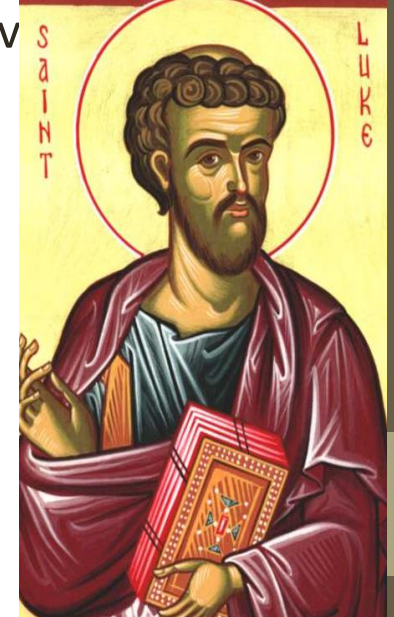


Gospel of St. Luke

- **Luke:** a vigorous champion of the outsider
 - ✓ Only Gentile in an all Jewish cast of NT writers
 - ✓ Jesus includes those who typically were treated as outsiders by the religious establishment of the day: women, common laborers (shepherds), those racially different (Samaritans), the poor
- **Author:** St. Paul's co-worker; a physician (steadfast friend); travel diary to help construct some of the history of **Acts**
 - ✓ Did not know the historical Jesus
 - ✓ Mistakes about Palestinian geography
 - ✓ Did not come from the Holy Land
 - ✓ Wrote in polished Greek



- ✓ Wrote for Gentile Christian Churches
- ✓ Universality of Jesus' offer of salvation
- ✓ Elimination of passages that might confuse a non-Jewish audience
- ✓ Drops passages about Jewish traditions, return of Elijah, reference to the Old Law (Sermon on the Mount)
- ❖ Omits Jewish names (master for rabbi; lawyer for scribe; Sav
- **Sources:** Mark (60%), Q, L
- ✓ L Source: early hymns, a genealogy, Finding of Jesus at the Temple, a collection of parables (Good Samaritan, Prodigal Son), a group of miracle stories



- ***Date:*** 75-90 AD (Aware of Jerusalem's destruction)
- Orderly account (Concern with historical detail and literary purpose)
- Jerusalem as a central symbol
- Gospel dedicated to Theophilus "lover of God" (Greek) – monetary sponsor
- ✓ Wants to show Theophilus and all readers that their instruction in the Christian faith was sound

Gospel of Luke – Acts of the Apostles

- A restatement and defense of Jesus' Good News
- Faith-filled testimony about the continuing activity of the Resurrected Jesus and the Holy Spirit in history
- Organizes gospel around the symbol of Jerusalem
- In the ***Gospel of Luke***:
 - ✓ ***Infancy Narrative***: Jesus goes from Galilee to Bethlehem to be born
 - ✓ In Jerusalem, prophecies of Simeon and Anna that Jesus is the promised Savior

- ✓ At age 12, Jesus with “teachers” in the Temple in Jerusalem (“doing My Father’s work)
- ✓ Luke 9:51: Jesus determined to journey to Jerusalem (God will fulfill all of His promises)
- ✓ In Jerusalem Jesus instructs apostles to await the descent of the Holy Spirit



- In the ***Acts of the Apostles***:

- ✓ Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles at Pentecost in Jerusalem
- ✓ Gospel spreads to the Roman Empire
- ✓ ***Acts*** ends with Paul arriving in Rome



- ✓ Christian life as a journey Jerusalem: Jesus suffered, died,
rose from the dead →
- ✓ Early Church with its journey Jerusalem: Share the gospel
to the ends of the earth (Paul and missionaries met with
rejection and suffering)

Common Themes in Luke and Acts

- Jesus as a prophet
- Church continues Jesus' prophetic ministry
- Role of Holy Spirit in Salvation history
- Prayer, joy, peace
- Special role of Mary and women

