

18th October 2020 – St Luke the Evangelist

Collect – St Luke the Evangelist

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 your Son our Lord, who is alive
and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 35.3-6

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
‘Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped:
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

NEW TESTAMENT - 2 Timothy 4.5-17

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.

HYMN FOR REFLECTION

Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old was strong to heal
and save;

it triumphed o’er disease and death, o’er darkness
and the grave.

To thee they went, the blind, the deaf, the palsied,
and the lame,
the leper set apart and shunned, the sick with
fevered frame.

And lo! thy touch brought life and health, gave
hearing, strength, and sight;

and youth renewed and frenzy calmed owned thee,
the Lord of light:
and now, O Lord, be near to bless, almighty as of
yore,
in crowded street, by restless couch, as by that shore.

Be thou our great deliverer still, thou Lord of life and
death;
restore and quicken, soothe and bless, with thine
almighty breath:
to hands that work and eyes that see, give wisdom’s
heavenly lore,
that whole and sick, and weak and strong, may praise
thee evermore.

Edward Hayes Plumtre (1821-1891)

GOSPEL – Luke 10.1-9

After this 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.”