
ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST

18 OCTOBER 2026 • PATRONAL FEAST

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:3-6

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 147:1-7. R cf. 3a

R. Praise the Lord, who heals the broken-hearted.

How good to sing psalms to our God;
how pleasant to chant fitting praise!
The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles. **R.**

He heals the broken-hearted;
he binds up all their wounds.
He counts out the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. **R.**

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord lifts up the lowly;
he casts down the wicked to the ground. **R.**

O sing to the Lord, giving thanks;
sing psalms to our God with the harp. **R.**

R. Praise the Lord, who heals the broken-hearted.

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 4:5-17

Beloved: As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved 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. Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. Tychicus I have sent 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 repay him according to his deeds. Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defence no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia. I chose you from the world that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, says the Lord. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 10:1-9

At that time: The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no money bag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace be to this house!" And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

REFLECTION

The Gospel Luke hands on is not a message kept safely on a page. Jesus sends disciples ahead of him, into real towns and homes, carrying peace and announcing that God's kingdom has drawn near. They go without the usual securities, learning to depend upon God and upon the hospitality of those they serve.

Saint Gregory the Great notices that the Lord sends them two by two. For Gregory, this is a sign that the mission of the Church must be governed by the twofold commandment of love: love of God and love of neighbour. The Gospel is credible when it is carried in communion, not as a private possession or a solitary achievement.

Luke's own fidelity is quietly present in the second reading: when others have gone, Paul can still say, 'Luke alone is with me.' The evangelist of mercy first lives the steadfast companionship about which he writes. His witness invites us to stay close to Christ and to one another, especially when discipleship is costly.

St Gregory the Great, Homily 17 on the Gospels; St Ambrose, Exposition of the Gospel of Luke.