

Day 1 of 40 – Luke 1

The births of John the Baptist and Jesus foretold. Mary visits Elizabeth. Mary's song of praise. The birth of John the Baptist and Zechariah's Prophecy. *(cf 1 Sam 2:1-10)*

Day 2 of 40 - Luke 2

The Birth of Jesus. The shepherds and angels. Jesus' presentation in the temple. Return to Nazareth. Jesus as a boy.

Day 3 of 40 - Luke 3

John the Baptist's message. Jesus' baptism. The genealogy of Jesus. *(cf Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 4:5)*

Day 4 of 40 - Luke 4

The temptation of Jesus. Beginning of Galilean ministry and rejection at Nazareth. Healings at Capernaum and preaching in Judea. *(cf Deut 8:3; 6:13; Ps 91:11-12; Deut 6:16; Isaiah 61:1-2)*

Day 5 of 40 - Luke 5 & 6:1-11

Calling the first disciples. Cleansing a leper and healing a paralysed man. Calling Levi. Questions about fasting and the Sabbath. Healing a man's hand on the Sabbath.

Day 6 of 40 - Luke 6:12-49

Choosing the twelve disciples. Sermon on the Plain – blessings and woes, love for enemies, judging others, tree and fruit, parable of house on sand.

Day 7 of 40 - Luke 7

Healing the Centurion's servant. Raising the widow's son at Nain. Messengers from John the Baptist. A woman anoints Jesus' feet and is forgiven. *(Mal 3:1)*

Day 8 of 40 – Luke 8 & 9:1-17

Women accompanying Jesus. Parable of the Sower. The parable explained. Lamp under a jar. Kindred of Jesus. Calming a storm. Healing the Gerasene. Raising Jairus' daughter and healing a woman. The mission of the twelve. Herod perplexed. Feeding the five thousand. *(Is 6:9)*

Day 9 of 40 - Luke 9:18-62

Peter's declaration. Jesus foretells his death and resurrection. The transfiguration. A boy healed. True greatness. A rival. A village refuses to receive Jesus. Would-be followers.

Day 10 of 40 - Luke 10 & 11

Mission of the seventy. Jesus rejoices. Parable of the Samaritan. Visit to Mary and Martha. The Lord's prayer. Perseverance in prayer. Jesus and Beelzebul. Unclean spirit. True blessedness. Sign of Jonah. Light of the body. Jesus denounces the Pharisees and Lawyers.

Day 11 of 40 - Luke 12 & Luke 13

Warning against hypocrisy. Exhortation to confession. Parable of the rich fool. Do not worry. Parables about servants. Jesus causes division. Interpreting the time. Settling disputes. Repentance. Parable of fig tree. Healing a woman. Parables of the mustard seed, the yeast and the narrow door. Lament over Jerusalem.

Day 12 of 40 - Luke 14 & 15

Healing a man. Humility and hospitality. Parable of the great dinner. The Cost of discipleship. Parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son.

Day 13 of 40 - Luke 16 & 17:1-10

Parable of the dishonest manager. The law and the kingdom. The rich man and Lazarus. Some sayings of Jesus.

**Day 14 of 40 - Luke 17:11-37
Luke 18 & 19:1-27**

Healing ten lepers. The coming Kingdom. Parable of the widow and the judge. Parable of the Pharisee and tax collector. Blessing the children. The rich ruler. Prediction of death and resurrection. Healing a blind man. Jesus and Zacchaeus. Parable of the lost pounds.

Day 15 of 40 - Luke 19:28-48 & 20:1-26

Triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Weeping over Jerusalem. Cleansing the temple. Jesus' authority questioned. Parable of the wicked tenants. Question about taxes. *(cf Zech. 9:9-10; Ps 118:26)*

Day 16 of 40 - Luke 20:27-47 & 21

Questioning continues. Jesus denounces the scribes. The widow's offering. Destruction of the temple foretold. Signs and persecutions. Destruction of Jerusalem foretold. Coming of the Son of Man. Lesson of the fig tree. Exhortation to watch. *(cf Ps 118:22; Ps.110:1)*

Day 17 of 40 - Luke 22

The plot to kill Jesus. Preparation for the Passover. The last supper. Dispute about greatness. Jesus predicts Peter's denial. Purse, bag and sword. Praying at the Mount of Olives. Betrayal and arrest. Peter denies Jesus. The mocking and beating of Jesus. Jesus before the council.

