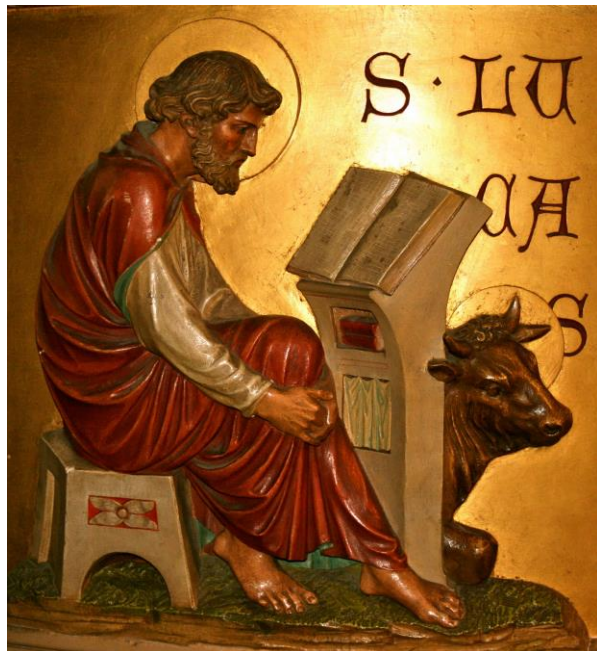


Luke: The Gospel of Healing & Forgiveness



St. James Adult Faith Formation

Opening Prayer

Christ, Son of God, the Father's favor rested on you and he commanded us to listen to you. Give us the gift of understanding, so that we may contemplate your word and experience its gentle power.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

What We'll Cover

- ▶ What is a gospel?
- ▶ How did the gospels come about?
- ▶ Who was Luke?
- ▶ What were Luke's sources?
- ▶ What is the structure of Luke's gospel?
- ▶ Luke in the Lectionary
- ▶ How does Luke tie his Gospel and Acts together?
- ▶ What miracles are unique to Luke?
- ▶ What miracles are unique to Luke?
- ▶ What parables are unique to Luke?
- ▶ The importance of meals in Luke's gospel
- ▶ How is Luke's Passion account different from the other Gospels?
- ▶ The Resurrection Account



Matthew



Mark



Luke



John

Definition of a Gospel

- ▶ God-Spiel, “good tidings”, Anglo-Saxon
- ▶ Euangelion, “to announce good news”, Greek
- ▶ “Good” - a *point of view*
- ▶ “News” - fresh, current, pay attention
- ▶ Named for an influential person in the respective community of origin
- ▶ Apostolic origin - relying on eye witnesses
- ▶ Inspired by the Holy Spirit

Portraits of Jesus - Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?



Forensic anthropology based on shroud of Turin

Portraits of Jesus - Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?

- ▶ The *actual* Jesus
 - ▶ Exact dates of birth and death
 - ▶ What he looked like, his health, clothes, money
 - ▶ Details about his family and community
- ▶ The *historical* Jesus
 - ▶ Eliminate all interpretation and development that happened between Jesus' life and the gospels
 - ▶ A minimalist, scientific investigation
- ▶ The *Gospel* Jesus
 - ▶ A portrait painted by a specific evangelist

