

Sunday 18 October 2020



Luke was a dear friend of the apostle Paul and is mentioned three times in his known Letters. Paul describes him as ‘the beloved physician’ and, in his second Letter to Timothy, as his only companion in prison. He is believed to be the author of two of the longest books in the New Testament, firstly the gospel which bears his name and *The Acts of the Apostles*.

An extremely ancient tradition says Luke was an artist, and once painted a portrait of the Virgin Mary. Certainly, Luke’s account of Jesus’ life has a pictorial quality.

Traditionally, Luke wrote his gospel in Greece and died in Boeotia at the age of eighty-four.

Luke’s Gospel shows a sequential pattern from the nativity through to Jesus crucifixion and resurrection. He does not develop a new theology in the way St Paul does; but, as a Gentile, Luke emphasises how the good news of salvation is intended for all, regardless of gender, social position or nationality.

- All the Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 [Seek Ye First](#)

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Therefore, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria

This version of the Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,

**You have brought us peace within.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for St Luke

Almighty God,
you called Luke the physician,
whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:
by the grace of the Spirit
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
give your Church the same love and power to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy; waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. *Isaiah 35:3-6*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and Timothy went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. *Acts 16:6-12a*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 [Freely, freely \(God forgave my sin\)](#) [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All Glory to you O Lord.

The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

'Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set

before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you”.’ *Luke 10:1–9*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Today we celebrate the feast day of St. Luke. He is best known, as the author of the Gospel that bears his name. He also wrote the Acts of the Apostles. Some know that he was a physician/doctor, and perhaps very few know that, according to tradition, St Luke was the very first Christian iconographer and painted a portrait of the Virgin Mary. It became a reference or model for artists throughout time. It’s probably not so widely known that St Luke was martyred for preaching the Christian faith at the age of 84.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus ‘has set his face to go to Jerusalem’. He knows he is journeying toward his death, to fulfil God’s purpose for him in this world, others must take up the challenge of sharing God’s love with the world at this time.

He is also journeying through particularly hostile territory, having been snubbed by a community of Samaritans who didn’t appreciate his purposeful journey towards the Temple from which they were excluded.

For these reasons, he sends seventy of his followers out ahead of him ‘to every town and place where he ... intended to go... like lambs among wolves.’

We don’t really know much about these people.

But, we do know there were seventy of them. They formed a community, joined together by a shared task. They had all received the same instructions from Jesus.

Jesus safeguarded his followers, sending them out in twos, I think we can be reasonably certain that this was actually for the purpose of team building—one could encourage another when the going got tough, and fear and uncertainty were in danger of taking over.

We know, that up until this point they had kept their own belongings with them, whether they were travelling from home each day to hear Jesus, or following the route he took, they had their possessions with them, things that made them feel safe and secure, like their bags, and footwear.

Now Jesus was sending them out on what must have seemed a massively scary task, with nothing. They were to leave their current routine, and change to live a new life, one that meant they would be not just living like Jesus but sharing his message. And we know they had a shared faith in Jesus. Or do we?

Jesus was sending away those who had been followers, people who had seen his miracles, heard his words, and responded with curiosity, asking questions to which they did not necessarily receive straight-forward answers.

Did they truly understand the relationship between Jesus, and the Kingdom of God he was asking them to preach? In this period before the events of Holy Week, I'm not sure if they did.

Greater faith would come only by deciding to be follow Jesus' command. By sharing what little they already knew of his message—that in the person of Jesus, God was bringing a peace that would be among the most significant fruit of his love—they were exhausting their own understanding.

Everything else they needed by way of understanding, would be given along the way. Jesus was after all, coming along right behind them, in person.

How is this relevant for us all today? Because we, all are the current day's Apostles and disciples, who the Lord has entrusted with the same mission, that he gave to His Apostles and disciples. We may be thinking that their works had been completed and the mission was over, but in reality, the mission God had entrusted to us is still very much real and ongoing.

We may feel out on our own, but if we look around us, Jesus has placed us in a community that is on the same journey, and to which he is giving the same message. Go on your way, not alone, but together. We may share the exact same journey with one other, or even a few, but the reason for doing our journey will be the same as for many others. Jesus is sending us. So, we should encourage each other when the going gets tough.

We may feel intimidated when we see a task ahead and sense our security blankets being removed, but God is often asking us to make sacrifices or simply be brave and trust him. We won't necessarily be required to give up our home, our financial and physical security, but we might need to work with people we don't feel comfortable with, or do things that use skills we don't think we've got. God can and will use what is freely given to him, however much we doubt ourselves.

As we remember St. Luke today, may the examples set by him, the other saints, Apostles, disciples and holy martyrs be inspirations for all of us to follow in their footsteps, so that by doing what they have done, and by staying devoted and being faithful in all things, and beginning from whatever little and simple things that we can do in our own surroundings, may we all work together to bring the enlightenment to many others and that many more souls may be saved through our work and dedication.

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

Liberating God, you call your church to the service of your Son, in bringing good news to the poor, health to the sick, and reconciliation to the sinful. Hear our prayers especially today for all who offer chaplaincy in the Health Service, that they may support the stressed, comfort the suffering, and speak up for those whose voices are unheard.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Giver of Wisdom, pour out your gifts on the decision makers of our society, and especially on the politicians, civil servants and managers of the health service. May they be imaginative in their thinking, creative in their planning, and compassionate in their administration and care, nurturing the talents and well-being of NHS staff, and serving the needs of NHS patients.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Lover of humanity, you call your people to be their brother's and sister's keepers. Hear us as we pray for our local hospitals, care homes and community services. We give you thanks for all who serve in them. Help us all to take responsibility for their own and their neighbour's needs and bless all who harness the good will and help of volunteers.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Good Physician, we thank you for all whom you bless with your gifts of compassion, knowledge and healing skills, especially the doctors, nurses, therapists, and support staff of the health service. Be with them in all that they do, that they may be your channels of healing to those who suffer, in body, mind and spirit, and themselves find strength, support and encouragement from those they serve.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Compassionate God, we hold before you all those in need of healing, comfort and encouragement, especially those who have asked for our prayers [...] calm the anxious mind, bring balm to the depressed spirit, and strengthen the weakened body, that all who suffer in body mind and spirit, may know your healing presence surrounding and holding them.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Living God, teach us to know and accept the limitations of our mortality, that we do not burden others with unreasonable expectations, but live content with the many gifts we have received.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The peace

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you.

HYMN 3 Lord I Lift Your Name On High (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

Go forth into the world in peace;

be of good courage;

hold fast that which is good;

render to no one evil for evil;

strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;

help the afflicted; honour everyone;

love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;

and the blessing of God the Almighty:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 Back II Eden

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good
that we should give you praise, thanks and glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
He is the promise of justice and hope,
putting the powerful in their place
and lifting up the lowly.
He came as light and life
to those who sat in darkness
and the shadow of death, your revelation to the nations
and glory for your people Israel.
He went about healing and doing good,
and with his death accomplished the world's salvation.
He sends the Spirit on his people,
that they too may bring good news to the poor,
healing the sick, giving sight to the blind,
and proclaiming the good news of life and joy,
that all creation might hear and rejoice,
as with angels and archangels,
and all the company of heaven, we sing

**All 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with St Luke and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All 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.**

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All **We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

All **Almighty God,**
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory. Amen.