fascinating person. Likely called to faith out of heathenism, he is then called into the vocation of missionary, very likely the first medical missionary ever! He personally helped evangelize Greece and Rome at a minimum, and more, he has been instrumental in evangelizing the whole world through the Evangel, or Gospel, that he wrote. Yes, Luke holds the incredible honor of being the only Gentile chosen to write a book of Scripture. And not just one, but two, the two-book series of his Gospel and Acts, which comprise more than one-third of the New Testament!

Interestingly, Luke's Gospel is considered the most poetic and beautiful of the four and has the best grammar and the most eloquent and "correct" Greek in the entire New Testament (he was an educated Gentile). We recognize his detail orientation in his investigation of matters for his Gospel and those parts of Acts where he was not present, as well as when he was. For example, his description of the storm at sea and the shipwreck, including the weather and nautical details, is impeccable. This reminds us that inspiration does not deny the human component, but in fact reminds us God chooses specific human instruments for a reason!

All four Gospel accounts are true history, meaning they can be harmonized. Yet each one has its own distinct characteristics and emphases.^{viii} Luke especially highlights Jesus' compassion for the poor, the oppressed, the outcasts, and those who are suffering, including His encouragement to His followers to have tenderness towards, and to offer help to, the less fortunate. Here we consider how Luke alone records the Parables of Rich Man and Lazarus and the Good Samaritan. As another marginalized group, Luke's Gospel has a special place for women, recording how it was a group of faithful women who used their resources to support Jesus and His disciples as well as the account of Mary and Martha.^{ix} Mary, the mother of our Lord, especially has her point of view expressed in the details which surround Jesus' (and John the Baptist's) conception and birth. For it is Luke who records the angel's visit to Zechariah and to Mary, Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the events surrounding our Lord's birth in Bethlehem, and the account of Jesus when He was twelve years old, all which Mary treasured in her heart.^x

Luke also, and especially, emphasizes Jesus' compassion for sinners, such as the sinful woman who is also forgiven her sins.^{xi} Again, Luke is the only evangelist to record Jesus' words from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"^{xii} and, to the repentant robber, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."^{xiii}

So also, Luke's Gospel stresses the importance of bringing this good news of forgiveness of sins to the Gentiles. He records Jesus praising the faith of Gentiles like the widow of Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian,^{xiv} the grateful leper who was a Samaritan,^{xv} and the Roman centurion whose servant was healed.^{xvi} Perhaps most emphatic, he shows that Jesus is not only the Jewish Messiah, but the Savior of the whole world by tracing Jesus' genealogy all the way back to Adam according to His human nature, the father of humanity.^{xvii}

In Christian artwork, Luke's Gospel is symbolized by a winged ox. Oxen were animals sacrificed at the temple. Luke's Gospel opens with Zechariah at the temple offering the sacrifice of incense. He reports how Mary and Joseph offered the appropriate sacrifices after Jesus' birth in keeping with the Law of Moses. He shows throughout His Gospel how Jesus is the compassionate Servant of the Lord as prophesied by Isaiah, the one who would be sacrificed in the place of the people that by His bloody death upon the altar of the cross sinners would be redeemed by the forgiveness of sins. And so, Luke ends his Gospel with the disciples seeing the risen Lord, being blessed by Him at His ascension, and then going to the temple continually in order to bless God. The wings represent how this Gospel is to go to the whole world, the beginning of which is recorded in Luke's second book, Acts.

In Acts, Luke records the continuing work of Jesus.^{xviii} It begins where his Gospel left off, recording in more detail the risen Jesus' glorious ascension to heaven. It is at this event that Luke records Jesus' words about not knowing the times and the seasons for the end of the age. This is critical, as it reminds disciples of Jesus both then and still today that our Lord's *imminent* return does not equate to an *immediate* return. So, through Luke's record, Christ Jesus continues to call His Church back from overeager speculation about the end of this creation and His return to its proper task of faithful mission during the interim.^{xix} A mission in which each believer, each of us, plays a part through our witness through our words and works, and our financial support.

