

**The Rectorial Benefice of the East Vale  
Morning Prayer  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 | St Luke**

*Hymn (requested by Jeanne Bear in memory of her mother Eva McCarthy whose 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of death occurs on the 20<sup>th</sup> October)*

**As pants the hart for cooling streams  
when heated in the chase,  
so longs my soul, O God, for thee,  
and thy refreshing grace.**

**For thee, my God, the living God,  
my thirsty soul doth pine:  
O when shall I behold thy face,  
thou majesty divine?**

**Why restless, why cast down, my soul?  
Hope still, and thou shalt sing  
the praise of him who is thy God,  
thy health's eternal spring.**

**To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
the God whom we adore,  
be glory, as it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.**

**The Gloria**

Glory to God, glory in the highest,  
peace to his people, peace on earth.  
**Glory to God, glory in the highest,  
peace to his people, peace on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father.  
**Glory to God, glory in the highest,  
peace to his people, peace on earth.**

We worship you,  
**glory in the highest,**  
give you thanks,  
**glory in the highest,**  
praise you for your glory.  
**Glory to God, glory in the highest,  
peace to his people, peace on earth.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us,  
**have mercy on us;**  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer,  
**receive our prayer.**

Glory to God, glory in the highest,  
peace to his people, peace on earth.  
**Glory to God, glory in the highest,  
peace to his people, peace on earth.**

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God, the glory of God the Father.

**Glory to God, glory in the highest,  
peace to his people, peace on earth.**

Amen. **Amen.**

**The 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 our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*First Reading*

*(Acts 16.6-12a)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul and Timothy went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Responsorial Psalm*

*(Psalm 147. 1-7)*

**R/ The Lord heals the broken hearted.**

Alleluia. How good it is to make music for our God, how joyful to honour him with praise. The Lord builds up Jerusalem and gathers together the outcasts of Israel. He heals the broken hearted and binds up all their wounds. **R/**

He counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his wisdom is beyond all telling. **R/**

The Lord lifts up the poor, but casts down the wicked to the ground. Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music to our God up on the lyre. **R/**

*Second Reading* (2 Timothy 4. 5–17)

A reading from Paul's second letter to Timothy

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 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. Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! 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.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

*The Gospel* (Luke 10. 1-9)

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**Give thanks to the risen Lord.**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**Give praise to his name.**

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth,  
he is the king of creation. Alleluia! Alleluia!...**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Listen to the gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth,  
Jesus has died and risen. Alleluia! Alleluia!...**

**The Homily**

**Fr Martyn**

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic we have been asked to protect our National Health Service. Some months ago, some of us were clapping for the NHS every Thursday and we are still being encouraged to act sensibly, so as not to take risks with our health and put a strain on that great national institution. It's fitting that today we mark the Feast Day of St Luke, which takes priority over the Sunday Readings, as St Paul describes Luke as 'The beloved physician' in Colossians chapter 4 verse 14. St Luke is the patron saint of doctors as well as artists. This is because tradition holds that as well as being a physician, Luke was the first icon painter. Looking at Wikipedia tells me that Luke's patronage includes artists, bachelors, physicians, surgeons, farmers and others.

Today we give thanks for St Luke and his writings. We know that Luke wrote the Gospel that bears his name, as well as the Acts of the Apostles. I always think of Luke's Gospel being The Story of Jesus and the Acts of the Apostles being The Story of the Early Christian Church. I often refer to the Gospels as a jigsaw puzzle in four parts. Each of the four evangelists bring something different to the picture and without all of them we would not receive the fullness of the Gospel message. I think that with each Gospel it is important to appreciate that evangelist was writing for a different audience.

Mark's Gospel was the first to be written and is the shortest, whilst it is believed that both Matthew and Luke had sight of Mark's work when they wrote theirs. Mark's Gospel is believed to be the story of Jesus, largely seen through the eyes of St Peter, as recorded by Mark. Matthew's Gospel is largely seen as a Jewish Gospel, always looking to tie Jesus into being the one who fulfils Old Testament Prophecy. Matthew's genealogy traces

Jesus from Abraham, through King David to Joseph, following a very Jewish route. Luke's genealogy traces Jesus from Joseph back to Adam the first man, not the first Jew.