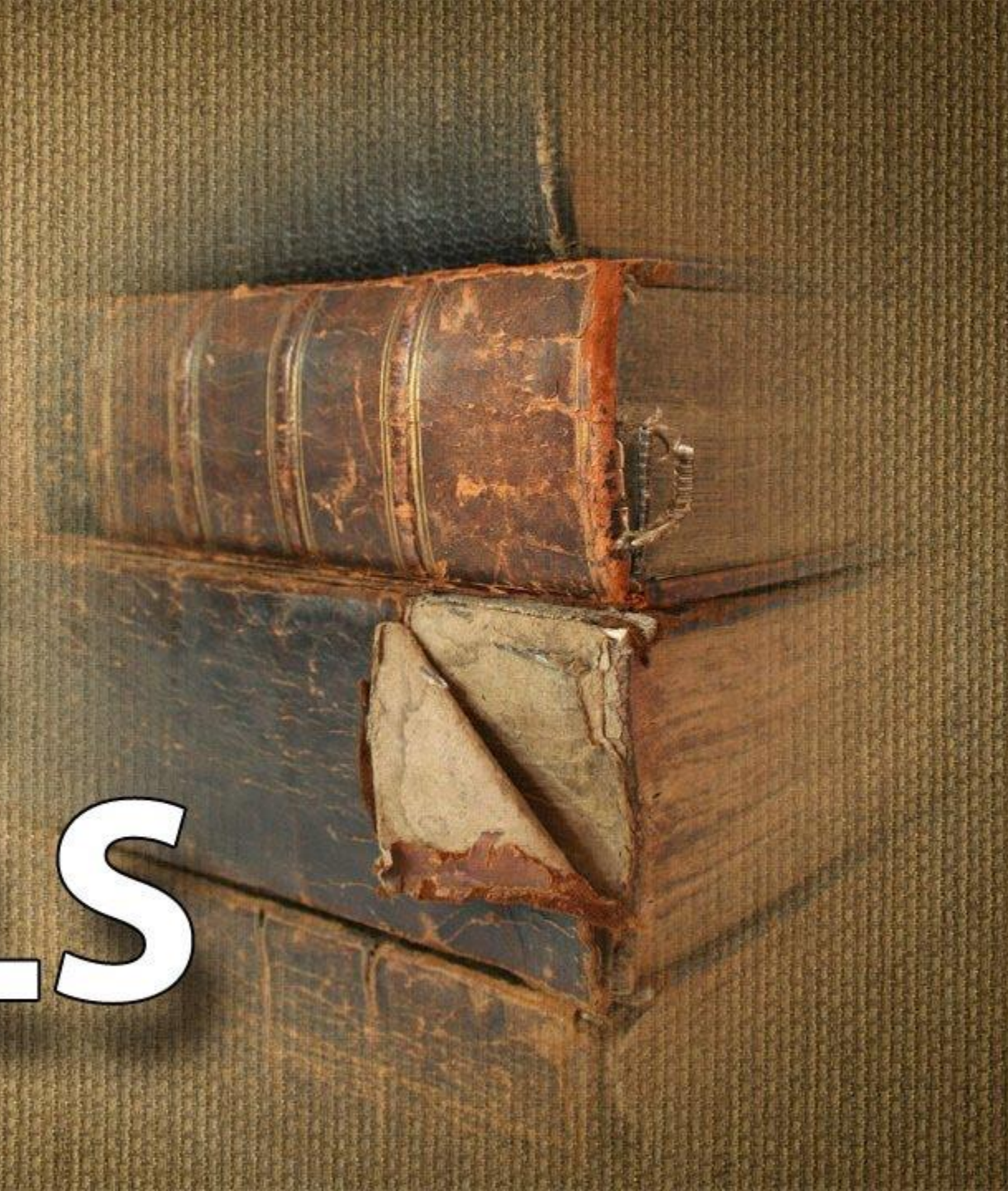
Stages of Gospel Formation

- ▶ **Public ministry of Jesus (30-33 AD)**
 - ▶ The raw “Jesus material” as remembered by his companions
 - ▶ Locked in time and place (Palestine)
- ▶ **Apostolic preaching about Jesus (33-65 AD)**
 - ▶ Proclamation of Jesus with post-resurrection eyes
 - ▶ Missionary preaching by apostles and students
- ▶ **Written Gospels (65-100 AD)**
 - ▶ Authors unlikely to have been eye witnesses
 - ▶ Evangelists shape, develop, prune the transmitted Jesus material to suit a purpose
 - ▶ Logical, not chronological, order prevails

So, What are the Gospels?

- ▶ They are not biographies, nor histories, nor do they claim to be eye witness accounts
- ▶ The authors want to interpret Jesus, not simply repeat him
- ▶ So, even though Matthew and Luke use Mark, they will change Mark's version to better suit their readers' needs
- ▶ They are more like religious *advertisements*, written to *preach* Jesus, to *sell* salvation to their community

