



## SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST

OCTOBER 18, 2026 — SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST

### SYNAXARION OF THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST LUKE

Luke the divine Evangelist was from the great Antioch, where he was a physician and most skillful in the art of painting. He was highly trained with well-rounded external wisdom, and educated in the Hebrew and Syriac dialect. Having gone to Thebes in Boetia as a physician during the reign of Emperor Titus Claudius in the year 42, he encountered the Holy Apostle Paul. Accepting faith in Christ, he turned away from the error of his fathers. Wherefore from that moment he abandoned being a physician of the body, and became employed in treating the soul. At the suggestion of the Apostle Paul, he wrote his own holy Gospel and sent it to Governor Theophilus of Achaia, who believed in Christ.\*\* Then he wrote the Acts of the Apostles, which he again sent to the same Theophilus. Having separated from Paul, he traveled throughout Greece, proclaiming the gospel of Christ. Returning once again to Thebes in Boetia, it is said that he reposed there in peace, at the old age of eighty.

Following his death, God wanted to glorify His healer and servant Luke, so He rained upon his tomb collyrium, as a sign of his artistry as a physician. For this reason, the tomb of the divine Apostle became known to all people.

Constantius, the son of Constantine the Great, transferred the relic of this Apostle from Thebes to Constantinople, by means of Saint Artemios the great duke of Egypt and Martyr. It was treasured in the Church of the Holy Apostles beneath the Holy Altar, together with the honorable relics of Andrew and Timothy the Apostles. This placement of the relic is celebrated on the twentieth of June.

It is said that this Luke was the first to depict in three icons the Lady Theotokos, bearing our Lord Jesus Christ on her lap, made from wax and mastich and paints. These he offered to her while she was alive on the earth, to see if she approved of them. The Mother of the Lord received them, and said: "May the grace of the one born from me be with them through me." He also painted the icons of the Holy Chief Apostles. And from that time, he gave to the world this good and pious and all-honorable work, which is to paint holy icons.

### ON THE EVANGELIST LUKE

On the Feast of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

"The Gospel of Christ is Bright, Let Us Praise the Writer"

By St. Luke, Archbishop of Simferopol and All Crimea

*Continued on page 5*



## HYMNS OF THE SMALL ENTRANCE

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION.

*Mode 3.*

**L**et the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. \* For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. \* He trampled death under foot by means of death; \* and He became the firstborn from the dead. \* From the maw of Hades He delivered us; \* and He granted the world His great mercy.

Verse 2: Let heaven and earth praise Him.

**L**et the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. \* For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. \* He trampled death under foot by means of death; \* and He became the firstborn from the dead. \* From the maw of Hades He delivered us; \* and He granted the world His great mercy.

### HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE.

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION.

*Mode 3.*

**L**et the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. \* For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. \* He trampled death under foot by means of death; \* and He became the firstborn from the dead. \* From the maw of Hades He delivered us; \* and He granted the world His great mercy.

### FOR THE EVANGELIST.

*Mode 3.*

**O** holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, make intercession to our merciful God, that He grant our souls forgiveness of offenses.

### APOLYTIKION OF OUR PATRON

*Mode Pl. 1*

**T**he holy Apostle, the All-hymned Luke, \* who is acknowledged by the Church of Christ \* as the recorder of the Acts of the Apostles, \* and the splendid author of the Gospel of Christ. \* Let us praise with sacred hymns as a physician, \* who heals the infirmities of man, \* and the ailments of nature, \* who cleanses spiritual wounds, and prays unceasingly for our souls.

### KONTAKION. MODE 2.

**O** Protection of Christians that never fails, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.



## READINGS

### *The Epistle Twentieth Sunday*

The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

*Gal. 1:11 – 19*

**B**rethren, Regarding the Good News which I preached, I proclaimed this to you, brethren, that it is not of human origin. I did not receive it from man and I was not taught this Good News by man, but it came to me through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard about how I used to live in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure, and how I ravaged it. I advanced in the Jewish religion beyond many of my own age among my countrymen, as I was more extremely zealous for the traditions of my forefathers. But when it was the good pleasure of God (who had set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through his grace, to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles), I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood: I did not go up to Jerusalem to visit those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia. Later on, I returned to Damascus. Then, after three years, I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Peter, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. However, I did not see any of the other apostles, except James, 'the Lord's brother.'