Day 18 of 40 - Luke 23

Jesus before Pilate. Jesus before Herod. Jesus sentenced to death. The Crucifixion. The death and burial of Jesus. *(cf Hos 10:8)*

Day 19 of 40 - Luke 24:1-35

The resurrection of Jesus. The walk to Emmaus

Day 20 of 40 - Luke 24:36-53

Jesus appears to his disciples. The ascension of Jesus.

Day 21 of 40 - Acts 1

The promise of the Holy Spirit. The ascension of Jesus. Matthias replaces Judas. *(cf Ps.69:25, 109:8)*

Day 22 of 40 - Acts 2

The coming of the Holy Spirit. Peter's speech. The first converts. Life among believers. *(cf Joel 2:28-32, Ps.16-8-11, Ps.110:1)*

Day 23 of 40 - Acts 3 & 4:1-31

Peter heals a beggar. Peter speaks in Solomon's portico. Peter and John before the council. The believers pray for boldness. *(cf Ps.2:1-2)*

Day 24 of 40 - Acts 4:32-37 & 5

The believers share their possessions. Ananias and Sapphira. The apostles heal many. The apostles are persecuted.

Day 25 of 40 - Acts 6 & 7

Seven chosen to serve. Arrest of Stephen. Stephen's speech. The stoning of Stephen.

Day 26 of 40 - Acts 8 & 9

Saul persecutes the church. Philip preaches in Samaria. Philip and the Ethiopian official. The conversion of Saul. Saul preaches in Damascus. Saul escapes and goes to Jerusalem. Peter heals Aeneas. Peter in Lydda and Joppa. *(cf Is.53:7-8)*

Day 27 of 40 - Acts 10 & 11:1-18

Peter and Cornelius. Gentiles hear the good news and receive the Holy Spirit. Peter reports to the church in Jerusalem.

Day 28 of 40 - Acts 11:19-30 & 12

The church in Antioch. James killed and Peter imprisoned. Peter delivered from prison. The death of Herod.

Day 29 of 40 - Acts 13

Barnabas and Saul commissioned. Apostles preach in Cyprus. Paul and Barnabas in Antioch. *(cf Ps.2:7; Is.55:3; Ps.16:10; Hab 1:5; Is.49:6))*

Day 30 of 40 - Acts 14

Paul and Barnabas in Iconium, Lystra and Derbe. Return to Antioch.

Day 31 of 40 - Acts 15

The council of Jerusalem. The council's letter to Gentile believers. Paul and Barnabas separate. *(cf Am.9:11-12)*

Day 32 of 40 - Acts 16

Timothy joins Paul and Silas. Paul's vision. The conversion of Lydia. Paul and Silas in prison.

Day 33 of 40 - Acts 17

Uproar in Thessalonica. Paul and Silas in Berea. Paul in Athens.

Day 34 of 40 - Acts 18 & 19

Paul in Corinth. Return to Antioch. Ministry of Apollos. Paul in Ephesus. Sons of Sceva. Riot in Ephesus.

Day 35 of 40 - Acts 20

Paul goes to Macedonia and Greece. Paul's farewell visit to Troas. Voyage from Troas to Miletus. Paul speaks to Ephesian elders.

Day 36 of 40 - Acts 21 & 22

Paul's journey to Jerusalem. Paul visits James in Jerusalem. Paul arrested in the temple. Paul defends himself. Paul tells of his conversion. Paul sent to the Gentiles. Paul and the Roman Tribune.

Day 37 of 40 - Acts 23

Paul before the council. The plot to kill Paul. Paul sent to Felix the Governor.

Day 38 of 40 - Acts 24 & 25:1-22

Paul before Felix the governor. Paul's defense. Paul held in custody. Paul appeals to the Emperor. Festus consults King Agrippa

Day 39 of 40 - Acts 25:23-27 & 26

Paul defends himself to Agrippa. Paul tells of his conversion. Paul tells of his preaching. Paul appeals to Agrippa to believe.