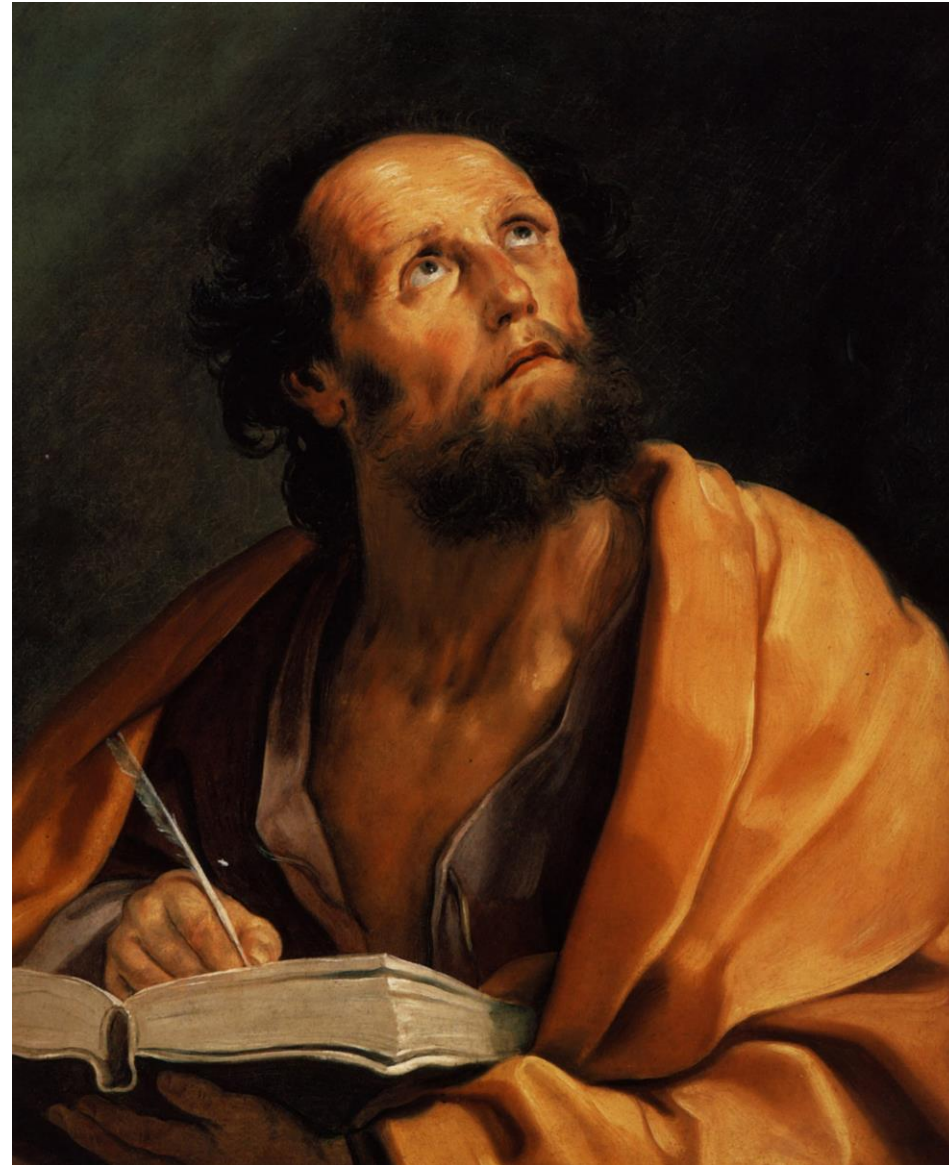
THE FOUR GOSPELS



Why Four Gospels?

- ▶ Eye witness accounts vary in detail
- ▶ Distinct perspectives color each account
- ▶ Theology pulls them together
- ▶ Resist making a stew - Hollywood error
- ▶ The Church accepts them all as true, but recognizes distinct voices in each

Who is Luke?



Who is Luke?

- ▶ Luke, “the companion of Paul,” not an eye-witness
- ▶ Probably not a Jew from birth, but may have been a Jewish convert before becoming Christian
- ▶ Not from Palestine - vague geographical knowledge shown
- ▶ Probably from Antioch
- ▶ Physician? Some doubt - expresses no more knowledge of medicine than any educated Greek of the time