Jesus The Prophet

- ***Luke 4: 16-24***

- ✓ Jesus reads from Isaiah in a synagogue service in his hometown of Nazareth
- ✓ Jesus claims to be the Messiah (rejected)
- ✓ “No prophet ever receives honor in his hometown.”
- ✓ ***Fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy of liberation:***
Heals the sick, cures lepers, ministers to the hated Samaritans, treats women as equals, forgives and eats meals with sinners, exorcises demons, responds to a plea from a Roman centurion (represents an oppressive power)



- ✓ ***Foreshadows Jesus' public life:*** initial acceptance; people change their opinion and reject and kill Jesus
- ✓ ***Role of the Holy Spirit:*** importance of prayer in the life of Jesus and of the early Church

- ***The Church Continues Jesus' Prophetic Mission (Acts 1-2)***

- Risen Jesus with the apostles for 40 days
- Mary as a faithful witness to her son; source of strength for the disciples
- 12 tribes 12 apostles
- ✓ Choice of successor for Judas (Matthias)

- ***Coming of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost)***
 - ✓ Feast of Weeks: 50 days after Passover (God's giving of the covenant to Israel at Mt. Sinai)
 - ✓ ***Pentecost:*** "birthday of the Church" – 3000 converts baptized
 - ✓ ***Characteristics of an Ideal Christian Community:***
 - ❖ Christian fellowship or communion (koinonia): sharing of goods and love among members
 - ❖ Praying for each other/Celebrating Eucharist in their homes: commemorated the Pascal Mystery
 - ❖ Apostolic eyewitnesses to Jesus' gospel teachings



- ***Role of the Holy Spirit in Salvation History***

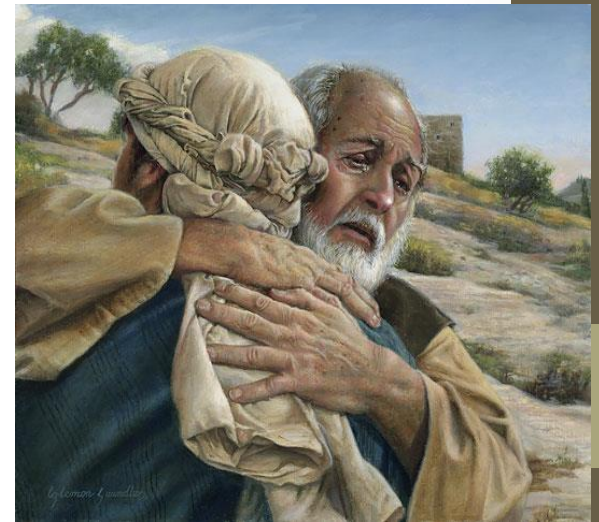
- ✓ Age of Promise
- ✓ Time of Jesus
- ✓ Age of the Church – ***Acts*** “The gospel of the Holy Spirit”
 - ❖ Peter and Paul featured
 - ❖ Holy Spirit leads and directs Jesus in His own ministry
 - ❖ Holy Spirit inspires disciples to proclaim the message (70 references)

- ***Prayer***

- ✓ Pervasive theme in Luke and Acts
- ✓ Jesus went to the synagogue to pray; prays before choice of apostles; withdrew to lonely places
- ✓ Lord’s Prayer; Not to lose heart when we pray
 - ❖ Perfect way to pray: seeking God’s will in all we do
 - ❖ Pray often as Jesus did

- ***Joy and Peace***

- ✓ John the Baptist leaps in his mother's womb
- ✓ Mary praises God when Elizabeth blesses her faith
- ✓ Birth of Jesus with angels glorifying God
- ✓ Shepherds worship Jesus with joy and peace
- ✓ Crowds rejoice over Jesus' mighty works
- ✓ ***Zacchaeus*** (tax collector) receives Jesus with joy into his house
- ✓ ***Prodigal Son***: joy over the return of a lost sinner
- ✓ Jesus' Resurrection: greets followers with peace - "Their hearts bursting with joy"



