

# The Gospel of Luke

If you're wondering about a good place to begin with Bible study or faith sharing, it is best to start with the Gospel of Luke. Luke is an easy read and presents a humanly attractive picture of Jesus. What better way to begin than by getting to know more about Jesus! And then to see all Scripture as pointing to Him.

It seems most likely that Luke wrote his two-volume work (Luke and Acts) around 80 A.D., a bit after the Gospel of Mark had been written. Luke wrote in polished Greek for a Gentile readership. He therefore did not rely on the Old Testament as much as Matthew did. Luke was not one of the Twelve, but he had great respect for the Apostles as seen in his writing about them.

The most inspirational of Luke's gifts as a writer was his storytelling. He tells stories about the life and work of Jesus in a way that speaks both to the mind and the heart. Whereas the parables in Mark explain the coming of the Kingdom, and the parables in Matthew stress the final judgment, Luke's parables are personal: they address individuals and Jesus' healing compassion for them. Luke himself was a physician. Clearly, he has a great love for Jesus. The result is that we are given a glimpse of the humanity of Jesus which is gentle and particularly attractive to those burdened with sin and the cares of life.

Luke gives prominence in his Gospel to prayer. His stories about the importunate friend who arrives in the middle of the night asking for bread or the persistent widow who pesters the judge to give her justice, highlight practical aspects of petitionary prayer, mostly,

don't give up!

Throughout his Gospel Luke is what we would today call "pro-poor". Not only does he show how Jesus deals with poor people, but he describes gospel simplicity-of-life as a cornerstone of Christian spirituality.

Luke's sensitive treatment of women is also a mark of his Gospel, from Elizabeth and Mary in the infancy narratives, to the role of women in the resurrection narrative. He recounts many of the cures Jesus worked for women, as well as stressing the good example of many women in his parables.

The Holy Spirit figures more prominently in Luke than in other Gospels, with a consequent golden thread of joy.

If you want to read Luke for yourself this outline might be of some help:

1. After a short prologue there are two chapters (1 & 2), generally called the Infancy Narratives.
2. Chapter 3 stands alone as a prelude to the public ministry of Jesus and is a narrative of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus.
3. Chapters 4-9 focus on the ministry of Jesus in Galilee.
4. Chapters 10-19 use the image of a "journey" (to Jerusalem). Here many well-known parables and miracles are found.
5. Chapters 19-21 are about the ministry of Jesus in Jerusalem.
6. Chapters 22 and 23 deal with the passion and death of Jesus.
7. Chapter 24 concludes the Gospel with the resurrection and ascension. The "road to Emmaus" story is unique to Luke.



Fra Angelico, detail of St Luke the Evangelist from the ceiling of the Niccoline Chapel, Vatican Palace

## SUNDAY MASS

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

*You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.*

**FIRST READING:** Ezekiel 33:7-9.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 95.

### RESPONSE:

*O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.*

1. Come, let us ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks; let us hail him with a song of praise. **R**
2. O come; let us bow and bend low.  
Let us kneel before the God who made us, for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **R**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your forebears put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work'. **R**

**SECOND READING:** Romans 13:8-10.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

*Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 18:15-20.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

*Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.*

## THE WEEK AHEAD

# Live the Word

### Mon 7 Sep Liturgy of the Day

1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Psalm 5; Luke 6:6-11

We can sometimes be just like Pharisees: perhaps indulging in and sharing a juicy titbit of gossip; or perhaps scrutinizing someone else's work to find an error, making us feel smugly superior. *Lord have mercy.*

### Tue 8 Sep BIRTHDAY OF OUR LADY

Micah 5:1-4; Psalm 13; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

When things are difficult, painful or confusing try to imitate Mary's faith. Despite pain and confusion, hang on and trust – as Mary did – that all things work for good. *Mary, help me to imitate your very real faith.*

### Wed 9 Sep (St Peter Claver, Pr)

1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Psalm 45; Luke 6:20-26

Each day is a gift from God. It is right to enjoy and be grateful for the good things in our lives. But we are also called to love and serve our neighbours, even if it brings us discomfort and inconvenience.

### Thu 10 Sep Liturgy of the Day

1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13; Psalm 139; Luke 6:27-38

Today, look for ways in which God shows you love. Once you start looking, you may be surprised by how long your list becomes. Then look for ways in which those around you know they are loved by you.

### Fri 11 Sep Liturgy of the Day

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-27; Psalm 84; Luke 6:39-42

Removing the spiritual beams from our eyes is difficult to accomplish alone. With compassion and gentleness, allow others to help you. This can allow us to see our own flaws and the flaws of others through the eyes of Christ.

### Sat 12 Sep (Most Holy Name of Mary)

1 Corinthians 10:14-22; Psalm 116; Luke 6:43-49

We have all been exposed to the teachings of Jesus. We have heard them, but have we actually incorporated them into our lives, into the way we actually live – the way we treat others? Are we walking the walk of faith?

### Sun 13 Sep 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

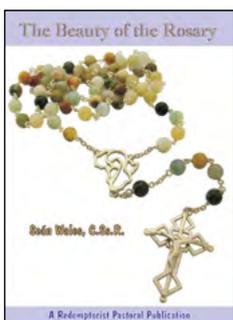
Sirach 27:30-28:7; Psalm 103; Matthew 18:21-35

The author of Sirach makes it clear that we cannot expect forgiveness and mercy unless we also extend these virtues to others who make life difficult for us. May our hearts be always open to mercy and forgiveness.

(KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial) Pr=Priest)

In this work the author discusses the origin, structure and nature of the ancient form of Christian prayer, the Rosary.  
A Redemptorist Pastoral Publication by Fr Seán Wales C.Ss.R.

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