Day 40 of 40 - Acts 27 & 28

Paul sails for Rome. Storm at sea and shipwreck. Paul on the island of Malta. Paul arrives in Rome. Paul and Jewish leaders meet. Paul preaches in Rome.

How to use this reading guide

For centuries Christians have used the forty days before Easter as a period of spiritual preparation.

The three traditional Lenten disciplines are – **Praying, Fasting and Giving**. Christians commit themselves to pray more; to abstain from specific food or things (giving up something for Lent); and to give to charity. These disciplines continue to be used and the “Praying” component often involves spiritual reading, being part of a bible study or other organised activity for Lent.

As a church we are encouraging everyone to do this reading plan. There is great power and encouragement in knowing we are not on our own as we do it. Others are journeying with us. That said, we should not make hard work of this. This is a guide only. You may not manage it every day or perhaps not the entire section (usually between 50-90 verses per day). That’s OK! Don’t give up! Do what you can joyfully! Let God’s Word speak!

Follow this simple plan

1. Read the passage for the day.

2. Reflect on what you have read.

What leaps out at you? What intrigues you? What encourages you? What challenges you?

3. Pray about what you have reflected upon

Thank God for any insights gleaned, pray about ways these affect your life and ask for God’s blessing. Or you can simply use the prayers in this guide. You may like to keep a journal or find opportunities to discuss the readings with others. Contact Rev Andrew if you would like to receive a short daily email reflection and daily prayer.

A Little about Luke-Acts

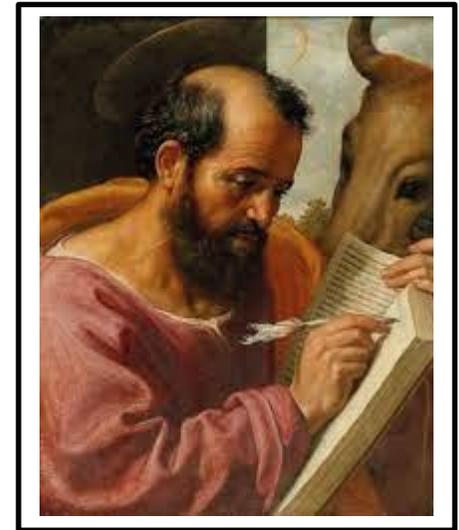
We have the books of Luke and Acts as separate books in the New Testament because in the first century, books were written on scrolls which had a limited length. Two scrolls were needed to hold the contents of both the Gospel and Acts, however they form a continuous story. We know little about Luke the person other than he was a physician and a companion of Paul (*cf Philemon 1:24; Col 4:14; 2 Tim 4:11*). However we do have the great treasure of his writings which make up over a quarter of the New Testament.

Michael Fallon in his commentary on Acts says: *“Alone among the authors of the New Testament Luke speaks of ‘God’s purpose’. It is with this purpose in mind that he frequently speaks of what ‘must’ happen (fifteen times in his Gospel and twenty-four times in Acts). There is no question here of denying human freedom or responsibility. Luke, however, looks beyond human cause and effect and sees a design in history that reveals the presence and action of God’s Holy Spirit, in Israel, in Jesus, and in the community of Jesus disciples.”*

Another writer, Patrick Hartin, says that Jesus in Luke’s Gospel is the fulfillment of God’s gift of salvation, but *“God’s salvation encountered in the person of Jesus, is not limited to the period of the gospel narrative. God’s salvation is intended to touch every dimension of people’s lives at all times, in all places.”* At the heart of Luke’s Gospel is the journey to Jerusalem (*eleven chapters in all*). On the journey we are given a powerful picture of a Christian Spirituality which is based on love, prayer, trust, repentance and forgiveness, concern for the poor and the central idea of hospitality.

Journey Through Lent

*A reading guide to
the Gospel of Luke and
the Acts of the Apostles.*



**God of Wisdom,
grant that the words I have read today
may be grafted in my heart,
so that they may bring forth in me
the fruit of your Spirit
to the honour and praise of your name;
through Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.**

**Almighty God, thank you for your Holy Word.
May it be a lantern to my feet,
a light to my path,
and a strength to my life,
in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**