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# Seasoning the Seasons™

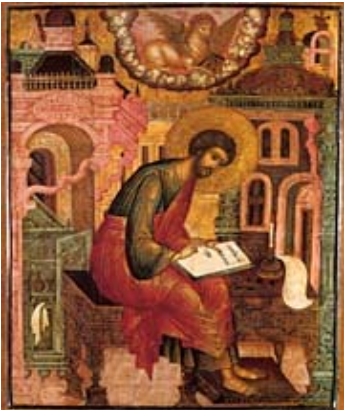
The Institute for Christian Formation, Inc.

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Saint Luke

## Saint Luke, Evangelist

On October 18th the Church celebrates the Feast of Saint Luke, Evangelist. The word "evangelist" refers to the fact that Luke wrote one of our four Gospels. The four evangelists, and therefore the four Gospels, are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Acts of the Apostles is also attributed to Saint Luke, and is in a sense a sequel to the Gospel of Luke.



Saint Luke the Evangelist  
Yaroslavl, 1690  
Iconographer:  
Simeon Spiridonov

At Mass on Sunday we follow a three-year Lectionary Cycle. Year A is the year of Matthew's Gospel, Year B is the year of Mark's Gospel, and Year C is the year of Luke's Gospel. (John's Gospel is proclaimed at certain times all three years.)

Luke's Gospel has some wonderful stories that we do not find in the other Gospels. For example, it is only in Luke's Gospel that we find the Annunciation story, which tells us about the Archangel Gabriel visiting Mary and telling her she had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus. This is not the only story unique to Luke's Gospel. For example, the story of the announcement of the birth of John the Baptist, as well as the story of his birth, are unique to Luke's Gospel. And the famous parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son are only found in the Gospel of Luke!

Luke's Gospel is also important to the prayer and devotional life of the Church in other ways. The canticles prayed in the "official" daily prayer of the Church, the Liturgy of the Hours, are only found in Luke's Gospel. At Morning Prayer we sing the Benedictus (the Canticle of Zechariah found in Luke 1:68-79). The Magnificat (the Canticle of Mary found in Luke 1:46-55) is sung each day at Vespers, or Evening Prayer. And the Canticle of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32) is sung each day at Compline, or

## Night Prayer.

Luke's Gospel is also central to the devotion of the rosary. Did you know, for example, that of the first five mysteries of the rosary - the Joyful Mysteries - four of these (the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple, and the Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple) are stories only found in the Gospel of Luke? (Accounts of the Nativity of Jesus, the third Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, are found in two Gospels - Matthew and Luke - but are two totally different accounts of the birth of Jesus.)

The Temple is very important in Luke's Gospel. In fact, his Gospel both begins and ends in the Temple. Hence the symbols of an ox, or bull/cow/calf, for Luke - as this was an animal sacrificed in the Temple!

Spend some time reading the Gospel of Luke, and then read the Acts of the Apostles, as well!



The Calf of St. Luke  
Andrei Rublev, circa 1400  
Russian State Library, Moscow, Russia