Luke is the Gospel that seeks to throw the doors wide open, from the Jews to the Gentiles. Luke stresses the importance of the underdog, women and prayer in the life of Jesus. In Luke's Gospel we see the importance of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and it is Luke who uniquely records the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. Luke makes it clear that salvation is not just for the Jews. The good news is for all people, regardless of gender, social position or nationality. In Luke's Gospel the evangelist stresses the kindness of Jesus and the importance of the Holy Spirit, both in the events leading up to the birth of Jesus, but also in the Acts of the Apostles, with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. When Jesus is on the cross, Luke tells us how Jesus reached out to the repentant thief with the words, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.' No one is beyond the reach of the Gospel message. John's Gospel is very different to the others. He focuses less on events and stories and more on theology. John stresses more the divinity of Jesus, seen in the many 'I am' sayings of Jesus. I am the Bread of Life, I am the Light of the World, I am the Good Shepherd, I am the Gate for the sheep, I am the Resurrection and the Life, I am the Way the Truth and the Life, I am the True Vine. In all these Jesus is saying 'I am God.'

All the Gospels are challenging in their own way. Luke is often a favourite because it relates the Gospel message through stories. Luke is very readable both in the Gospel that bears his name, but also in the Acts of the Apostles. In Luke's Gospel we see Jesus pushes the boundaries and challenging people as to who is counted worthy by God, because no one is beyond the pale. In the Acts of the Apostles we read about Peter and Paul being challenged. Peter who denied Jesus three times becoming the leader who takes the Gospel message and eventually dies the martyr's death in Rome. Paul who was a persecutor of Christians and then was transformed on that road to Damascus, becoming the one who proclaimed the Gospel message far and wide. Paul set up Christian communities that he later wrote to, encouraging and guiding and sometimes correcting them on the journey of faith.

Luke is responsible for a great story, in two parts. The Gospel that bears his name and the Acts of the Apostles. 'We have a gospel to proclaim' is a hymn that we often sing. In fact, we will be singing it next week on Bible Sunday. The hymn tells the story verse by verse, from Birth, to Death, to Resurrection, to Pentecost and beyond, because the story goes on. Luke wrote those two books in our bibles, but the story is still being written in the lives of Christians. In other words, we all have a Gospel to proclaim.

Today we give thanks to God for St Luke, for his Gospel and for the Acts of the Apostles. We give thanks for the work of doctors, especially in these difficult and challenging times, for artists and all under Luke's patronage. We pray for ourselves, that we may carry on proclaiming the Gospel message. A task that we share with the apostles and evangelists, the Blessed Virgin Mary and all who have walked before us in faith. May God guide and strengthen us in this task of proclaiming the Gospel message.

### **Hymn**

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my great Father, I thy true heir;  
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.**

**Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my armour and be thou my might,  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r:  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**Riches I need not, nor all the world's praise,  
thou mine inheritance through all of my days;  
thou, and thou only, first in my heart,  
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art!**

**High King of heaven, when battle is done,  
grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heav'n's sun!  
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

## **The Intercessions**

In the power of the gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

Bless the healing ministry of the Church and grant relief to those who come to her for help. Inspire all who profess the name of Jesus with the compassion that he freely gave on earth. We pray for June, our bishop, and in our Swedish link prayer cycle we pray for the churchwardens of Lagunda parish and our churchwardens, PCC, church coordinators and church committees in the East Vale Benefice.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

May the light of the gospel shine through all the world and the saving health found in Christ be known to all nations. Bless all who work to heal the sick and who care for them in their need, particularly those who work for the NHS, private health organisations and care homes. We pray too for all who exercise pastoral ministries within the church.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Give us grace to heal and restore harmony wherever there is trouble among those with whom we live and work. We pray for counsellors, social workers, support charities, peacekeepers, diplomats, and all who work to mend broken relationships in marriages, family life, between communities and nations.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick in body, mind, and spirit, and for all who are distressed by the suffering of those they love. Bring the assurance of divine love to those who feel frustrated and isolated as a result of their illness.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Receive with mercy the departed who have passed through the troubles of this world. Grant them new life with blessed Luke and all the saints, where sickness and pain are no more.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

In silence let us offer our own personal prayers through Jesus who heals, forgives and restores us...

**Merciful Father**  
**accept these prayers**  
**for the sake of your Son,**  
**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

## **Hymn**

**And did those feet in ancient time  
walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God  
on England's pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the countenance divine  
shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
among these dark satanic mills?**

**Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!  
Bring me my chariot of fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight,  
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
till we have built Jerusalem  
in England's green and pleasant land.**