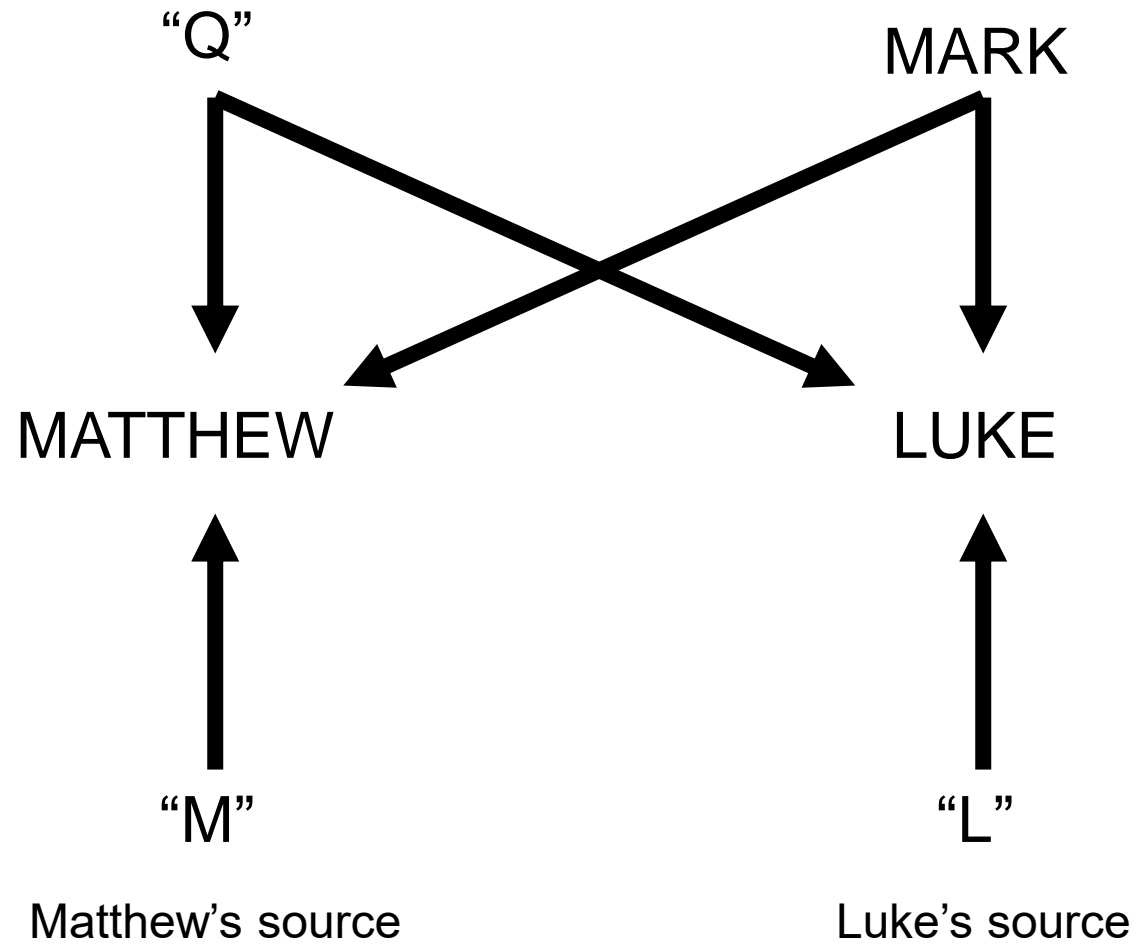
Luke's Sources

- ▶ Mark - 35 percent
- ▶ Q - 20 percent
- ▶ Luke's Own Sources - 45 percent
 - ▶ No evidence that Luke had Matthew as a reference
 - ▶ Uniquely, Luke had access to early Christian hymns:
 - ▶ Magnificat of Mary "My soul proclaims the greatness..."
 - ▶ Benedictus of John's Father, Zechariah "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel..."
 - ▶ Gloria of the Heavenly Host "Glory to God in the highest..."
 - ▶ Nunc Dimittis of Simeon "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace..."

Synoptic Gospels - Luke's Improvements

- ▶ Synoptic: “Same eye”
- ▶ Mark provides basic outline
- ▶ Luke improves Mark's Greek
- ▶ Rearranges sequence to be more logical
- ▶ More reverential to Jesus and his family
- ▶ Eliminates Aramaic names and words - they are not meaningful to his audience

Synoptic Gospel Sources



Luke's Gospel - The Structure

- ▶ Lk 1:1-4: Prologue
- ▶ Lk 1:5-2:52 Introduction: Infancy and Boyhood of Jesus
 1. Annunciation of conceptions of John the Baptist and Jesus
 2. The Magnificat and the other canticles
 3. Narratives of birth, circumcision, and naming of John the Baptist and Jesus
 4. The boy Jesus in the Temple
- ▶ Lk 3:1-4:13 Preparation for the Public Ministry
 - ▶ Preaching of John the Baptist, baptism of Jesus, his genealogy, the temptations in the desert

Luke's Gospel - The Structure

▶ Lk 4:14 - 9:50 Ministry in Galilee

1. Rejection at Nazareth; activities at Capernaum and on the Lake
2. Reactions to Jesus: Controversies with the Pharisees; choice of the Twelve and preaching to the multitude on the plain
3. Miracles and parables that illustrate Jesus' power and help to reveal his identity; mission of the Twelve
4. Questions of Jesus' identity: Herod, feeding of the 5,000, Peter's confession, first and second passion predictions, transfiguration

Luke's Gospel - The Structure

▶ Lk 9:51-19:27 Journey to Jerusalem

1. Meaning of discipleship - renunciation, devotion, suffering
2. Warnings about judgment and hypocrisy
3. The problem of possessions - God and Mammon

▶ Lk 19:28 - 21:38 Ministry in Jerusalem

1. Entry into Jerusalem; cleansing of the temple
2. Jesus teaches in the temple area - challenges the opposition
3. Fate of the temple and the coming end-time

Luke's Gospel - The Structure

- ▶ Lk 22:1-23:56 Last Supper, Passion, Death, and Burial
 1. Conspiracy against Jesus, Last Supper
 2. Prayer and arrest on the Mount of Olives, Jewish and Roman Trial
 3. Way of the cross, crucifixion, burial
- ▶ Lk 24:1-53 Resurrection Appearances in the Jerusalem Area
 1. Women at the empty tomb - why are you looking for the living among the dead?
 2. Appearance on the road to Emmaus
 3. Appearance in Jerusalem, commissioning of the disciples, and ascension to heaven

Luke in the Catholic Lectionary - Handout

1 st Sunday of Advent	21:25-28, 34-36	Be vigilant!
2 nd Sunday of Advent	3:1-6	John cries out in the wilderness
3 rd Sunday of Advent	3:10-18	John instructs the people
4 th Sunday of Advent	1:39-45	Mary greets Elizabeth
Christmas	2:1-14	The birth of Jesus
Feast of the Holy Family	2:41-52	Jesus found in the temple
Baptism of the Lord	3:15-16, 21-22	You are my beloved son...
3 rd Sunday OT	1:1-4, 4:14-21	Intro, revelation in Nazareth synagogue
4 th Sunday OT	4:21-30	No prophet is accepted in his own town!
5 th Sunday OT	5:1-11	The great catch of fish - from now on you'll be catching men
6 th Sunday OT	6:17, 20-26	Beatitudes
7 th Sunday OT	6:27-38	Sermon on the Plain
8 th Sunday OT	6:39-45	Remove the wooden beam in your eye first - then see the splinter in your brother's eye!
1 st Sunday of Lent	4:1-13	Temptation in the Desert
2 nd Sunday of Lent	9:28-36	Transfiguration
3 rd Sunday of Lent	13:1-9	Parable of the Fig Tree
4 th Sunday of Lent	15:1-3, 11-32	The Prodigal Son
Palm Sunday Procession	19:28-40	Entry into Jerusalem
Palm Sunday Passion	22:14 - 23:56	The Passion of the Lord
Easter Vigil	24:1-12	Resurrection
Easter Sunday	24:13-35	Road to Emmaus
Ascension of the Lord	24:46-53	Ascension
Corpus Christi	9:11-17	5 Loaves and 2 Fish

