

**Sunday 18 October 2026,
St Luke the Evangelist**

Collect:

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings for this week:

Isaiah 35:3-6; Psalm 147:1-7; Acts 16:6-12a; Luke 10:1-9

Both Mary's song, the Magnificat (Luke 1) and Jesus first sermon, in his hometown of Nazareth (Luke 4), proclaim a mission that prioritises the poor, weak, sick and downtrodden. Before speaking, Jesus quotes from the prophet Isaiah, using words very similar to those found in our reading today (but actually from Isaiah 58 and 61), while Mary's song echoes several passages from Scripture, including Psalm 147. For Luke the Evangelist, these priorities remain a prime focus both for Jesus in the Gospel that bears his name, and the early Church in the other book that bears his authorship, the Acts of the Apostles.

Another priority for Luke is the dissemination of the Gospel message. Paul mentions Luke as a companion three times in his letters and, as is clear from our second reading from Acts, Luke was active in accompanying the apostles while they spread the Good News across the Mediterranean region. This travelling and telling the story was not always easy – Luke was imprisoned for a time with Paul – but it is vital, hence his description of Jesus sending out the seventy in pairs to begin the process. St Gregory the Great, commenting on this passage, believes that Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs because 'Charity is twofold: to love God and to love our neighbour. Charity cannot exist except between two persons: love is only possible when we reach out to another'. This ties telling the story in with living it – with being the Good News for those who need it. Which takes us back to Jesus, and God's priority for the broken and the broken-hearted. Living as God's people means bringing all who are struggling, afraid, wounded and oppressed into the heart of our community.

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings for next week:

Nehemiah 8:1-4a; Psalm 119:9-16; Colossians 3:12-17; Matthew 24:30-35
Bible Sunday