### *The Gospel For the Apostle*

The reading is from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Lk. 10:16 – 21*

**T**he Lord said to his disciples, "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me. Whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me." The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your Name!" Jesus said to them, "I saw Satan having fallen like lightning from heaven! Behold, I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will in any way hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour, Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I confess you, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for doing so was well-pleasing in your sight."



## UPCOMING SERVICES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, GREAT VESPERS, 5PM

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME

Welcome His Grace Bishop Dionysios of Zenopolis. Bishop Dionysios is the Chancellor of the Metropolis of Chicago.

### PARISH FEAST DAY POT LUCK

Join us today for our annual Feast day pot luck. Please remain in the nave if you plan to stay while everything is being set up.

### CATECHISM CLASS

The class schedule is available online. See Father for details.

### FOOD BANK

Thank you to all who generously donated items for the Food Bank. We recently donated 120 pounds for our neighbors facing food insecurity.

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

We have enough volunteers to cook a meal for the Ronald McDonald House on Oct. 25th. If you would like to help cover the meal expenses, there is a collection jar in the Narthex. Thank you!

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Next Sunday, following Divine liturgy, we will be signing Get Well cards for children in the MU children's Hospital.

### PROPER ATTIRE

1. Wear modest clothing that does not distract others from worship. 2. WOMEN: Dresses and

skirts (of at least knee-length) are the traditional Church clothing for women. Blouses / tops should cover the shoulder and the stomach. Lipstick or lip balm should not be worn, and makeup is strongly discouraged. 3. MEN: Men should wear dress pants and polo / button-down shirts – no tshirts, including no shirts with writing or images. Denim pants are acceptable, work jeans are discouraged. 4. CHILDREN should be dressed for Church in their best clothing. Sloppy dress and play-clothes sends the wrong message to youngsters. 5. EVERYONE: Please wear closed toe shoes. Sandals should be worn with socks. Please do not wear brightly colored sneakers, or shoes with lights in them. No bare feet in Church. Shorts are never permitted, even for children. Tattoos should be covered, as much as possible. Hats are not worn inside the Church. REMEMBER: We come to Church to worship the Living God and our clothing should be simple, clean and respectable.

(Delivered on October 18/31, 1950)

On this day the entire Christian world celebrates the holy memory of the Apostle and Evangelist Luke. For me this is a double festival, for I have the great honor to bear the name of this Saint of God, and therefore I must glorify him. How can I glorify him before you? I will glorify him not with my own words, but with those with which the Holy Church glorifies him: "What shall we call you, Apostle? Heaven, for you have made an account of the glory of God for us. Lightning, for you illumine the world with radiance. Cloud, for you rain down in a torrent the knowledge of God." It's as if a cloud descends from heaven on us and sheds not simple rain, not drops of water, but those waters of grace with which the Gospel sanctifies us. "The most divine chalice of wisdom, pouring out rich wine for us, gladdening our hearts."

So, the Holy Church calls him heaven, a heavenly star. Is there anything higher than this title? I have nothing to add to the glory of this great apostle. He was one of the witnesses of the Word of life, he heard this Word, saw Him with his own eyes, looked at Him and touched Him with his hands (see 1 John 1:1). The Apostle Luke received divine wisdom from Him, and his pure and holy heart was illuminated by divine light.

Like the other apostles, he bore great labors in preaching the holy gospel; he was one of the four evangelists. The apostles served the Lord a lot, being exposed to incredible dangers and persecution. All of them, with the exception of the Apostle John, who, however, also suffered at the hands of people, ended their lives by martyrdom.

The holy apostles were the leaven that Christ our God spoke about when preaching about the kingdom of God. It is enough to take a little leaven and put it in three measures of flour to leaven everything (see Matthew 13:33). The fermentation that occurs in the dough very clearly marks the amazing event that the preaching of the holy apostles produced in the world. There were only twelve of them, and seventy more were called later. And this small handful of people who did not receive any education, simple fishermen and tax collectors, shocked the whole world.