As we conclude this festival of St. Luke, we might wonder, "What was Luke's end?" One tradition says that he was martyred, specifically being crucified with St. Andrew the Apostle. If that is true, the color red is then appropriate as that is used for martyred saints. Yet, another early and widespread tradition is that Luke actually lived a fairly long life, settling in Greece where he died at age 84. If such is the case, then the color white would be more proper. Yet, red is used for festivals of the Holy Spirit, such as Pentecost, and festivals of the Word that He has inspired, such as Reformation. As St. Luke was the human author of two books of Holy Scripture, the Word which still nurtures and guides the Church and will do so until this present age is concluded, perhaps red is even more appropriate on that account!

In final consideration, perhaps Luke's uncertain end is, of itself, actually useful to us. For whether we die a violent martyr's death, peacefully pass away in old age, or anything else between those two extremes on the spectrum of *earthly* deaths, we are reminded that the means of our death is not really important, but only the fact that we shall die, for we are sinners. But more important still, that all who die in faith in the crucified Christ have had their sins forgiven and so, like Luke, will overcome death and rise to eternal life in glory like their risen Lord. The very crucified and risen Christ whom Luke so faithfully presents to us in his Gospel.

Let us praise the Lord for St. Luke, for his work and example, and especially for the Scripture he has written, for by such we know Jesus as our Lord, Savior, and dearest Friend. Amen!

ⁱ The word *tradition* is often viewed with suspicion by Protestants, including Lutherans, as we are well aware of the many abuses that the papacy brought into the Christian Church based upon their traditions. However, the word tradition is actually used in a positive sense in the Bible (e.g. 1 Corinthians 11:2), referring to divine truths passed down. In the case of Church history, these things are not of *divine* origin, for that is the Word of God alone. Yet that does not make it false (just as world history or American history is not of divine origin, but still passes on historical facts). Like any history then, we study the sources of these traditions to determine the likelihood of their reliability and then can learn wonderful truths about the history of the Christian Church after the time of the Apostles!

ⁱⁱ See Colossians 4:10-14. Some more recent scholarly work has promoted the idea that this statement was not declaring Luke (and some others) to be Gentiles, but actually Hellenized Jews who were laxer on following Jewish traditions. As this is not the most likely understanding of the text and since many early traditions declare Luke to be a Gentile, the original understanding that Luke is a Gentile is to be preferred.

ⁱⁱⁱ Colossians 4:14. See Luke 1:1-4 (Gospel's prologue) to indicate his investigative and historical capabilities. The high Greek in the prologue to his Gospel also indicate his intellectual ability and educational level.

^{iv} Acts 16:9. All quotes are from *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

^v Acts 16:10.

^{vi} Acts 20:5, where "us" indicates Luke has rejoined Paul.

^{vii} 2 Timothy 4:11a.

^{viii} No doubt one of the reasons the Holy Spirit inspired four Gospel accounts instead of just one.

^{ix} Luke 8:1-3 and Luke 10:38ff. respectively.

^x Luke 2:19.

^{xi} Luke 7:36ff.

^{xii} Luke 23:34.

^{xiii} Luke 23:43.

^{xiv} Luke 4:25-27.

^{xv} Luke 17:11-19.

^{xvi} Luke 7:1ff. Matthew also records this event.

^{xvii} Luke 3:23ff.

^{xviii} See Acts 1:1 where Luke says his Gospel records what Jesus *began* to do, thereby indicating that He continues to work through His Word, Spirit, and chosen instruments.

^{xix} Acts 1:6-8.

Speak with our pastor about this special opportunity, and request that you not partake of the Communion today. Thank you.

Acknowledgements

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ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

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HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Rev. Timothy Nerud

309-949-2516 (Office)
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612-940-8138 (Cell)

Pastor

+In God's Grace—In God's Service+

Elder: Brad Gehn
Videographer: Joel Werling
Ushers: Preston Smith Family
Organist: Carmen Pamprin

Today's Readings: Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:5-8
Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-18
Holy Gospel: Luke 10:1-9

WE PRAY: Lord Christ, who rules the nations and the church, grant us who live in the one by birth and the other by faith the wisdom to know the difference between them and the commitment to help each to serve the other without compromising You as Lord of both; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

WELCOME BACK TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

IF YOU DESIRE a visit or call from Pastor Nerud, please contact the church office (309-949-2516).

