



The Hillside Messenger

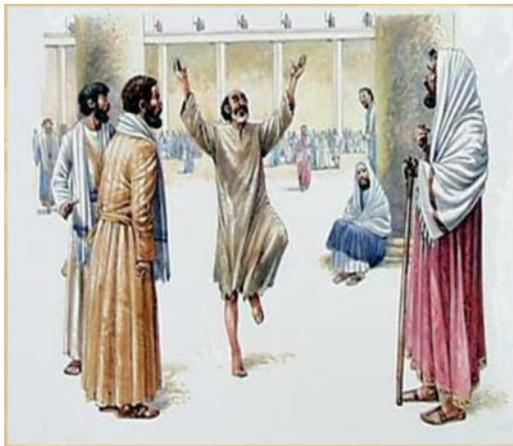
A Message from the Rector:

The Love, Mercy, and Healing Grace of the Lord

The Festival of St. Luke the Evangelist, Patron Saint of this parish, falls on Thursday, October 18th. In view of St. Luke's healing and evangelistic ministry, since he was a physician as well as the writer of the third Gospel account that bears his name, and its significance for the vision and purpose of our parish, I shall remind you all of some of the treasures that we find in *Psalm 103*, which celebrates the love, mercy, and healing grace of the Lord.

The psalm begins with King David calling on his soul and all his being to bless the Lord and His holy Name, and not to forget all God's benefits, that is, all the good things God has done for him. In reading this, I am reminded of *Acts 3:1-10*, where the man who had been lame from birth received from the Lord Jesus Christ, by faith in the

Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the health to stand up and walk—in fact, to enter the temple “walking, and leaping, and praising God” (*Acts 3:8b*). The right reaction of the soul of every Christian to all that God has done, for all He is and does, is to bless the Lord. Many of us have



trials and difficulties in life and obstacles to overcome, but none of these gives us an excuse to blame God at all.

If we think that it is King David alone, or only those who feel blessed, that should bless the Lord while the rest of us are excused from doing so,

we should look at the end of this psalm. Whereas the psalm begins with a call for one individual, the psalmist himself, to bless the Lord, it ends with a call for all God's works everywhere in God's dominion to bless Him (*Psalm 103:22*). Universal blessing of the Lord is a message and a call that is spread through the world today by the preaching, teaching, and sharing of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ which is “the sacred and imperishable message of eternal salvation” (*St. Mark 16:8b*).

The opening call of this psalm for the soul to bless the Lord is also a test for each Christian. Do words of praise and blessing for the Lord spring up spontaneously every day in our prayer life? If we pray the office of Morning Prayer daily, the first two verses of the *Venite, exultemus Domino* (based

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The Love, Mercy, and Healing Grace of the Lord

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on *Psalms 95 and 96*) stir us up to such praise:

O come, let us
sing unto the
LORD;
let us heartily
rejoice in the
strength of
our salvation.

Let us come be-
fore His pres-
ence with
thanksgiving;
and show
ourselves
glad in Him
with psalms.

This call to praise and worship God must be something we respond to daily, and it must issue in our praise and worship of God. In our relationship with God, just as confession of our sins is necessary in the presence of God who is holy and righteous, so are our praise and our thanksgiving for redemption and forgiveness.

By praising God, we are giving Him the worship that is due to Him alone. It also helps to remember all God's benefits (*Psalms 103:2*), all the good things He has done for us. Since we are alive on earth now, we have a history of the good deeds God has done for us. In verse 3, the first of these is that God forgives all our iniquities, all our sins. There is no need for any of us to live with a burden of guilt from some sin we have committed in the past. Once we confess

and repent of what we have done wrong, once we have made a genuine attempt to reconcile with anyone we have offended, and we come to God in penitence, He forgives us of it all and wipes our slate clean as if we had never committed that sin. We cannot have complete healing from anything else without the healing God gives us when He forgives our sins.

Not only does God forgive sins, He heals all the diseases of the one who loves Him and remains in covenant with Him (verse 3). Let us hold fast to God in faith, believing for His healing at all times! Let us also continually give Him thanks for the sicknesses of which God has healed us. Long ago, when I was 17, I contracted Hepatitis A. I was sick with it for six weeks. One day my doctor said, "At this point you will either die of this illness or recover from it." I prayed to the Lord, rather urgently, that I would recover, and God showed me His mercy and healing grace. I did recover. Praised be His Name!

In different ways, God redeems our lives from destruction and crowns us with loving-kindness and tender mercies (verse 4). We have been redeemed by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ from eternal destruction (*Romans 5:9*) and our lives saved by the Lord and protected by Him on this earth.