In the books of Genesis (see Genesis 6:4) and Numbers (see Numbers 13:34) we read about giants, the sons of Anak, before whom the Jews seemed small, like locusts. But which of these giants could even in the slightest degree compare with the unattainably huge peaks of the Himalayan mountains? What words emanating from the lips of men can be compared with the ceaselessly flowing streams of waters that fall from these peaks and form the great river Ganges with its tributaries? Whose voice is stronger and farther heard than the furious roar of a huge lion? Whose word is sharper than a two-edged sword?

It would seem that there is no answer to these questions. But no, the prophet and king David responds to them with words full of irresistible power: "Their message has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world" (Ps. 18:5). The apostles were giants of the spirit, before whom the sons of Anak were as insignificant as locusts. They were higher than Gaurishankar, the highest of the Himalayan mountain peaks. The huge Ganges River waters only the northeastern part of In-

dia, but the apostles of Christ with words full of divine grace watered the entire earth. The mighty roar of a lion can only be heard for a few kilometers, but the divine message of the apostles was heard throughout the entire universe. Their preaching surprised the ears of all the holy ethereal Heavenly Powers. And on earth it made some saints, while it hardened others and made them enemies of God.

Why did the preaching of the holy apostles have such unimaginable and endless power? Because they preached not their own word, but the word of God, which is sharper than any two-edged sword: "it penetrates to the dividing of soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb. 4:12). The evangelists, in addition to the greatest merits common to all the apostles, also have the immeasurable merit of writing the Divine Gospel, therefore they should be given the utmost honor.

The Holy Gospel of the Apostle Luke, as well as the Acts of the Holy Apostles written by him, are precious.

Before our Lord and God Jesus Christ came down from heaven and became incarnate, the most powerful power of the then world was the Roman Empire, which subjugated all nations to its power. But Rome itself was perishing from unheard-of debauchery. Many of the Roman rulers were cruel and bloodthirsty tyrants. They shed the blood of their subjects, trampling all that is holy. Even the priests mocked the belief in pagan gods.

And not only Rome, but also the whole world would have perished if Christ had not appeared, Who taught us how to live, how to fulfill the will of God, how to find peace of mind for

those who are troubled. Christ saved the world, saved Rome, but punished it for its wickedness, delivering it into the hands of the barbarians, the fierce nomads of the Huns. And the Roman Empire turned into ruins. Twelve uneducated people, with their preaching, shocked the whole world, changed it, crushed paganism and erected the Cross of Christ over the world, which marked the beginning of a new life.

Let me tell you a story. In a society of highly educated people, someone posed the question: "If we were sentenced to life imprisonment and were given the right to take with us only one book, what book would it be?" Everyone answered with one voice: "Of course, the Bible!" This is how enormous the significance of the Bible, especially its New Testament part, is for all those who do not even openly confess Christ, but in the recesses of their hearts harbor a strange and incomprehensible reverence for the word of God. After all, the Bible is immeasurably more valuable and higher than all human books combined, because it was written by holy people of God, enlightened by God Himself.

The Holy Apostle Luke in his work was guided by the deepest faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, reverence for Him and immeasurable love for Him. He acquired the mind of Christ, his heart became a temple of the Holy Spirit, instilling in him what and how to write. From him we learn about things that other holy evangelists did not write about, for example, about the good news of the Holy Angel to the Prophet Zechariah about the birth of a son, the future Forerunner of the Lord, and about the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos. Only from him will we learn how she, who already had the Word of

Life in her womb, undertook the long journey to Judea to visit her relative Elizabeth, the mother of the Forerunner. From him we learn the song that the Most Pure One sang with Elizabeth (see Luke 1:5–55). Only in his Gospel do we read very important parables of Christ: about the merciful Samaritan, about the two Lazaruses, rich and poor, about the Prodigal Son, about the Publican and the Pharisee (see Luke 10:30–35, 16:19–31, 15:11–32, 18:10–14). This is how great is the legacy that the apostle left to the whole world.

