

## READER'S GUIDE TO THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Lutheran Church of God's Love  
November 2021

### Brief Introduction

The Gospel of Luke is the first of a two-volume work-- Luke-Acts-- attributed to a physician, Luke, a Gentile convert and friend of the apostle Paul. The Gospel appears to have been written, perhaps at Antioch, during the last third of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. The Gospel of Luke covers the life and ministry of Jesus. Acts of the Apostles covers the life of the early church.

Luke is based on at least two other documents. One is the Gospel of Mark. Luke follows Mark's outline in most respects, but often modifies Mark's anecdotes and irons out Mark's grammar. The other document, known as "Q," is a loosely constructed collection of Jesus' sayings that appear in Matthew and Luke but not in Mark.

Luke sets forth the words and works of Jesus as the divine-human Savior, whose compassion and tenderness extended to all who were needy in body, mind, or spirit. The universal mission of Jesus is emphasized (a) by tracing his genealogy back to Adam; (b) by including references that commend members of a despised race, the Samaritans; (c) by indicating that women have a new place of importance among the followers of Jesus; and (d) by promising that Gentiles would have an opportunity to accept the gospel along with Jews.

Luke includes the story of Jesus' ministry in Galilee, his final journey to Jerusalem, and his last week in Jerusalem. The section of the final journey to Jerusalem preserves many of the most beloved of Jesus' parables—such as the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, the Unjust Judge, and the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

### General Outline

- I. Births of John the Baptist and Jesus; the boy Jesus in the temple (1 and 2)
- II. Activity of John the Baptist; baptism of Jesus (3:1-22)
- III. Genealogy of Jesus (3:23-38)
- IV. Temptation of Jesus (4:1-13)
- V. Jesus' ministry, chiefly in Galilee (4:14 – 9:50)
- VI. Journey to Jerusalem (9:51 – 19:27)
- VII. Jesus' last week, crucifixion, and burial (19:28 – 23:56)
- VIII. Resurrection and commissioning of the disciples (24)

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### Questions to Consider in your Reading:

- (1) What do the birth narratives of John the Baptist and Jesus tell us about their later ministries?
- (2) What do we learn about Jesus' Jewish family origins in the opening chapters?
- (3) Luke's portrayal of Jesus' "mission statement" in 4:18-29 communicates the whole gospel for the whole person. What do we mean by that?
- (4) Prayer plays an important part throughout Luke's Gospel. Can you provide examples?
- (5) What does Luke say theologically about the relationship of disciples to their material possessions? Why do you think this is a recurring theme?
- (6) What is the role of women in Luke's Gospel?
- (7) What is the most troubling passage in this Gospel?
- (8) Which parable unique to Luke's Gospel inspires and sustains your faith? Why?