



Reading the Gospel of Luke

The Gospel of Luke is full of familiar stories. The stories of Jesus' birth are in the Gospel of Luke and not any of the other Gospel books. The parable of the Prodigal Son is in the Gospel of Luke. Some of the great songs in scripture are found in the opening chapters of Luke. A close reading of the Gospel of Luke during Lent provides the chance to read these familiar stories and pay attention to what is happening before and after these well known stories.

One of the major themes of the Gospel of Luke is reversal. The "poor are lifted up and the rich are sent away empty" is one example of reversal illuminated in Luke, found in the Magnificat. Notice when Jesus heals in the Gospel it typically involves people outside or on the margins of the community. Jesus continually finds his way to people left out and left behind.

As you read the Gospel of Luke during Lent, I encourage you to do a bit of it each day. There are no readings assigned for Sundays and the reading concludes prior to Palm Sunday. I encourage you to set aside 10-20 minutes each day for reading. Also, a pencil and paper is useful to have alongside your Bible to record questions, reactions, and observations from your reading. As you read I encourage you to carry this question with you through the daily readings: *what is God saying to you?*

For people who want to engage with other people around the Gospel of Luke I will be providing times for teaching and conversation beyond the notes included in the guide below. On **Sunday mornings, following worship**, I will lead a thirty minute discussion during Adult Sunday School based upon the readings for the week. On **Wednesday evenings** during Lent I will lead a class from **7:00pm to 8:30pm** in the fellowship hall. The dates for Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings are listed below. May the discipline of reading through the Gospel of Luke nourish your faith during this season.

Pastor Travis Kern

Reading the Gospel of Luke: Study Sessions

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

Reading the Gospel of Luke: Day by Day Plan

FEBRUARY 10 ASH WEDNESDAY
Luke 1:1-25

FEBRUARY 11 *Luke 1:26-80*

The songs of Mary and Zechariah in this section outline major themes running throughout the Gospel of Luke.

Mary sings of the “hungry being filled with good things and the rich being sent away empty” (verse 53).

Zechariah’s songs concludes with this call, “By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (verses 78-80)

Reflect on what God is saying to us regarding our community and our world today through these texts.

FEBRUARY 12 *Luke 2*

It is not Christmas yet Luke 2 contains the familiar story read at Christmas time. Chapter 2 also contains Simeon’s song, the third great song included in the Gospel. What do these three great songs from chapter 1 and chapter 2 say to us today?

FEBRUARY 13 *Luke 3*

John comes proclaiming a baptism of repentance.

What do you need to repent during this Lenten season?

FEBRUARY 15 *Luke 4*

Jesus is tempted in the wilderness. Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah and is rejected in his hometown.

There are two episodes of Jesus healing. All of this happens in one chapter. What do these scenes reveal to us about God?

FEBRUARY 16 *Luke 5*

Jesus calls the first disciples.

When have you heard God calling in your life?

FEBRUARY 17 *Luke 6:1-16*

Jesus heals and cures people on the Sabbath. In what ways do Jesus’ actions influence the way we keep the Sabbath?

FEBRUARY 18 *Luke 6:17-49*

Here in Luke, Jesus gives a sermon on a plain (as opposed to the sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew). The words of Jesus make many people uncomfortable and at the same time bring comfort to many people who are poor and downtrodden.

As you read this sermon from Jesus, are you made uncomfortable or comfortable? To what do you hear God calling you to do in your life?

FEBRUARY 19 *Luke 7*

Jesus heals people and forgives sins. In verse 47 Jesus says in part, “...But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.” Are there people and places around us to love more generously and to forgive generously?

FEBRUARY 20 *Luke 8:1-18*

Jesus speaks in parables. What is Jesus saying to our community?

FEBRUARY 22 *Luke 8:19-56*

If you were asked to proclaim how much God has done for you, what would you say?

FEBRUARY 23 *Luke 9*

Jesus speaks to his disciples about what to do when they are welcomed, and when they are not welcomed. At the end of the chapter Jesus and his disciples simply leave a village where they are not welcome. Part of our baptismal promise is to proclaim Christ in word and deed. How does this reading inform your efforts to proclaim Christ in word and deed?