OFFICE HOURS

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday) 8 am—12 pm
Pastor's hours (**Monday, Pastor's day off**)
(Tuesday) 9 am—12 pm
(Thursday) 9 am—12 pm & 1 pm—4 pm
(Wednesday & Friday) please call ahead.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Sunday school—22 Adult Bible Class—17 Worship—56

LIVE STREAMED SERVICES are available on St. John's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and posted on Monday on the church website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org found under the 'Sermon' tab and

WEEKLY OFFERING

Offering \$3,346.00
Weekly income needed per 2020 Budget \$4,011.98

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today 8:45 am SS/Adult w/Youth Bible Study
10:00 am Divine Worship/Communion
Monday 9:00 am Winkel—St. John's, EM
Tuesday Pastor out of Office
Wednesday 5:00 pm Confirmation
Next Sunday 8:45 am SS/Adult w/Youth Bible Study
10:00 am Divine Worship
11:00 am Quarterly Voters' Assembly

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and seek him in his temple. Psalm 27:4

MATTHEW 22:21 – "... Then he said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.' " So what is Jesus saying? Doesn't everything belong to God? Yes, and God has a place for everything. Some of what He gives us goes to Caesar. Some must come back to the work of His Church. And some goes to support the families He has given us. All belongs to God, and He has work for us to do with what He has given us in the home, in the Church, and in society.

QUARTERLY VOTERS' ASSEMBLY—Please plan to stay for the Voters' meeting after worship next Sunday. We will be voting on the 2021 Council and Budget. These are important issues and we need your opinions and support. Please check your mailboxes for a list of nominees for Council boards and proposed 2021 Budget.

ALL SAINTS' DAY—We will celebrate this special festival on Sunday November 1 with the hanging of crosses in the sanctuary. If you have a loved one who has gone to their eternal rest and would like to have a cross in their memory, please add their name to the new sheet by October 28th.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Remember God's gift of Baptism as you pray:

MISSION—*Thank God for the Sacrament of the Altar*, that it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine.

ST. JOHN'S—**Mrs Lisa Powers**—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Lisa and Casey and ask your blessing on them.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

Drew Schillinger	Jim Rahn	Carolyn Wildermuth
Arlyn Helke	Bob Esterlein	Lynne Johnson
Derek Helke	Lillian Hock	Jim/Shirley Dahl
Carolyn Werner	Betty Firch	John Erdman
Paula Chapa	John Neumann	

Andrew Hill, Sarah, John, Daniel (2019/2020 Seminary Student)

Don Eggers (son of a friend of Marilyn Woods)

Mike Miller (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)

Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

Jon & Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)

Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal Potts, former St John Laborer For Christ)

Pam Bennett (friend of Dan/Roselyn Maeltzer)

Karen Wright (wife of Pastor Gary Wright)

Virginia Miller (mother of Jamie Werling)

Casey Powers (husband of Lisa (Bear) Powers)

Kelly Wechsler (cousin of Bob Wechsler)

Kathleen VanDeRostyne (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)

Joseph Baamonde (Friend of Paula Mooney)

Clinton Kane Family (son of Sandy Kane)

Jim Neumann (father-in-law of Brad Gehn's son)

Harley Hepner (cousin of Sarah Hock)

Claris Anderson (mother of Sarah Hock)

Dick Fornasiere (brother-in-law of Sherry Wechsler)

Delores (mother of Michele Barry)

MILITARY—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

Mandy & Richard Davila (daughter & son-in-law of Dale & Linda Aper)

Luke & Nicole Thompson (son & daughter-in-law of John & Kindra Thompson)

Ken Willeford (husband of Alicia Willeford)

Tyler Hynes (nephew of Mark Ague)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Flynn)

Zachary & Tiffany Gardner (nephew & wife of Bob & Lois Esterlein)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“The Church has confessed from the beginning that each life is created by God, that human life is the supreme gift of the Creator. Human life is not given unconditionally but is given under the condition that we will be responsible for preserving it. The testimony that God respects life above all else is contained in the words of the Gospel: ‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life’ (John 3:16).” *Abbot Tryphon, Vashon Island, Washington – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

**G.R.I.T
RUN**

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 24,
2020**

**Register for this one-of-a-kind 5K trail run at
cilca.org/homecoming**