Luke in the Catholic Lectionary

13 th Sunday OT	9:51-62	Jesus journeys to Jerusalem
14 th Sunday OT	10:1-12, 17-20	Sending out the 72
15 th Sunday OT	10:25-37	The Good Samaritan
16 th Sunday OT	10:38-42	Martha and Mary
17 th Sunday OT	11:1-13	The Our Father
18 th Sunday OT	12:13-21	Build more barns!
19 th Sunday OT	12:32-48	Be prepared!
Assumption of Mary	1:39-56	The infant leapt in her womb
20 th Sunday OT	12:49-53	I have come to set the earth on fire!
21 st Sunday OT	13:22-30	Lord, who will be saved?
22 nd Sunday OT	14:1, 7-14	Take the lowest place at table
23 rd Sunday OT	14:25-33	Carry your cross
24 th Sunday OT	15:1-32	The Prodigal Son
25 th Sunday OT	16:1-13	The dishonest steward
26 th Sunday OT	16:19-31	Rich man and Lazarus
27 th Sunday OT	17:5-10	Faith as small as a mustard seed
28 th Sunday OT	17:11-19	Healing of 10 lepers
29 th Sunday OT	18:1-8	The relentless widow
30 th Sunday OT	18:9-14	Pharisee and the tax collector
31 st Sunday OT	19:1-10	Dining with Zacchaeus
32 nd Sunday OT	20:27-38	Sadducees challenge Jesus on resurrection
33 rd Sunday OT	21:5-19	The end times
Christ the King	23:35-43	Jesus, remember me...

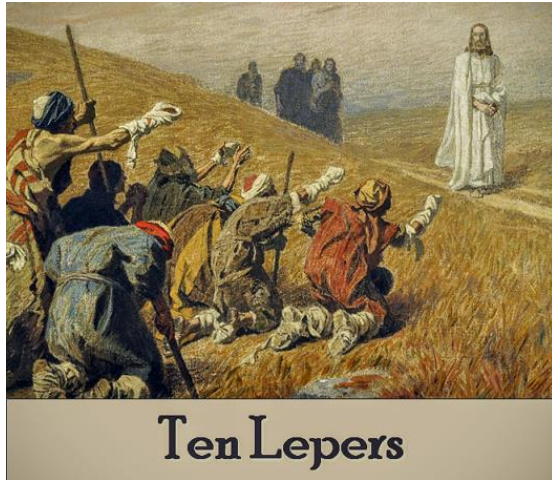
Don't forget about the Acts of the Apostles!

- ▶ How to view Luke-Acts
 - ▶ Luke's Gospel - what Jesus began
 - ▶ Acts - what Jesus continues to do
- ▶ See the progression from Jesus to Peter to Paul, an ever-widening story
- ▶ Common schemes in both works
 - ▶ Preparing God's mission - Luke 1-4 and Acts 1-7
 - ▶ Establishing God's mission - Luke 4-9 and Acts 8-12
 - ▶ Expanding God's mission - Luke 9-19 and Acts 13-21
 - ▶ Defending God's mission - Luke 20-24 and Acts 21-28
- ▶ Although Acts seems to end abruptly, look at where it ends - with Paul teaching in Rome, the acknowledged center of the known universe

Major themes of Luke

- ▶ Salvation is a joyous surprise (Mary's Magnificat)
- ▶ Salvation is offered to everyone (Samaritans too!)
- ▶ Jesus identifies with the lowly, especially the poor (*Anawim*)
- ▶ Mary is the first disciple, accepting God's will always
- ▶ Jesus' parables emphasize repentance and reconciliation
- ▶ The Holy Spirit permeates Jesus' ministry
- ▶ Jesus seeks and saves the lost

Healings Unique to Luke

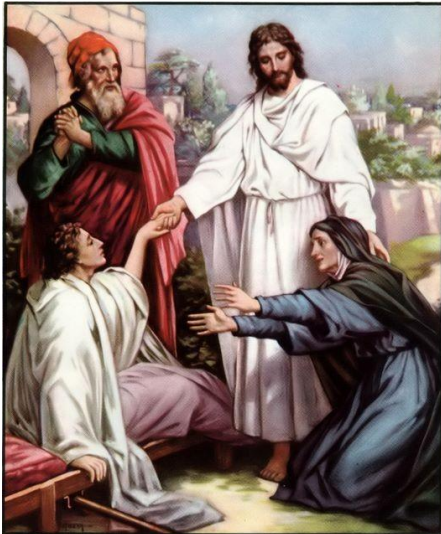


Healings Unique to Luke

▶ Healings

- ▶ The crippled woman (13:11)
- ▶ The man with dropsy (14:1)
- ▶ The ten lepers (17:11)
- ▶ Restoring the ear of the servant Malchus (22:50)

