

SERVICE SHEET
18th October
Luke the Evangelist

Canticle

**God raised Christ from the dead,
the Lamb without spot or stain. Alleluia!**

**Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

**By his great mercy
we have been born anew
to a living hope
through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

**Into an inheritance
that is imperishable,
undefiled and unfading,
kept in heaven for you.**

**Who are being protected
by the power of God
through faith for a salvation,
ready to be revealed
in the last time.**

**You were ransomed
from the futile ways
of your ancestors
not with perishable things
like silver or gold**

**But with the precious blood
of Christ
like that of a lamb
without spot or stain.**

**Through him you have confidence in God,
who raised him from the dead
and gave him glory,
so that your faith and hope
are set on God.**

1 Peter 1.3-4,18-21

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Collect

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.

Amen

New Testament Reading.

2 Timothy 4.5-17

⁵ As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. ⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. ⁹ Do your best to come to me soon, ¹⁰ for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. ¹² I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. ¹⁵ You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶ At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, 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.

Psalm 147.1-7

Praise the LORD!
How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious,
and a song of praise is fitting.

**² The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

³ He heals the broken-hearted,
and binds up their wounds.

**⁴ He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.**

⁵ Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

**⁶ The LORD lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷ Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Gospel Reading.

Luke 10.1-9

¹ After this 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. ² 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. ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ 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. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."



Sermon

Lord, take my words and speak through them, take our hearts and set them on fire with love for you. Amen

The 18th October is the date when we celebrate Luke the Evangelist, Luke, the gospel writer. What we know about Luke comes from biblical references and from early Christian writers and tradition. He was the author, not only of the third gospel but also the book of the Acts of the Apostles. Both these books are addressed to someone called Theophilus and Acts begins; In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught; making it clear that these two were written by the same person.

If you put these two books together, they make up about a quarter of the New Testament and no other single author, even Paul, has more included there. This alone shows how important Luke is to our knowledge of Jesus, the apostles and the early Christian Church.

From what we can learn from early sources, including biblical references, Luke was of Gentile origin, a Greek from the city of Antioch in ancient Syria; and he made his living as a physician. St Luke was an early convert to Christianity, possibly having previously converted to Judaism. He was a companion of Paul on his missionary journeys, right up to Paul's martyrdom. In our first reading, he is referred to as being the only disciple with Paul, when he was imprisoned in Rome, nearing the end of his life. Luke himself was also martyred for his faith several years later.

I want to focus now on Luke's gospel and what that adds to our understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus. Luke begins his gospel by saying Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

There is much in Luke's Gospel that is also in those of Matthew and Mark, but it is the other parts, which only appear in this gospel that tell us much both about the author but also about Jesus himself.

Only Luke's gospel contains the story of Elizabeth and Mary, Jesus' birth, the shepherds and Jesus' early life. Included in these accounts are the beautiful poetry of the Magnificat, the Benedictus and the Nunc Dimittis, whose words have been such a comfort to many.

Only Luke records that favourite parable of the Prodigal Son, with its message of God's unending love and grace. Another favourite, the Good Samaritan, emphasising the message of loving our neighbour, appears only in Luke's gospel.

The story of the Pharisee and the Tax- Collector; Martha complaining about her sister, Mary, not helping her enough; Zacchaeus climbing the tree to see Jesus, and the post-resurrection encounter on the road to Emmaus are again only in this gospel. And these are just a few of the ones I could mention. How impoverished would our understanding of Jesus be without these.

The inclusion of these passages tells us a number of things about Luke. We know he was a physician and from this we can surmise that he had a concern for others and this comes through clearly in his gospel. It also suggests that he had been close to the early Christians and heard their stories of events, and possibly experienced some of them himself.

Our gospel reading this morning, about Jesus sending out seventy disciples to spread his message, is again only in Luke's gospel and it has been suggested that Luke may have been among those seventy, sent out like lambs into the midst of wolves, as early missionaries. Whether or not he was, he saw this episode as being worthy of inclusion.

In the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, he mentions Mary, the mother of Jesus, being among the people gathered in Jerusalem, awaiting the gift of the Holy Spirit. Some of the stories of Jesus' early life, that he included, may have come from her, or from those close to her.

Each of the four gospels has its own focus or emphasis and in Luke's gospel, some of the themes that come out particularly clearly are compassion and inclusion.

