

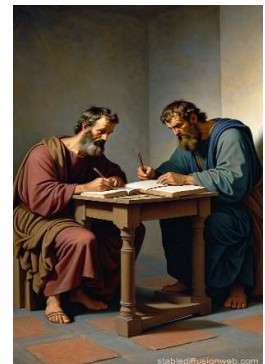
Sermon. Sunday 18.10.2026. St Luke



Today we remember the importance of Luke the Evangelist. St Luke, who's gospel we have just heard has a name that means 'bringer of light'. He is known for documenting the mission and ministry of Jesus, being an evangelist, a historian, a missionary companion, and, in the words of St Paul, 'the beloved physician'.

Having been in healthcare for 47 years I hear the word physician used to describe a person qualified to practice medicine, especially one who specialises in diagnosis and medical treatment, not a surgeon. Many hospital and hospices bear the name of St Luke. By the early centuries of Christianity, we read about how Luke was venerated as the patron saint of physicians, surgeons, and healers and today, the 18th of October is celebrated by medical organisations across the world. Luke's Gospel highlights Jesus' care for those people that were marginalised, for the sick and the outcasts, just as many charities and mission organisations undertake today. Many St Luke hospitals were founded over the years by the Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant or ecumenical religious order as faith-based services. Some of the organisations and hospitals serve immigrants, the poor, those suffering from the effects of epidemics in areas of the world where there is no formal healthcare system available. St Luke helps us to think about living and working in communities where there is a heritage of compassionate and holistic care though not all organisations named after St Luke are faith based. St Luke bore witness to Jesus Christ, the saviour whose mercy reaches the poor, the outsider, the sinner, the sick and every person who longs for hope.

Luke is seen in the New Testament as a trusted companion of Paul and in Paul's final letter are the words 'only Luke is with me now.' He was seen as being educated, attentive, loyal, and willing to remain with his suffering friend. This shows how his discipleship was expressed through his writing, his preaching, and his presence. Luke outlines in his Gospel that he has investigated what has happened and writes things in a way that the reader can learn the truth of what has been taught. His faith allows him to listen, research, remember and write about what he has witnessed and what he has himself has been involved in. He encourages Christians to love God with their minds as well as with their hearts and encourages them to seek the truth, speak of what they hear and pass on that faith to those they encounter.



Luke wrote the Gospels and the acts of the Apostles. The Gospel: tells us the things that Jesus did and taught us and the Acts of the Apostles help us to understand how the risen Christ continues his work through the Holy Spirit and through the Church. Luke helps to draw our attention to the mercy of God. We hear the story of the Good Samaritan, the caring shown by their crossing of boundaries to care for the wounded stranger. We hear of the father who goes out to welcome his prodigal son. How Jesus promises paradise to the repentant criminal and the cross beside him. We hear how he tells of the grace that work within those communities where society overlooks and condemns those in need. He also reminds us of the importance of the role that women play and the importance of looking out for the poor, the strangers and to those needing healing in their life. Jesus reminds up of the importance of having compassion in our life and sharing that compassion with those around us.



Luke knew how medicine, skills of individuals and humans who share caring attitudes can help people. Often, we associate a healer as being someone involved in medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, or similar professional roles. When we look at the definition of a

healer, we can see that a healer is a person who heals people, especially a person who heals through prayer and religious faith. Luke's Gospel reminds us that Jesus is the true healer as he heals bodies, restores dignity, forgives sin, and brings the isolated back into their communities. Through Jesus we have the renewal of the person as a whole and taking their life back to life with God.

Luke reminds us of the importance of prayer as Jesus taught us. He was seen at prayer before he undertook any of the events in his life. Prayer helps open our hearts to the key role the Holy Spirit plays in our lives and can help us develop courage, wisdom, and direction in our lives. Our readings today help us to think of perseverance, companionship, and peace. In Timothy, Paul reminds Timothy to remain steady and fulfil his ministry and, though at times Paul had his own practical needs and felt he had no support, he remembers the strength he receives to continue his journey using the strength he receives from the Lord. In Luke Jesus sends his followers ahead in pairs which at times left them vulnerable and dependent on the hospitality of those around them. They are asked to bring peace, care for the sick, and announce that God's Kingdom is near and remaining faithful through any difficulties they encounter.

St Luke reminds us to use the gifts that each of us have been given, for God. As Luke used his professional skills to become an instrument of evangelism and compassion, our own vocations can become holy when we offer it in love. Luke teaches us to see the poor, the stranger, the sick and the excluded, not as a problem but as being our neighbours who bear God's dignity in their own way. We are asked to listen carefully, speak truthfully, and give a clear account of the hope that is within each one of us. Luke asks us to remain with those people who are suffering hardship. When Paul says 'only Luke is with me' it is a quiet testimony to faithful friendship. Simply staying, listening, and supporting someone in need is the Christlike act we can show to those around us. Our Christian mission begins with our dependence upon God and flows from us to those in need around us. Each one of us is a carer, an evangelist, and a healer in our own way in the lives we share with those around us.



Prayer to St. Luke

O blessed St. Luke, faithful physician of body and soul,
you carried the healing word of Christ to the weary and the wounded.

Through your Gospel, you painted with gentle truth the mercy of our Lord,
the compassion that binds every broken heart.

Intercede for us, that our minds may be illumined by the Spirit's wisdom, and our hands guided to serve
with tenderness and care.

May the medicine of the Gospel flow through our lives, bringing peace where there is pain, hope where
there is despair, and light where shadows linger.

St. Luke, holy evangelist, pray for us, that we may follow the Great Physician in love, in faith, and in healing
grace. Amen

Tina Titley