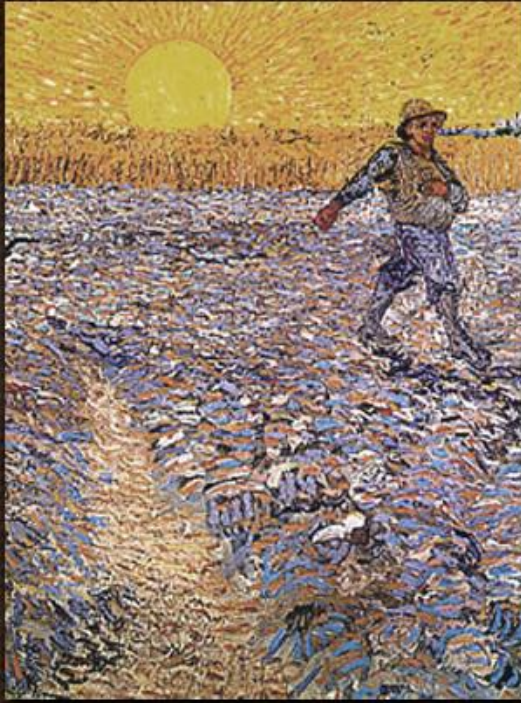
Miracles Unique to Luke



Miracles Unique to Luke

- ▶ Miracles
 - ▶ Escape from the hostile Nazareth crowd (4:30)
 - ▶ The catch of fish (5:1)
 - ▶ Raising the son of the widow of Nain (7:11)
- ▶ What's not in Luke: Jesus walking on the sea

Luke and the Parables of Jesus



parables from the book of luke

Parables Unique to Luke

- ▶ The two debtors (7:41) - “Who loves more?”
- ▶ The good Samaritan (10:30) “And who is my neighbor?”
- ▶ A friend at midnight (11:5) “...because of his persistence.”
- ▶ The rich fool (12:16) “I will build larger barns!”
- ▶ Faithful servants (12:35) “The Son of Man will wait on them...”
- ▶ The vigilant steward (12:42) “At an hour you do not expect...”
- ▶ The barren fig tree (13:6) “Let’s give it one more year...”
- ▶ The great feast (14:16) “Go out to the highways...”
- ▶ Constructing a tower and a king preparing for war (14:25) “Plan!”
- ▶ The lost coin (15:8) “Rejoice with me, I have found the coin!”

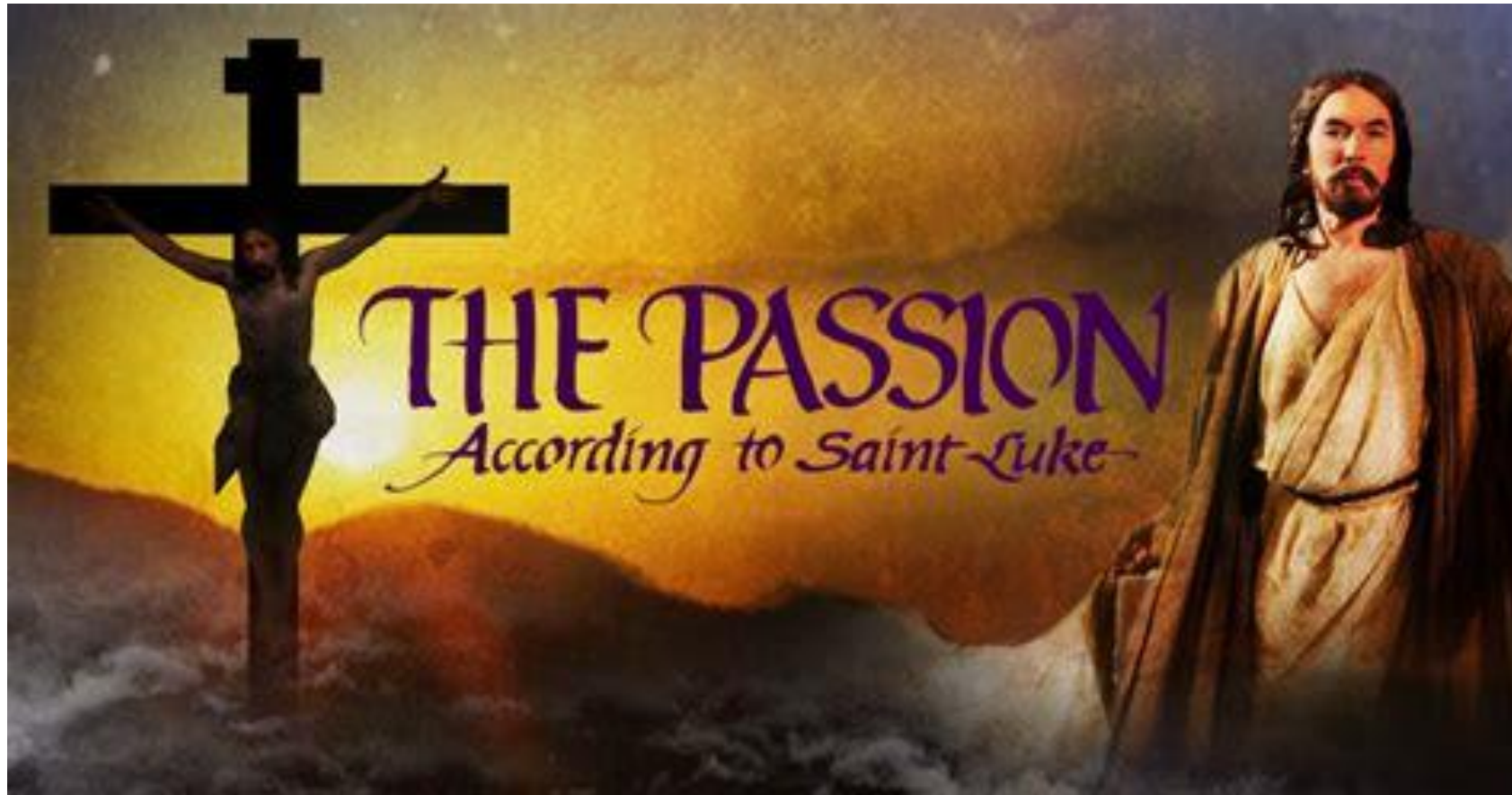
Parables Unique to Luke (continued)