FEBRUARY 24 *Luke 10*

Jesus sends out seventy people ahead of himself. This is followed by the parable of the Good Samaritan and Jesus' visit to Martha and Mary. What is God saying to you in these texts?

FEBRUARY 25 *Luke 11*

What are some ways God's light shines to lighten burdens for people?

FEBRUARY 26 *Luke 12*

At times all of us are tempted to store up for ourselves like the rich fool building bigger and more barns to store the harvest from the fields. What are some ways to be rich toward God and the people around us?

FEBRUARY 27 *Luke 13*

What is bearing fruit in your life now? What could bear fruit with another year of nurture and care? What is not bearing fruit and needs to be removed?

FEBRUARY 29 *Luke 14*

Jesus speaks about the ways people pick out seats and even choose to attend parties. In verse 13 Jesus urges his disciples to "... invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind." Where and with whom do we need to spend more time in order to make such invitations?

MARCH 1 *Luke 15*

Three well known parables in the Church cover the whole of chapter 15, concluding with the Prodigal Son and His Brother. The theme of being lost and found runs through each of the parables. What is God saying to you through this collection of parables?

MARCH 2 *Luke 16*

What do these stories tell us about the rewards of wealth?

MARCH 3 *Luke 17*

At times we fall into the trap of the cleansed leper running off to celebrate without giving thanks to God. For what can you give thanks to God this day?

MARCH 4 *Luke 18*

The deeds of the Pharisee are good and worthy. It is the way the Pharisee despises other people which Jesus criticizes. Can we let go of our critique of other people in order to follow Jesus with humility?

MARCH 5 *Luke 19:1-27*

Two final parables are given before Jesus enters Jerusalem. Jesus visits the home of Zacchaeus in the first parable. What would you say when Jesus visits your house?

MARCH 7 *Luke 19:28-48*

Jesus prepares to enter Jerusalem. Disciples are sent ahead. The temple is cleared and cleansed. In verse 47 leaders are looking to kill Jesus. Where does Jesus in the Gospel of Luke challenge and even threaten the powerful and leaders of the world in the present day?

MARCH 8 *Luke 20:1-19*

A question of authority and the parable of the wicked tenants may be familiar scenes in the Gospel. What do you hear God speaking as these scenes are set next to one another?

MARCH 9 *Luke 20:19-47*

Jesus is asked an absurd question regarding the resurrection. Where do you get caught up in the affairs of the world and lose sight of the kingdom of God?

MARCH 10 *Luke 21*

The Widow who makes her offering is seen by Jesus. The scene occurs as Jesus is moving toward Jerusalem and right before his trial and crucifixion.

Look around and take note of people who would otherwise be overlooked by the people around them. What can you say to acknowledge and encourage someone who is overlooked this week?

MARCH 11 *Luke 22:1-23*

Notice the one who will betray Jesus shares in the Last Supper. What does this reveal about God?

MARCH 12 *Luke 22:23-46*

The disciples argue over who is the greatest and then fall asleep while Jesus prays in the garden.

MARCH 14 *Luke 22:47-71*

Jesus is arrested, Peter denies Jesus, and Jesus is put on trial before the Council.

MARCH 15 *Luke 23:1-12*

Jesus appears before Pilate and before Herod.

MARCH 16 *Luke 23:13-25*

Pilate asks, "Why, what evil has he done?" A question to ponder for us all.

MARCH 17 *Luke 23:26-56*

Jesus is crucified, died and buried.

MARCH 18 *Luke 24:1-12*

The resurrection of Jesus

MARCH 19 *Luke 24:13-53*

The Gospel concludes with the walk to Emmaus, the appearance of Jesus to disciples, and Jesus' ascension. The story of the road to Emmaus appears only in the Gospel of Luke. As the Gospel of Luke ends, what is God saying to Jesus disciples today?

MARCH 20 PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 24 MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 25 GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 27 EASTER SUNDAY