In addition to His salvation and protection, the Lord sustains and provides for us daily, so as to renew our youth like the eagle's (verse 5). This provision is not only that of material benefits such as food, clothing, and housing, but the spiritual renewal of everyone who worships the Lord. The Holy Spirit who lives in every Christian will give life even to his mortal body (*Romans 8:11*). A very great part of healing is the renewal of body and soul through the Spirit's daily ministry in us and to us as we worship and serve the Lord.

The grace, mercy, salvation, and healing given by God also will be shown in the life of the oppressed (verse 6) and all who have been treated unjustly, whether by church, individuals, society, or governments. For all these the Lord executes righteousness and judgment. Sometimes it may take years for this to happen, but in the end it always does.

The Psalmist relates that God made His ways known to Moses and to the children of Israel (verse 7). To learn more about God's nature and character, we must know His laws and His history in dealing with Israel. When we read that history and learn about God's laws, we shall discover that the Lord is kind and gracious, slow to anger,

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The Love, Mercy, and Healing Grace of the Lord

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and very merciful (verse 8). If God had dealt with Israel according to their sins, they would have been completely destroyed, and the same goes for us. God does not keep His anger forever (verse 9), nor does He reward us according to our sinfulness (verse 10). Just as we cannot measure the heavens' height above the earth, so we cannot measure God's mercy toward those who fear and obey Him (verse 11). When He forgives us, He removes our sins from us as far as the east from the west.

These images of God's mercy and forgiveness are very encouraging and reassuring for all who love Him. God remembers the weakness of human beings, and He pities those who live their lives in reverence for Him (verse 13).

Though man's life is so short and transient on this earth, the Lord's mercy is everlasting on all who fear Him and live their lives in reverence for Him. The implication of this teaching is everlasting life for all who love God and do His will (verses 17 and 18). A further aspect of this teaching about God's showing His mercy and righteousness to those who fear Him is that He will show such mercy and righteousness to their descendants provided that they also live within His

covenant (verse 18). If our descendants are to be recipients of God's mercy and salvation, parents must teach their children the Christian faith and tell them to pass it on to the next generation.

The psalm ends with the statement that God has prepared His throne in the heavens and His kingdom

to trust in Him continually, passing on to others (particularly our families) this life goal of praising God continually and thanking Him for all He has done for us through His Son, our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

— *The Reverend
Christopher Parrish*



rules over all (verse 19); therefore all are called upon to bless Him— His angels, His hosts, and all His works throughout all of creation (verses 20-22).

How does this psalm describe the ultimate goal of God's people? It is to live in the praise of God, in thankfulness to Him and in love for Him, and

Our Chapel Family Prayer List

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that Thou wouldest be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for Thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness:

Archbishop
Foley Beach;
Bishop
Bill Ilgenfritz;
Canon
Michael Penfield;
Father
Chris Parrish;
Deacon
Peter Vogel; and
Deacon
Linda Bracken;

also all those who serve as Thy ministers in governing our nation and state, particularly:

President
Donald Trump; and
Governor
Jerry Brown;

as well as all those who are any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; especially those

for whom our prayers are desired:

the soldiers, sailors,
marines, airmen,
police officers,
firefighters, and pilots
who protect us every day;
our persecuted Christian
brothers and sisters
throughout the world;
all who have suffered
bereavement or loss
in the recent floods
in the Carolinas;
Jim and Edna Davis;
Estelle Wilson;
Julia McNeely;
Joya de Rossett;
Sharon De Souza;
Debbie;
Scott;
Brittany;
Don Cottam;
James and Tanya Theiler;
Christian McKagan
and his parents;
Dale Quinn;
Lisa;
Ben;
Marion;
Max;
Dorian;
Dan and Kendra Pack;
Ernst Hernandez;
Jan Martins;
the Stanko family;
Yoshihiko and Hideko
Ikegami;
Elizabeth Ann
and her husband;
Stephen;
Craig Cameron;
Lori Anderson;

Ali Hemphill;
Lori Hemphill;
Pennel Magaw;
Tracy Magaw;
Lourdes Fernandes;
Mary Frances Reeves;
Maryanne Sanchez;
Kaitlyn Lindstedt;
Pamela;
safety on the highways
for all who commute,
especially
during rush hour;
the life
and continuing longevity
of St. Luke's
Chapel in the Hills;
and for all those
who are in our hearts,
that it may please Thee to
comfort and relieve them,
according to their several
necessities; giving them
patience under their sufferings,
and a happy issue
out of all their afflictions.
And this we beg for Jesus
Christ's sake. Amen.

