



THE FEAST OF THECLA OF ICONIUM
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD
SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2020 | 10:00 AM

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ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OPENING ANTHEM

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.
People *Christ, have mercy.*
Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

God of liberating power, empower courageous evangelists among us, that men and women everywhere may know the freedom that you offer; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

LESSON

Reader A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 9:1–10

¹ Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? ² If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.
³ This is my defence to those who would examine me. ⁴ Do we not have the right to our food and drink? ⁵ Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? ⁶ Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? ⁷ Who at any time pays the expenses for doing military service? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not get any of its milk?
⁸ Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law also say the same? ⁹ For it is written in the law of Moses, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.’ Is it for oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰ Or does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was indeed written for our sake, for whoever ploughs should plough in hope and whoever threshes should thresh in hope of a share in the crop.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Luke 24:13–35

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ ¹⁹ He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ ²⁵ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

SERMON THE REV. JOHN CAMPBELL, CURATE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reader The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Reader Let us pray.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop(s); for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people, especially those suffering from COVID-19, those caring for them, and those working on treatments. Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, those on the prayer list of our parish, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially victims of Hurricane Laura. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. *Silence*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

Celebrant

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

We are grateful for your tax-deductible contributions, which enable us to continue our work.
Click [here](#) to give on-line; or text a dollar amount followed by the word “pledge” to 833-948-2161;
or mail a check to: St. Luke’s on the Lake Episcopal Church | 5600 RR 620 N | Austin, TX 78732

OFFERTORY SONG

The gifts are presented and placed on the Altar.

DOXOLOGY

Celebrant And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People say together

***Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,***

***as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

A GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Celebrant and People say together

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

BLESSING

Celebrant

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you this day and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

DISMISSAL

Celebrant

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

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WORSHIP MINISTERS

Preacher & Celebrant: *The Rev. John Campbell, Curate* | Reader: *Patti Peacock* | Technology Support: *Brad Powell*

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PARISH PRAYER LIST

Contact office@stlukesonthelake.org to add yourself or a loved one to this list.

Names remain on this list for four weeks unless otherwise requested.

Names of those who have died are read during Prayers of the People for two weeks.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, especially:

These Members and Loved Ones Serving Our Country: Amos, Brian, Christine F., Christine M., Christopher, Isabelle, Jacob, Jason, Mark, Marshall, Phillip, Raymond, Russell, Scott, Travis, Trev, Weston.

These Members and Loved Ones Who Are COVID-19 Heroes: Anna, April, Aurelia, Bethany, Beau, Brenda, Brett, Christine, Daryl, Dennis, Dustin, Elizabeth, Jason, Jenny, Jim, Laura, Lucia, Michelle, Niki, Noël, Pito, Rick & Wendy, Riley, Ryan, Sherry, Sterling, Tamara.

Those Whose Needs Have Been Made Known To Us: Beverly, Breese, Caitlin, Chris G., Chris M., Corinne, Craig, Dana, Deborah, Elizabeth, George, Janet, Joan, JoAnne, John F., John H., Karen, Kristi, LoriAnn, Marilyn, Margaret, Mark, Mary, Nelle, Pat, Peg, Rachel, Sarah-Nelle, Shana, the Sevilla Family, Scott Grant & Family.

All St. Luke's Ministry and Mission Partners, including our St. Luke's workers in the field: K & K & children, V.B..

Those Who Have Died: Dr. Tom Blair, husband of Joan Blair; Nick Karas, brother of Ellen Karas.

The Staff of These Local Medical Practices:

Austin Children's Clinic
Austin Family Practice Clinic
Cedar Park Pediatrics
Eric F. O'Neill, MD
Hector Colon, MD, PA
Hill Country Direct Care
Jeff L. Johnson, MD PA

Leonor B. Frierson-Stroud, MD PA
Mahesh R Dave and Nalini M Dave and Associates
McBroom Clinic, PA
Sacred Heart Community Clinic
Shana Josephs, MD PA
WrinkleFree MD Med Spa

The Leadership Team at St. David's Georgetown Hospital: Barbi, Christina, Cindi, Consuelo, Darrell, Deborah, Doug, Ella, Emma, Felicia, Gabi, Gary, Giselle, Hugh, Jennifer, Jim, Julie, Kari, Kelly, Lisa, Loretta, Patricia, Paul B., Paul H., Ray, Robert H., Robert M., Ron, Shane, Sheila, Shelby, Steven, Suzy, Tracy.

The Staff of Dell Children's Hospital, especially those serving patients in PICU, Mental Health, and 3-Central.

THECLA OF ICONIUM PROTO-MARTYR AMONG WOMEN, c. 70

Thecla was a saint of the early Christian Church, and a reported follower of Paul the Apostle. The earliest record of her life comes from the ancient apocryphal [*Acts of Paul and Thecla*](#).

According to the *Acts of Paul and Thecla*, Thecla was a young noble virgin who listened to Paul's "discourse on virginity" and became Paul's follower and a Disciple of Paul's teachings and Ministry. Thecla's mother and her fiancé Thamyras became concerned Thecla would follow Paul's demand "one must fear only one God and live in chastity", and punished both Paul and Thecla.

Thecla was miraculously saved from burning at the stake by the onset of a storm and traveled with Paul to Antioch of Pisidia. There a nobleman named Alexander desired Thecla and attempted to take her by force. Thecla fought him off, assaulting him in the process, and was put on trial for assaulting a nobleman. She was sentenced to be eaten by wild beasts, but was again saved by a series of miracles when the female beasts protected her against her male aggressors.

Thecla gained a massive "cult-like" following, and became perhaps the most prominent figure for female empowerment at the time. She listened to Paul's teachings to fear nobody but God, and live in chastity. She demonstrates these teachings on several occasions starting from the first time she heard Paul speak by leaving Thamyras, fighting off Alexander, and surviving several life threatening situations. She traveled to preach the word of God and became an icon encouraging women to also live a life of chastity and follow the word of the Lord.

Source: <http://satucket.com/lectionary/Thecla.html>

