

ST. LUKE, EVANGELIST
Indifference or Urgency



October 18, 2020

AS WE GATHER

"Luke the beloved physician greets you," writes St. Paul in his Letter to the Colossians. Each year on October 18, the Church takes note of and gratefully remembers Luke the Evangelist. His Gospel account of the life of Jesus and the history of the Early Christian Church, which he shares through the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, are as beloved as is their writer. Luke brings what he calls an "orderly account" of the life, death, resurrection, and ministry of Jesus and its urgent importance. Luke then follows it up with his singular account that profiles the work of Peter, John, Paul, and other apostles. In his carefully crafted manuscripts, we find faith-supporting history and are given an eyewitness account of God at work for us. We thank God that by the working of the Holy Spirit, the message of St. Luke has reached us today!

PREPARATION

OPENING MEDLEY "Awesome God"

WP #13

*Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom pow'r and love
Our God is an awesome God (Repeat)*

*Our God is an awesome God
Our God is an awesome God*

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"Your Grace Is Enough"

Verse 1

Great is Your faithfulness O God
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart
You lead us by still waters into mercy
And nothing can keep us apart

Pre-Chorus

So remember Your people
Remember Your children
Remember Your promise O God

Chorus

Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

Verse 2

Great is Your love and justice God of Jacob
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Your salvation
And all Your people sing along

Pre-Chorus

Chorus (x2)

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

People: Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

Pastor: Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

People: Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin to God, our gracious Father.

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we humbly confess our sins to You. We have not followed Your law in our thinking, speaking, or doing. We have followed our own ways and have not obeyed Your commands. We have not always been merciful, meek, or peaceable. We repent of our transgressions and ask Your forgiveness. Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

Pastor: In His mercy, God hears our confession and responds with forgiveness and love. As a called and ordained servant of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

† WORD †

WITNESS FROM LUKE

Part 1: The Gospel

Pastor: As we give thanks to God this day for St. Luke, apostle and evangelist, we are reminded of the special blessing that the Gospel that bears his name—traditionally listed as the third of the four Gospels—is for us. There are many Scripture accounts of the words and works of Jesus, which are singular to Luke's Gospel, the longest of the four accounts, that tell of the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the first two chapters, we have the most complete account of the birth of Jesus, as well as the accounts of the birth of John the Baptist, the Annunciation to Mary by the angel Gabriel, and the one precious insight we have into the youth of Jesus—the story of the boy Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem.

Luke fills his orderly account with parables of Jesus. Eighteen of these earthly stories with heavenly meanings are found in Luke's Gospel alone, including the parable of the lost sheep, the account of the Good Samaritan, and the parable of the prodigal son, which has been called "the Gospel within the Gospel." Luke underscores the importance of persistence in prayer and accentuates the importance of humility and service to others as part of the call to following Jesus.

Luke's Gospel is filled with special people, including women and children. And there are songs in his Gospel alone that have been sung in the Church in every century since Luke included them in his inspired writing. Because of Luke, we can echo the Magnificat, the Song of Mary, and sing the Nunc Dimittis, the song of blessing first spoken by the aged Simeon in the temple when he saw the baby Jesus and understood that Jesus was indeed the Savior of the world. And Luke records the Benedictus, the words of prophecy first spoken by Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, words of blessing and gratefulness to God, which we now sing together.

Refrain

*Bless'd be the Lord God of Israel!
Holy is Your name:
You have come to save Your people
From death and from the grave*

Verse 1

*You have spoken through the prophets
From age upon age:
The promise given to our ancestors
Forever true will remain*

*Deliv'ring us from our enemies,
Our God is always near;
In holiness and righteousness
We worship without fear*

Refrain

Verse 2

*Little child, you shall be called
The prophet of the Lord;
The way of God you will prepare
Bringing salvation through the Word.*

*With tender mercy from our God,
The dayspring from on high
Brings us the light to guide our feet
And drive away the night.*

Refrain

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INTROIT

Pastor: 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.

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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.

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. This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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 coppersmith 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. This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

WITNESS FROM LUKE

Part 2: The Acts of the Apostles

Pastor: The Bible book we know as the Acts of the Apostles, also authored by St. Luke, serve as a companion book to his Gospel. These two volumes account for about 25 percent of the New Testament, which is more text than from any other writer. The Book of Acts continues Luke's orderly account of God's work, which begins with the announcement of the birth of Jesus, the Savior, and concludes with the announcement of that completed work of salvation by Paul in Rome about six decades later.

Although Luke records nothing about himself, there are some details in Acts and Paul's letters that help us come to know him as a devoted friend, a gifted writer, and a compelling witness to the work of God in bringing the fullness of His kingdom to earth in the person of Jesus Christ. The traditional Church symbol for Luke is the ox, an animal known for its strength, even disposition, and tireless efforts.

Through the written word from Luke, we hear our Lord calling us to be joyfully aware that the kingdom of God is at hand as we hear the good news proclaimed among us. Luke reports that "the word of God increased and multiplied" (Acts 12:24). As a firsthand witness of that initial growth and writer whose words instruct and inspire us, Luke has brought a special blessing to the Church and to each of us.

VERSE

People: Alleluia. Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 10:1-9

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

People: Glory 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.'" This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON SONG " *By All Your Saints in Warfare* "

By all Your saints in warfare,
For all Your saints at rest,
Your holy name, O Jesus,
Forevermore be blest!
For You have won the battle
That they might wear the crown;
And now they shine in glory
Reflected from Your throne.

For that belov'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.

△ Then let us praise the Father
And worship God the Son
And sing to God the Spirit,
Eternal Three in One,
Till all the ransomed number
Fall down before the throne,
Ascribing pow'r and glory
And praise to God alone.

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SERMON: "*St Luke: A fellow worker in God's harvest field*"

Sermon Text: Luke 10:1-9

OFFERING

Please take this time to give via our website through E-giving, mobile giving or mail your offerings to Good Shepherd. Also, don't forget to fill out your attendance via your website. Thank you.
<http://goodsheplutheran.360unite.com/live-streaming-e-giving>

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

† SACRAMENT †

INVITATION

Pastor: Luke the Evangelist wrote of our risen Lord that when he was at table with the disciples at Emmaus, He took bread and blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. This is Christ's Table. Our Savior invites those who trust in Him to share the feast He has prepared. Let us open our hearts to one another as Christ has opened His heart to us, and God will be glorified.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, almighty Lord, for calling us as Your people. You know us as individuals and have graciously given each of us Your special gifts to use to Your glory. We thank You for the example of the blessed evangelists, including Luke, and for granting us the grace needed to fulfill our various vocations. We thank You as we are strengthened in faith toward You and in active love for one another. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer our thanksgiving.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"As the Deer"

WP #9

*As the deer pants for the water,
So my soul longs after You
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship You*

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship You*

(Repeat all)

"How Deep the Father's Love For Us"

Verse 1

*How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory*

Verse 2

*Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished*

Verse 3

*I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom*

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. As we follow our Lord Jesus Christ, grant us opportunities to proclaim Your love to all the world. Bless us day by day and keep us firm in faith and joyous in life unto Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG "Blessed Be Your Name"

Verse 1

*Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your name*

Pre-Chorus

*Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say*

Chorus

*Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name*

Verse 2

*Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be, blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name*

Pre-Chorus

*Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say*

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name

Bridge (x2)

You give and take away, You give and take away

My heart will choose to say, Lord blessed be Your name

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name

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