

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020
HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST LUKE

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, was a native of Syrian Antioch, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul (Phil.1:24, 2 Tim. 4:10-11), and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. As one of the Seventy Apostles, St Luke was sent by the Lord with the others to preach the Kingdom of Heaven during the Savior's earthly life (Luke 10:1-3). After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Sts Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus.

Luke accompanied St Paul on his second missionary journey, and from that time they were inseparable. When Paul's coworkers had forsaken him, only Luke remained to assist him in his ministry (2 Tim. 4:10-11). After the martyric death of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, St Luke left Rome to preach in Achaia, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. He ended his life by suffering martyrdom in the city of Thebes.

Tradition credits St Luke with painting the first icons of the Mother of God. "Let the grace of Him Who was born of Me and My mercy be with these Icons," said the All-Pure Virgin after seeing the icons. St Luke also painted icons of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. St Luke's Gospel was written in the years 62-63 at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. In the preliminary verses (1:1-3), St Luke precisely sets forth the purpose of his work. He proposes to record, in chronological order, everything known by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings. By doing this, he provided a firmer historical basis for Christian teaching (1:4). He carefully investigated the facts, and made generous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin Mary Herself had told him (2:19, 51). In St Luke's Gospel, the message of the salvation made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the preaching of the Gospel, are of primary importance.

St Luke also wrote the Acts of the Holy Apostles at Rome around 62-63 A.D. The Book of Acts, which is a continuation of the four Gospels, speaks about the works and the fruits of the holy Apostles after the Ascension of the Savior. At the center of the narrative is the Council of the holy Apostles at Jerusalem in the year 51, a Church event of great significance, which resulted in the separation of Christianity from Judaism and its independent dissemination into the world (Acts 15:6-29). The theological focus of the Book of Acts is the coming of the Holy Spirit, Who will guide the Church "into all truth" John 16:13) until the Second Coming of Christ.

The holy relics of St Luke were taken from Constantinople and brought to Padua, Italy at some point in history. Perhaps this was during the infamous Crusade of 1204. In 1992, Metropolitan Hieronymus (Jerome) of Thebes requested the Roman Catholic bishop in Thebes to obtain a portion of St Luke's relics for the saint's empty sepulchre in the Orthodox cathedral in Thebes. The Roman Catholic bishop Antonio Mattiazzo of Padua, noting that Orthodox pilgrims came to Padua to venerate the relics while many Catholics did not even know that the relics were there, appointed a committee to investigate the relics in Padua, and the skull of St Luke in the Catholic Cathedral of St Vico in Prague.

The skeleton was determined to be that of an elderly man of strong build. In 2001, a tooth found in the coffin was judged to be consistent with the DNA of Syrians living near the area of

Antioch dating from 72-416 A.D. The skull in Prague perfectly fit the neck bone of the skelton. The tooth found in the coffin in Padua was also found to fit the jawbone of the skull. Bishop Mattiazzo sent a rib from the relics to Metropolitan Hieronymus to be venerated in St Luke's original tomb in the Orthodox cathedral at Thebes.

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL four stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 2, followed by six for the Apostle

Tone 2:

Come, let us worship the Word of God
begotten of the Father before all ages,
and incarnate of the Virgin Mary!
Having endured the Cross, He was buried as He himself desired.//
And having risen from the dead, He saved me, the erring one.

Christ our Savior nailed to the Cross the bond against us,
He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death.//
We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

With the Archangels let us praise the Resurrection of Christ!
He is our Savior, our Redeemer.
He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power//
to judge the world which He made.

The Angel proclaimed You as the crucified and buried Master.
He told the women: "Come, see the place where He lay!
He is risen as He said, for He is almighty."
We worship You, only immortal One.//
O Christ, the Giver of life, have mercy on us!

Apostle Luke, tone 8:

What shall we call you, O Apostle?
Heaven, for you have made an account of the glory of God for us?
Lightning, for you illumine the world with radiance?
A cloud, for you rain down in a torrent the knowledge of God?
A chalice pouring the rich wine of wisdom to gladden our hearts?//
Pray to the Lord that He may save our souls!

How shall we address you, O chosen of God?
Golden ark of the covenant that Christ laid down?
River flowing forth to us from Paradise?
Beacon made radiant by spiritual light?
Lamp that enlightens the Church?
Bread of life, divine table, cup of spiritual drink?//
Pray to the Lord that He may save our souls!

What shall we call you, O God-inspired speaker?
A faithful steward of the mysteries of Christ?
A servant of the divine tent not made with human hands,
perfected in the fullness of time by the Builder of wisdom?
He entrusted to you the new law of grace,
inscribed in Zion on tablets hewn from the rock of love.//
O faithful witness, pray to Him that our souls may be saved!

What shall we call you, O glorious one?
Treasury of heavenly gifts?
Steadfast physician of our souls and bodies?
Fellow-laborer of Paul and his companion in travel and hardship,
who set down the Acts of the Apostles?
Luke, your exceeding goodness has won you many names.//
Pray to the Lord that He may save our souls!

How shall I address you, O divinely-speaking one,
for you brought us the good tidings of Christ?
Doctor, for you cure the passions of souls?
Candlestick shining with a light of the intellect?
Base and foundation of the Faith,
for you wrote down for us the most sacred Gospel?//
Pray that our souls may be saved!

What shall I now call you, O wondrous one?
Trustworthy witness of the teachings of wisdom?
Able recorder of the Apostles' teaching?
Unshakeable pillar of piety?
Indestructible rampart of the Church?
Many are your strengths, and greater in number are your spiritual gifts.
Pray that our souls may be saved!

