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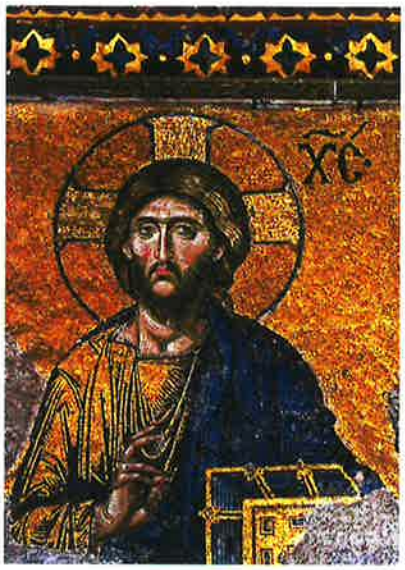

Image of Jesus
Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey
532-537 CE

RESOURCE BOOK

Grade 7

Student Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Revised June 2022

Grade 7

Resource Book

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CONFIRMATION PORTFOLIO
Representing 3 Years of Preparation for the Sacrament

The process of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation is a three year process beginning in sixth grade. Each candidate for Confirmation will have the responsibility of creating a portfolio containing documentation of specific assignments and activities completed during their preparation for the sacrament. The portfolios will be kept with the teachers and as each component is completed. (Components submitted online will be printed in the Religious Ed Office and added to the portfolios). See the Religious Education website as well as specific Google Classrooms for assignments, Mass Reflection Sheets and more.

ELEMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PORTFOLIO:

SIXTH GRADE

- † Worksheet "Favorite Person" in the Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures of the Bible
- † Sunday Mass Reflection Sheets (1 per month, minimum of 7 each year of Confirmation Prep)

- † Successfully participate in approved 6th grade studies

SEVENTH GRADE

- † Gift of Service Essay (parent interview)
- † Luke Essay-(choose from 2 essay options)
- † Service Project and Online Journaling (Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy)-submit online
- † Sunday Mass Reflection Sheets (1 per month, minimum of 7 each year of Confirmation Prep)

- † Sponsor Interview & Information Sheets (due by fall of 7th grade)
- † Successfully participate in approved 7th grade studies

EIGHTH GRADE

- † Sunday Mass Reflection Sheets (1 per month, minimum of 7 each year of Confirmation Prep)

- † Confirmation Patron Saint Assignment (2 Steps)

(1) Research worksheet		(2) Prayer for Saint	

- † Letter to the Bishop
- † My Catholic Faith Essay
- † Service Project and Online Journaling (Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy)-submit online
- † Successfully participate in approved 8th grade studies

Gift of Service Essay

(Parent Interview)

"The experience of Christian community leads naturally to service. Christ gives His people different gifts not only for themselves but for others. Each must serve the other for the good of all. The Church is a servant community in which those who hunger are to be filled; the ignorant are to be taught; the homeless to receive shelter; the sick cared for; the distressed consoled; the oppressed set free-all so that men may more fully realize their human potential and more readily enjoy life with God now and eternally."

To Teach as Jesus Did: A Pastoral Message on Catholic Education USCCB #28

Essay Assignment:

Service work is any work a person does to help others. Interview your parent(s) and ask them if they have ever or currently providing, any service work. They may have volunteered to help in a large organized charity or on an individual basis with someone, outside family responsibilities. Use these questions as a guide:

- What gifts has God given you that you have used to help others?
- Tell me about the specific time when you provided service by using one of your gifts.
- Where and when did this service take place?

- How did the service affect the person or community you helped?
- Which Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy, Catholic tradition or Scripture story can you relate to the service you provided?

Use the Gift of Service Google Document, found in your Google Classroom, to write your essay and submit to your catechist. (When writing your Essay, be attentive to the Rules of Capitalization page included in this Resource Book.)

Sunday Mass Reflection Sheet Information

Why do I need to complete Sunday Mass Reflection Sheets?

It is important that you attend Mass each week and on Holy Days of Obligation (see the Precepts of the Catholic Church). However, as a young person preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are should be able to reflect on the readings, liturgical music, homily and other aspects of the Mass. Your Sunday Mass Reflection Sheet gives you that opportunity. It is also a great chance to review Scripture, the liturgical calendar, parts of the Mass as well as different occasions for Mass.