- ▶ The lost (prodigal) son (15:11) “A man had two sons...”
- ▶ The dishonest steward (16:1) “Be trustworthy in small things, and you will be trusted with greater things.”
- ▶ The rich man and Lazarus (16:19) “Warn my brothers...”
- ▶ The master and servants (17:7) “Take the attitude of a servant...”
- ▶ The persistent widow (18:1) “She keeps bothering me...”
- ▶ The Pharisee and the tax collector (18:9) “O God, be merciful to me, a sinner...”
- ▶ The ten gold coins (19:11) “Well done, good servant!”

Meals in Luke's Gospel

- ▶ The significance of meals in first century Palestine
- ▶ Galilee Ministry
 - ▶ Levi - Tax Collector (5:27) - Jesus eats with outcasts
 - ▶ Simon - Pharisee (7:36) - Meals are times where forgiveness is found
 - ▶ Multiplication of Loaves (9:19) - God feeds the hungry with good things
- ▶ Journey to Jerusalem
 - ▶ Martha & Mary (10:38) - Meals are times to listen at the feet of the Lord
 - ▶ Pharisee (11:37) - Meals are times where we are challenged
 - ▶ Pharisee on the Sabbath (14:1) - Meals are times where healing is found
 - ▶ Zacchaeus (19:1) - Jesus eats with outcasts and sinners
- ▶ Last Supper (22:14) - Jesus is food from heaven
- ▶ Post Resurrection
 - ▶ Emmaus (24:13) - Jesus is found in the breaking of the bread
 - ▶ In Jerusalem (24:36) - Meals are times when we are sent out on mission