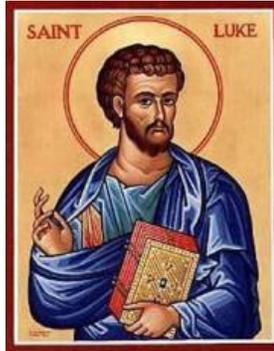
Please note: This prayer list was current as of September 30th. Please contact Father Parrish to make corrections.

Our Chapel Family Prayer List



Parish Postings

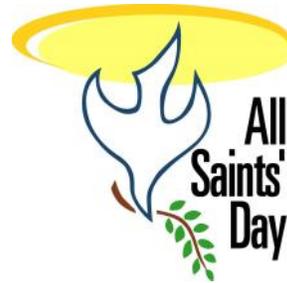
Please join us on Sunday, October 21st, as we celebrate our parish's patron saint, St. Luke the Evangelist!



The Vestry will meet Sunday, October 21st, immediately following the worship service.



It is the custom of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills to list the names of our loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord in our All Saints' Day prayers. Kindly forward your memorials to Father Parrish by Sunday, October 28th, so that he may include them in the Prayer List for our All Saints' Day observance on Sunday, November 4th. Thank you!



Please prayerfully consider contributing to this newsletter. Tell us how God is working in your life, or share a favorite Bible verse, prayer, or hymn with us! Articles, photographs, and news items are always welcome. Please ask Kim Vogel if you have any questions. Thank you!



Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Summer Community Missions Project, St. Luke's was able to provide 15 fully-equipped backpacks to needy students in our area. The Vestry has selected the Shasta Regional Community Foundation as our Fall project. The goal is to collect funds to make a donation to this group for disaster relief in aid of victims of the Carr Fire. For more information, please visit

www.ShastaRCF.org.

When you donate for this project, please write *Shasta RCF* on your offertory envelope or check memo line. Thank you!



Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 7th

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 2

9:15 AM

*Holy Communion
with Healing Service*

10:00 AM

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Upcoming Events

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Sunday, October 14th

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 3

9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

noon

Sunday, October 21st

Festival of St. Luke the Evangelist observed

The Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 4

9:15 AM

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting

immediately following the worship service

Sunday, October 28th

Festival of St. Simon and St. Jude observed

The Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity

Deadline for giving Father Parrish
your All Saints' Day memorials

Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 5

9:15 AM

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

noon

Sunday, November 4th

All Saints' Day observed

The Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 6

9:15 AM

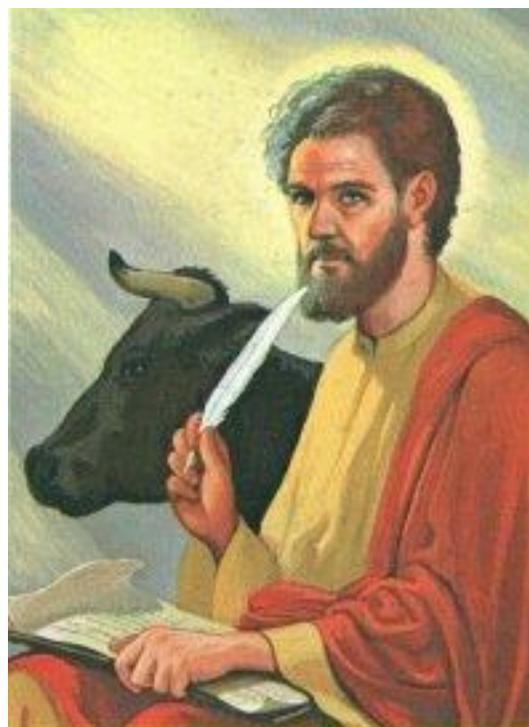
Holy Communion

with Healing Service

10:00 AM

Tuesday, November 6th

Election Day





The Hillside Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF
ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS
ANGLICAN CHURCH

A PARISH OF
THE CONVOCATION OF THE WEST,
PART OF THE
MISSIONARY DIOCESE OF
ALL SAINTS IN
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

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Worship Schedule

St.

Luke's Chapel in the Hills is a traditional Anglican parish which uses the 1928 edition *Book of Common Prayer*. We invite you to join us for worship soon!

***"A place
where the Bible is taught."***



*Biblical in teaching.
Liturgical in worship.
Loving in practice.*

First, third, and fifth Sundays of each month

Holy Communion
(with Healing Service on First Sunday)
10:00 AM

Second and fourth Sundays each month

Office of Daily Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Said Holy Communion
noon

Please note that both services on Feast Days occurring on these Sundays will be Holy Communion.