Jesus is seen as being full of compassion and care for those around him and for humanity as a whole. We are told how to treat each other with love and compassion and Jesus demonstrates this many times, both in his actions and his parables. As a doctor himself, it is hardly surprising that Luke records many accounts of Jesus healing people.

Again and again Jesus is seen with the poor and the marginalised in society. Luke shows that Jesus' message is for everyone. He had come for the whole human race. This is seen in the inclusion of the parable of the Good Samaritan, making a hero of someone who would usually be seen as an outsider and often hated by the Jews.

He told the story of Jesus meeting Zacchaeus, a tax-collector and the way Jesus shocked the crowds by going to his home. No one, whatever they had done, was beyond redemption.

Women also feature more in Luke's gospel, starting with Elizabeth and Mary, as they prepare to become the mothers of John the Baptist and Jesus; then we see women as the recipients of healing; as the anointer of Jesus' feet and also as supporters and providers for Jesus and his disciples as they travelled around. Much of this is not mentioned in any of the other gospels. Women were often overlooked in the society of that time, but Luke clearly believed them to be of importance and value.

If I were to be asked to sum up Luke's gospel in a single word, it would probably be compassion. Throughout the gospel there are stories of Jesus that show the compassion he had for others, whoever they were. Whilst the other gospels do also show this, their emphasis is often on other things. Luke, the physician, sees this element of Jesus' nature as the most

important. For example, Luke alone records the words between the two robbers and Jesus during the crucifixion, ending with Jesus' words, Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise. Even in his time of agony, Luke shows Jesus to have compassion on the repentant thief.

If we take one thing away from this special day for Luke the Evangelist, I would like it to be this idea of compassion. I saw a post on Facebook recently that said, Stop trying to be like other Christians and try to be like Christ. Whilst achieving being like Christ is beyond any of us, it is a timely reminder to go back to the gospels and to look carefully at how Jesus behaved.

So easily, people can reinterpret the Christianity for their own ends and we need to go back to the source. You have probably seen or heard of, the bracelets that have WWJD on them, standing for What Would Jesus Do? encouraging the wearer to think about how to act or respond by thinking about Jesus and his actions.

Returning to reading Luke's Gospel is a way to do this, to think about Jesus and his actions and to see the compassion he had for all people. He went against the ways of the society of his time and he made himself unpopular with many, but he focussed on caring for those in need and that is something we too can do today, particularly as the effects of the pandemic affect so many people and turn their lives upside-down. As Christians in the world today, let's be seen to be there, acting with compassion and love and caring for all and their needs.

Amen

Revd Ruth Bull

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

ST MICHAEL

Those newly in need of prayer

Joseph Harrington, Peter and Anne Whatson, Chris Dickerson, Elizabeth Chapman, Nick Rutter, Sonia Doidge, Matthew and Emmeline and their parents, Ruth and Andrew Martel

Those in continuing special need of prayer:

Anthony Staples aged 6, Audrey Egleston, Colin Eastwood, Yvonne Harper, Judith Watson, Alison Cox-Toplis, Julian & Wendy, Jamie, Gary and Denise, Sam Bassett, Mark Berry, Dorothy Clayton, Jo Cobb, Dottie Collins, Robert Harris, Bill Hill, James Knight, Marielouise Oliver, Arthur Palin, John Tipper, Sheila Vaughan, Renee Wellings, Felicity Woodfield

Those who have died

Ian Watson, Michael Plimmer, Michael Burns, Peter Forrester, Kathleen Kershaw Margaret Fellows & John Doidge

ST JOHN

Those who are ill and their carers:

Pat Crowe, Jo Hearn, Ann Kinson, Allan Law

Post Communion

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostle's teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

CHURCH NOTICES

18th October 2020

A VERY WARM WELCOME to everyone here today.

AIDS TO WORSHIP

~Large print orders of service & hymn books

~Hearing Loops at St Michael - Please set your hearing aid to 'T' to listen.

~Gluten-free wafers are available.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO...

- **Keep in a group of no more than six people outside. Do not move from group to group.**
- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth before you enter church
- **Sanitise your hands on the way in – sanitisers are available**
- Sit only in seats as indicated
- **Keep a proper distance at all times**
- Children are welcome but there will be no toys or activities provided
- **Take with you the Sunday service sheet when you go**
- Be aware of others at all times

WORSHIP BY ZOOM will be on the first and third Sundays of each month.