His other apostolic merits were also great. After all, he was a worthy and faithful companion of the great and glorious supreme apostle Paul in all his travels through the countries of Asia Minor and even Europe. He was also present at the execution of his teacher in Rome. After such a terrible separation from him, Saint Luke preached the gospel of Christ for a long time in different countries: in Italy, Macedonia, Greece, Egypt, where he was a bishop. He ended his life as a martyr, at a ripe old age, in the eighty-fifth year of his life, being hanged on a tree.

Saint Paul calls the Apostle Luke his beloved physician (see Col. 4:14), for he was a very skilled healer and treated the Apostle Paul himself. The Lord also commanded me to go through many years of medical practice. And I had to be a healer of human bodies before He sent me to you to heal your souls.

Saint Luke was also a skilled painter. He painted an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos while she was alive, which she approved, saying the following words: “My grace will abide forever with this icon.” And since then, countless miracles have poured out from her holy icons.

And in this respect also I have a slight similarity with the apostle, for in my youth I painted a lot and diligently and painted a number of holy icons.

The Apostle Luke was a bishop, and the Lord made me a bishop. And I must always follow him in everything, trying with all my might to acquire the virtues with which his soul was full. What a terrible responsibility I bear before God for all of you, for I will be held accountable for every lost sheep of the flock entrusted to me by God. I myself cannot cope with this task. I need your help: you yourself must take care of being faithful sheep of the flock, which our Lord and God Jesus Christ acquired with His Blood. I need the intercession and all-powerful prayers of the great apostle and evangelist Luke.

Let us exalt with glory and honor this apostle of Christ in prayer, singing and ask for his great prayerful help in the difficult task of following him along the paths of Christ to the kingdom of heaven.

God! Through the prayers of Your holy Apostle Luke, help me, a sinner, to be a successor to his ministry and to worthily shepherd the rational flock over which You have placed me as a shepherd. Amen.

### SAINT JAMES THE DEACON

Saint James lived in the seventh century, and assisted Saint Paulinus of York (Oct. 10) in evangelizing the north of England, known as Northumbria.

Following the death of Saint Edwin (Oct. 12) in 633, the northern kingdom experienced many trials, including military defeats, famine, and plague. The year 633-634 was so fraught with misfortune that it became known as “The Hateful Year.” Saint Paulinus accompanied

Saint Ethelburga (Apr. 5) back to her native Kent after the death of her husband King Edwin, leaving Saint James behind to care for the new converts in northern England.

Saint James has been described as “faithful and undismayed,” even though the secular power which supported the Church had been overthrown. Even so, he would not abandon the people in his care, nor would he cease his missionary labors.

This faithful servant of the Lord established himself near the village of Catterick in Yorkshire, teaching, comforting, and encouraging his flock. Even in such difficult times, Saint James was able to win many converts to Christ. He had a talent for music, and was skilled in the Roman chants composed by Pope Gregory the Dialogist (Mar. 12) which were being used in Kent. James taught these chants to the Christians of the north. When peace returned and the churches reopened, their services were beautified with the chants which Saint James had given them.

We do not know exactly when Saint James died, but it is believed that he survived for at least thirty years after “The Hateful Year,” and participated in the Synod of Whitby in 664. During the reign of King Oswiu of Northumbria, James attended the royal court, for he celebrated Easter with Oswiu’s queen, Eanflaed, Edwin’s daughter. Both James and Eanflaed celebrated Easter on the date used by the Roman church, which led to conflicts with Oswiu, who celebrated Easter on the date calculated by the Irish church. These dates did not always agree, and was one of the reasons that Oswiu called the Synod of Whitby in 664 to decide which sys-

tem of Easter calculation his kingdom would use.

Saint James does not appear to have been ordained to the holy priesthood, but through his tireless labors he built up the Church in the north. Saint Bede calls him “a man of great energy and repute in Christ’s Church” (History of the English Church and People, Bk. 2, Ch. 16).

#### SAINT MNASON, BISHOP OF CYPRUS

It is most probable that this Saint Mnason is the same as Saint Mnason the Old Disciple commemorated on October 19th, both of whom are said to be Bishops of Cyprus, but the former alone is mentioned in the Synaxarion of Constantinople while the latter is commemorated as a local saint. This is despite the fact that the Saint Mnason of today is said to have been martyred by the sword, while the Saint Mnason of tomorrow is said to have reposed in peace.