- ***Special Role of Mary and Women:***

- ✓ First Century: women seen as inferior to men with no right to an education; limited legal rights; no role in public life
- ✓ Jesus' view: positive and revolutionary
- ✓ ***Infancy Narrative: Mary*** with a key role (Joseph in the background); Mary with faith in the angel's revelation that she is to be God's mother; Fidelity of ***Elizabeth***; patience of ***Anna***;
Strong, faithful women
- ✓ ***Luke's Gospel: Widows; Mary Magdalene;*** Women who were traveling companions
- ✓ ***Women as central characters in 2 parables***
 - ❖ ***Lost Coin:*** Compares God to a woman
 - ❖ ***Unjust Judge:*** Praises the woman for her strong faith and persistence
 - ❖ Women witnessed Jesus' death; First to proclaim his resurrection

Mary

- ✓ Model of Christian faith
- ✓ Yes to God's plan
- ✓ Faithful to Jesus
- ✓ Awaits Holy Spirit with the apostles in the Upper Room
- ✓ **Theme:** God's preferential love for the poor (Mary, a simple, humble young girl)



What the Church Believes About Mary:

- ❖ ***Immaculate Conception:*** From conception, Mary is immune from all stain of original sin; Patron saint of U.S (December 8)
- ❖ ***Ever-Virgin:*** Always a virgin “before, during, after” the birth of Jesus
- ❖ ***Mother of God, Mother of the Church:*** As Mother of Christ, Mary is Mother of God; Spiritual mother of humanity (New Eve)
- ❖ ***Assumption:*** Mary, assumed body and soul into heaven; Death's decay did not touch Mary

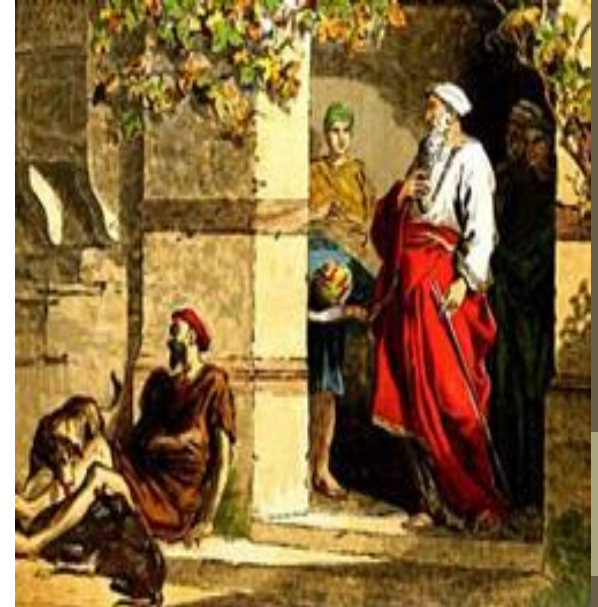
Jesus: A Compassionate Messiah and Universal Savior

- Friend of the friendless
- Identifies with the poor and lowly
- ✓ ***Shepherds***: social outcasts of pious Jews
- ✓ Jesus' Presentation in the Temple (2 turtledoves)
- ✓ More than any other gospel, Luke reassures the poor and warns the rich
- ✓ Love for the poor, manifested in concrete deeds, is a requirement for Jesus' disciples