Sunday 18th October 6.00pm

Sunday 1st November 6.00pm

You can join the service from 5.45pm. The service will last about 40mins. ***If you have not had a link by Friday at 11am please contact the office office@stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk***

ALL SOULS Services will be on **Wednesday 4th November at 6.30pm** at both St Michael's and St John's.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

ST MICHAEL'S

At 10.00am we will hold a shortened service of Holy Communion in church which will be followed by an Act of Remembrance around the War Memorial and on the driveway starting at 10.50. This will include the reading of the names on our memorials and the two minutes silence.

On this Sunday please do not park cars along the left hand side of the drive from the church porch down to opposite the new car park area. If anyone needs to leave before the Act of Remembrance please park in another car park so that there are no car movements until after the service is concluded.

ST MICHAEL'S & ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS BAKE AND DELIVER SCHEME We are hoping to spread some good cheer (and delicious treats!) and reach out to our church and wider parish community with a new Bake and Deliver initiative this Advent. **Would you be willing to help by baking or delivering?** You can volunteer to do as little or as much as you feel able to do - we would be very grateful to have your help! For further details please speak to Revd Mel (revdr.melclark@gmail.com), the churchwardens, or the clergy team.

WARNING!!!

If you receive an email from: **Revd Preb Simon Baker** and the email address is either:
onlinechurch954@gmail.com churchvicar8@gmail.com

Please do not reply or open any attachments. I never use that title in any emails I send and these are not my email addresses.

If you receive any email that asks you to spend any personal money on my behalf please delete it at once.

Simon

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH ROOF APPEAL. We urgently need money to repair the roof on the southside of the church. If you can donate please use the blue envelopes, fill in the front if you can gift aid and make all cheques payable to the 'PCC of St Michael and St Mary, Lichfield'. Please mark the envelope 'Church Roof'. This will really help the count team Many thanks *Brenda Liptrot*

MACMILLAN CAKE SALE Thank you to all who supported St Michael's Cake Sale. after some further generous donations the total for the cake stall is now **£417.30 (Gift Aid to be added)** for Macmillan

THE MEMORY CAFE IS RE-OPENING The Memory Cafe was run weekly in Tamworth Street Methodist Church as a meeting place for those living with memory issues and their carers. It is operated by care agency Home Instead and, since March, they have been working hard to keep in touch with everyone, including organising online events. So it is good to know that the Memory Cafe is re-opening on Thursday 5th November, 10.00 - 12.00 in the Guildhall (not the Methodist Church). It will obviously be a restricted arrangement and people will need to book, but it is a wonderful resource. Contact Karen Wilkinson on 01543 625002 or email karen.wilkinson@homeinstead.co.uk.

BIBLE STUDY The Book of Acts Wednesday 21st October If you would like to join in our Bible Study please contact Angie in the office for the zoom link.

FOODBANK DONATIONS The Foodbank is always happy to receive gifts of

- Tinned meat and fish
- Tinned fruit and vegetables, soup and beans
- Rice pudding and custard
- Instant coffee, tea, sugar, long life milk and fruit juice
- Packets of cereals, biscuits and snacks
- Pasta, rice and pasta sauce
- Jam

Items should be **at least 3 months in date** or the Foodbank is not allowed to issue them.

If anyone wishes to donate but is unable to shop for Foodbank, we shop most weeks and would be able to buy items for them. Just let us know 01543 255308

Maggie and David

CHURCHES TOGETHER www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/churches-together.html

PARISH DIARY

Sunday 18th October

8:00am	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00am	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00am	Holy Communion	St John
10:45am	APCM	St Michael's
11:30am	Private Prayer	St John
6:00pm	Evening Worship	Zoom

Monday 19th October

8:15am	Morning Prayer	St Michael's
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Tuesday 20th October

8:15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
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Wednesday 21st October

All day	Private Prayer	St John
8:15am	Morning Prayer	St Michael's
10.30am	Bible Study	Zoom
6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal	St Michael's

Thursday 22nd October

OFFICE CLOSED

8:15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
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Friday 23rd October

8:15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
9:00am	Magazine Distribution	St Michael's

Saturday 24th October

Sunday 25th October

8:00am	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00am	Holy Communion	St Michael's
10:00am	Holy Communion	St John
12:00pm	Baptism: Esme Bentley	St Michael's