Glory... for the Apostle, tone 6:

O Apostle of Christ,
compiler of divine dogmas and foundation of the Church,
you were the attendant and imitator of Paul, the chosen vessel.
By wisdom you have rescued us from the turmoil of ignorance,
for our hearts were in the depths of destruction.
Therefore we beseech you:
“Most admirable Luke, the pride of Antioch,
pray to our Savior and God//
for those who celebrate your most honorable memory in faith!”

Now and ever...the Dogmatikon of the Resurrection in tone 2:
The shadow of the Law passed when grace came;

as the Bush burned, yet was not consumed,
so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin.
Instead of a pillar of flame, the Righteous Sun has risen.//
Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of our souls.

READINGS

The reading from the First Book of the Holy Apostle John.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life – the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us – that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. *1 John 1:1-7*

The reading from the Holy Epistle of the Holy Apostle James.

James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings. My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits. Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. *James 1:1-12*

The Reading from the Book of Jude

Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given

themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless, Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.*
Jude 1:1-7, 17-25

APOSTIKHA all stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 2:

Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,
has enlightened the whole universe,
calling back Your creation.//
Glory to You, O almighty Lord!

O Savior, by the Tree You destroyed the curse of the Tree.
By Your burial You mortified the majesty of death.
You have enlightened our race by Your Resurrection.//
O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!

O Christ, when You were seen nailed to the Cross,
You restored the beauty of Your creatures.
The soldiers showed their inhumanity when they pierced Your side with a spear.
The Hebrews not knowing Your power asked that Your tomb might be sealed,
but through the mercy of Your compassion,
You acepted the tomb and rose on the third day!//
O Lord, glory to You!

O Christ, the Giver of life,
for the sake of the dead You voluntarily endured death,
descending into hell as the Mighty One
to save those who awaited Your coming,
granting them the life of paradise instead of hell.
Grant also to us who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day//
cleansing of our sins and great mercy!

Glory... Apostle, tone 6:

O Apostle of Christ,
compiler of divine dogmas and foundation of the Church,
you were the attendant and imitator of Paul, the chosen vessel.
By wisdom you have rescued us from the turmoil of ignorance,

for our hearts were in the depths of destruction.

Therefore we beseech you:

“Most admirable Luke, the pride of Antioch,

pray to our Savior and God//

for those who celebrate your most honorable memory in faith!”

Now and ever... the Resurrection Theotokion in tone 6:

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,

was born of you, O most pure Virgin.

By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse.

Unceasingly we magnify you as the Mother of God!

Rejoice, O celestial Joy!

Rejoice, O Lady://

the Protection, Intercession and Salvation of our souls!

Troparia

Resurrection, tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,

Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead!

And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,

All the powers of heaven cried out:

O Giver O Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

Apostle Luke, tone 5

Let us praise with sacred songs the holy Apostle Luke,

The recorder of the joyous gospel of Christ

And the scribe of the Acts of the Apostles,

For his writings are a testimony of the church of Christ:

He is the physician of human weaknesses and infirmities.

He heals the wounds of our souls,//

And constantly intercedes for our salvation!

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion, tone 5

Rejoice, Impassable Gate of the Lord!

Rejoice, Wall and Protection of those who run to you!

Rejoice, Unshakable Refuge!

Rejoice, you who knew not wedlock,

who gave birth in the flesh to your Creator and God!//

Do not cease praying for those who praise and worship your Son!

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead!
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
All the powers of heaven cried out:
O Giver O Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

Saint John of Damascus

Teacher of Orthodoxy, piety, and purity!
Enlightener of the universe!
And divine inspiration to monastics
by your teachings we are all enlightened,
and by your spiritual music, O all-wise John of Damascus,
pray to Christ our God for the salvation of our souls!

Apostle Luke, tone 5

Let us praise with sacred songs the holy Apostle Luke,
The recorder of the joyous gospel of Christ
And the scribe of the Acts of the Apostles,
For his writings are a testimony of the church of Christ:
He is the physician of human weaknesses and infirmities.
He heals the wounds of our souls, //
And constantly intercedes for our salvation!

KONTAKIA

Resurrection, tone 2

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
Seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee!
And the world, O my Savior praises Thee forever.

Apostle Luke, tone 2

Let us praise the godly Luke:
He is the true preacher of piety,
The orator of ineffable mysteries
And the star of the church,
For the Word Who alone knows the hearts of men,
Chose him, with the wise Paul, //
To be a teacher of the Gentiles!

Steadfast Protectress of Christians

Steadfast protectress of Christians,

constant advocate before the creator:
do not despise the cry of us sinners,
but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith.
Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,
for you always protect those who honor you.

Prokeimenon, tone 2: The Lord is my strength and my song, He has become my salvation.
Vs. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over unto death.
2nd PROK., tone 8: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

Epistles: (194) 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9 Brethren, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I do not lie. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the King, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to apprehend me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands... It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago (whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows;) such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man; (whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows;) how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I shall not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he sees me to be, or that hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I besought the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

(260 from ctr) Col. 4:5-9, 14,18 Brethren, Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer every man. Tychicus, a beloved brother, a faithful minister, and a fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here...Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you...This salutation by my own hand, Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.

Alleluia in the second tone: May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the Name of the God of Jacob protect thee!
Vs. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call to Thee!

vs. The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord and Thy truth in the congregation of the saints!

Gospels: (35) Luke 8:5-15 The Lord said: “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.: When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?” And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’ “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

(51) Luke 10:16-21 the Lord said these words: “He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.” Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.”

Communion Hymns: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the universe! Alleluia...