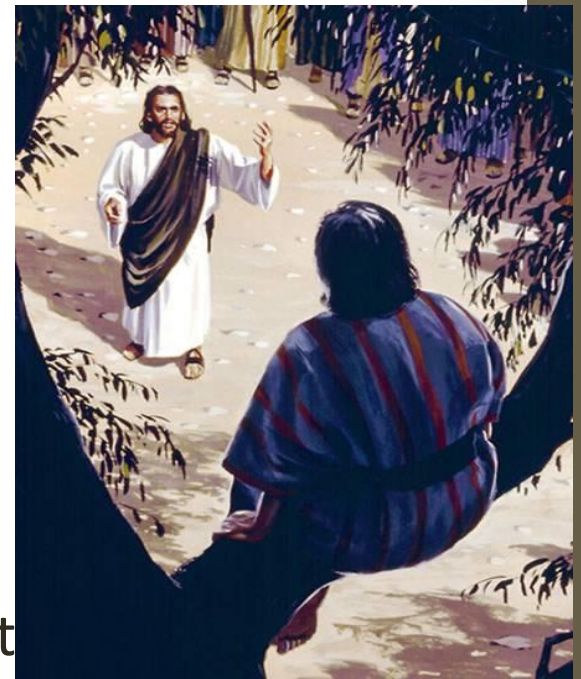
Compassion to the Poor (Luke 16:19-31)

- Only gospel with the story of ***Lazarus and the Rich Man***
 - ✓ Lazarus: name means “may God help us”
 - ✓ Jesus warns that those who have plenty in this life must share with those who have less
 - ✓ Generous service of God and others, with compassion for the poor and outcast, are mandatory for the followers of Jesus



Friend of Outcasts (Luke 19:1-10)

- **Zacchaeus** (tax collector): Short in stature, climbed a tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus
 - ✓ Received Jesus into his house
 - ✓ Gave half of his wealth to the poor
- **Cure of Ten Lepers:** Reviled and lived apart from others
 - ✓ Ten cured but only one with the thoughtfulness to return and thank Jesus for his great mercy (a Samaritan enemy of the Jews)



Love of Enemies (Luke 10:25-37)

- ***Story of the Good Samaritan***

- ✓ God's love and compassion know no bounds. Nor should ours.
- ✓ Setting: a lawyer testing Jesus "Who is my neighbor?"
- ✓ Neighbor is everyone
- ✓ Priest, Levite passed by a suffering Jew (Did not risk getting involved)
- ✓ Samaritan: compassionately ministered to the man
- ✓ Inconvenienced himself follow- (equivalent to 24 days) →
- ✓ Break through our prejudices and imitate God by embracing even our enemies



Friend of Sinners (Luke 15)

- Heart of Luke's gospel
- ***Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:4-7)***
 - ✓ Foolish shepherd who left 99 sheep alone to go after the one lost
 - ✓ God's love is seemingly foolish in human terms in the pursuit of the one who has lost his/her way



- ***Parable of the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-11)***

- ✓ Woman goes to great lengths to find a misplaced coin
- ✓ May even have spent more on a party celebrating its finding than the value of the coin lost
- ✓ God's love exceeds what the learned and "holy" ones of Jesus' day expect
- ✓ God's love: astonishing, excessive, almost ridiculous compared to our standards



- ***Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)***

- ✓ Bondless love of the father; receives son unconditionally
- ✓ Symbols of a free man (shoes) and privileges of being a member of the family (ring and robe)
- ✓ Son's return: an occasion of great rejoicing and a great feast
- ✓ Older brother: faithful to the father out of a sense of duty not true love; jealous; whining
- ✓ Return of sinners brings great joy in heaven; God loves sinners



Jesus and Money

- “No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other.” **(16:13)**
- “Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” **(6:38)**
- “Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” **(14:33)**

The Martyred Lord (Luke 23-24)

- Lord (***Kyrios*** in Greek); most common title of Luke for Lord
- Presents Jesus as a martyr (witness – Greek): Consistent, loving, faithful, compassionate Jesus is even in his darkest hour
- Promises heaven to the “good thief”
- Roman centurion proclaims the truth about Jesus (“This man was innocent beyond doubt.”)

- Conclusion of the Gospel of Luke (Resurrection appearances)
- **Emmaus Story:** summarizes the entire gospel
- ✓ Journey of 2 disciples after crucifixion talking on the road to Emmaus
- ✓ Eyes opened at the breaking of the bread
- ✓ Ritual of reading the scriptures and breaking bread in Jesus' name: carried on by the earliest Christians (**Acts**)