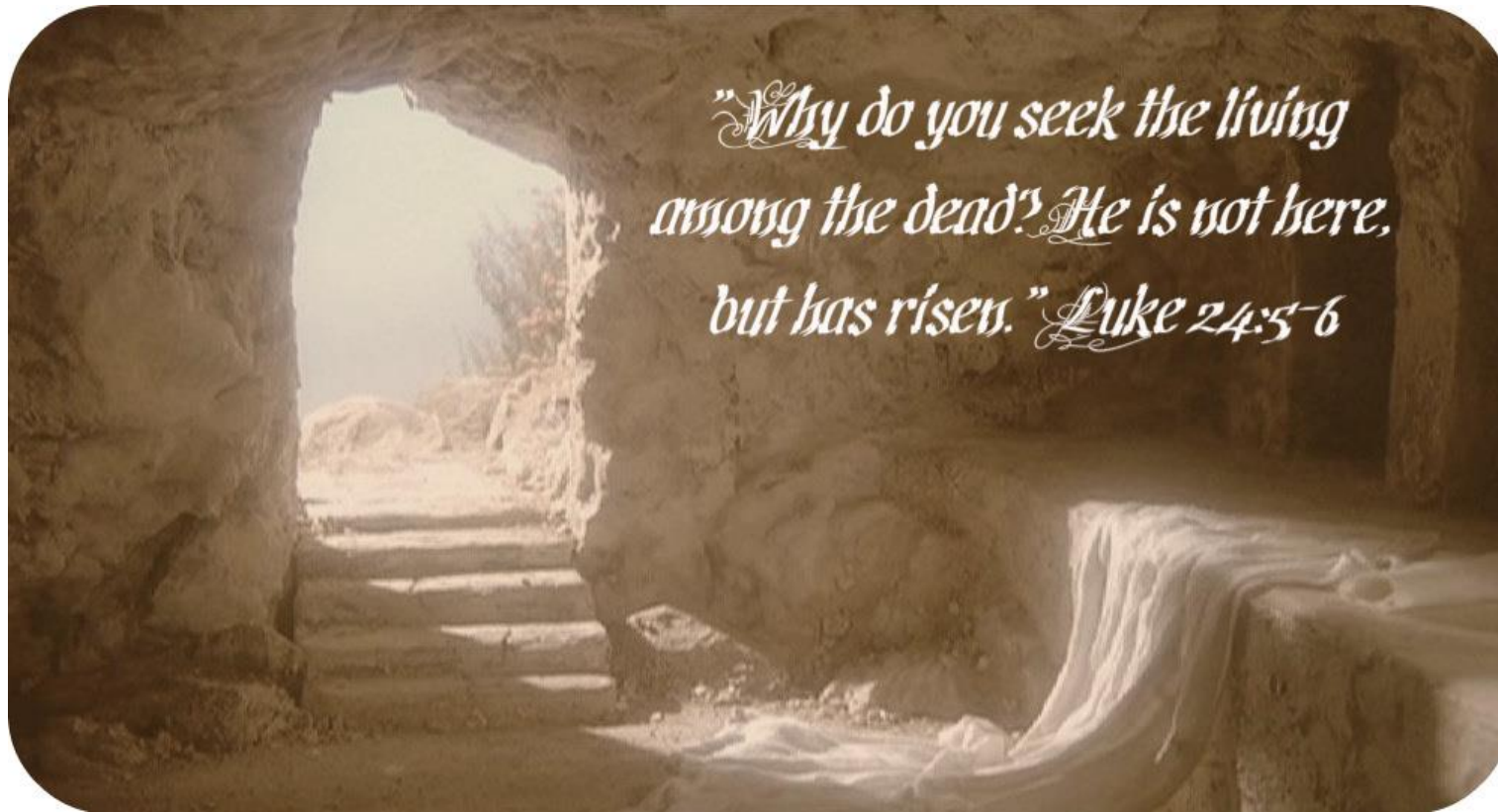
The Passion According to Luke



Luke's Passion Version - Unique Aspects

- ▶ Jesus sweats blood in the garden
- ▶ Jesus heals the slave whose ear is cut off
- ▶ No Sanhedrin night trial
- ▶ Jesus sent to Herod
- ▶ No scourging
- ▶ Women of Jerusalem weep for Jesus
- ▶ Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do
- ▶ Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom
- ▶ Women and acquaintances stand at a distance

The Resurrection Narrative



*"Why do you seek the living
among the dead? He is not here,
but has risen." Luke 24:5-6*

The Resurrection Narrative

- ▶ Luke, Chapter 24 - A busy day
 - ▶ As in Mark, women are first to discover the empty tomb. They are not afraid, but are disbelieved.
 - ▶ Road to Emmaus - first account of Jesus' appearance, to Cleopas and an unnamed companion
 - ▶ Appearance to disciples in Jerusalem - Jesus eats food, opens their minds, foretells the coming of the Spirit
 - ▶ Ascension - the disciples are full of joy and return to Jerusalem and the temple

Questions to Share

- ▶ Our Sunday Lectionary for Year C leaves out Chapters 7 and 8 of Luke's Gospel entirely! Why?
 - ▶ **Much of Luke 7-8 is a direct requote of Mark, thereby redundant**
- ▶ You decide to write your own Gospel. What stories do you definitely leave in? What do you leave out? Who are you writing to?
 - ▶ **Do you edit the stories to make them more suitable to our time and place?**
- ▶ Which parable of Jesus is your favorite? Why?
 - ▶ **Many possible answers. My favorite is the Prodigal Son.**
- ▶ Luke leaves out the miracle of Jesus walking on the water. What else does he leave out from Mark's gospel?
 - ▶ **Mark 6:45 - Mark 8:10. Syrophenician woman, feeding of 4,000, etc.**

Questions to Share

- ▶ Each of the Gospels has Jesus beginning his ministry in a different way. Compare and contrast the 4 ways.
 - ▶ **Mark: Healing a man with an unclean spirit in the synagogue**
 - ▶ **Matthew: The Sermon on the Mount**
 - ▶ **Luke: Preaching in the synagogue - this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing!**
 - ▶ **John: Wedding at Cana**
- ▶ Compare Matthew and Luke's infancy narratives. Who is the "star" of each one respectively? Why is this important?
 - ▶ **Matthew: Jewish patriarchal perspective - hero is Joseph**
 - ▶ **Luke: Focus on the lowly and the outsiders - hero is Mary**

Closing Prayer

We thank you and bless you, Lord our God. In times past you spoke in many varied ways through the prophets, but in this, the final age, you have spoken through your Son to reveal to all nations the riches of your grace.

May we who have met to ponder the Scriptures be filled with the knowledge of your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, and may we bear fruit in every good work.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Recommendations for Reading

- ▶ Wilfrid Harrington, *Reading Luke for the First Time*
- ▶ Robert J. Karris, *Eating Your Way Through Luke's Gospel*
- ▶ F. Scott Spencer, *The Gospel of Luke and Acts of Apostles*
- ▶ Burton Throckmorton, ed., *Gospel Parallels*
- ▶ Commentaries of note
 - ▶ William Barclay, *The New Daily Study Bible*
 - ▶ Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament*
 - ▶ Bergant & Karris, *The Collegeville Bible Commentary*
 - ▶ Graziano Marcheschi, *Catholic Study Bible*