Can I bring my Sunday Mass Reflection Sheet to Mass with me?

Yes, you can bring a Sunday Mass Reflection Sheet to Mass with you however; *do not write during the Scripture readings, homily or Consecration (the act of giving the sacramental character to the Eucharistic elements of bread and wine).*

How many Sunday Mass Reflection Sheets do I need to submit to my teacher or catechist?

Each year of your Confirmation Preparation you need to submit at least seven Sunday Mass Reflection Sheets; an average of 1 per month throughout the school year.

Do I have to write a reflection every week?

We encourage you to reflect on every Mass you attend, but we are asking you to submit just one Sunday Reflection Mass Sheet each month. You are welcome to write more reflections, but once a month is a fruitful start. *(If you attend a 'special Mass' like a wedding or funeral you are welcome to reflect on those Masses too.)*

What if I attend Mass at a different parish than The Church of St. Mary?

You can certainly complete a Sunday Mass Reflection Sheet if you attend Mass at a different parish.

Sunday Mass Reflection Sheets *are available from your teacher or catechist, the Religious Education website and/or the Religious Education Office.*

Tracking Jesus' Travels

Directions:

Using the map on the opposite page "Map of Israel in the Time of Jesus" look up in your Bible each of the 9 passages listed below. On the map, mark the locations with the question number (1-9). Some locations will be marked with more than one number.

1. What was the village that Jesus was born in? (Luke 2:4-7)
2. When Jesus was an infant, he was presented at the temple in what city? (Luke 2:22)
3. Where was Jesus and his family's home village that they returned to? (Luke 2:39)
4. When Jesus was twelve, where was he taken? (Luke 2:41)
5. Where did Jesus call the first disciples? (Matt 4:18)
6. Where did Jesus perform his first miracle? (John 2:1)
7. What section of Israel did Jesus preach and teach? (Matt 4:23)
8. Where did Jesus cure a paralyzed man? (Mark 2:1)
9. Where did Jesus tell his disciples to go? (Mark 6:45)

MEDITERRANEAN SEA
SYRO-PHOENICIA
Lake Huleh
GAULANITIS
Chorazin
Acco
(Ptolemais)
Capernaum
Bethsaida
Magdala
GALILEE
Sea Galilee
Gennesaret
Tiberias
Cana
Nazareth
Nain
DECAPOLIS
PLAIN OF SHARON
Caesarea
Pella
Aenon
(Salim)
SAMARIA
Sebaste
Sychor
Antipatris
Alexandrium
Joppa
(Japho)
Arimathaea
PERAEA
Philadelphia
Lydda
Ephraim
Jericho
Bethany
(Beyond Jordan)
Emmaus
Jamnia
Ashdod
Jerusalem
Qumran
Bethany
Bethlehem
JUDAEA
Ashkelon
Herodium
Dead Sea (Salt Sea)
Machaerus
Hebron
Gaza
0 Miles 20
Masada
Roads
N
Beersheba
IDUMAEA
Map of Israel in the New Testament
Bible History Online
5

Service Journaling

through the Lens of
The Works of Mercy

(A list of Works of Mercy can be found on pages 3 & 4 of this Resource Book)

Note: In 2016, Pope Francis added to each of these traditional lists in his encyclical, Laudato Sí: • CARE FOR THE EARTH

Christian service is a lifelong process. Followers of Jesus are supposed to follow his example. If you want to be great, you must be the servant of all the others. And if you want to be first, you must be everyone's slave. The Son of Man did not come to be a slave master, but a slave who will give his life to rescue many people. (Mark 10:43-45)

"Service" is often associated with preparing for Confirmation. There are two reasons for this.

- First, you are older, and you are able to do more things independently.
- Second, living a life of service to others and doing the works of mercy is what the Christian life is about.

† **As you go through the year, we are going to ask you to journal about how and when you performed the works of mercy.**

† **What we will expect of you during these last two years of preparation.** *There is not a minimum of what you 'must' do. We will be looking for a few things:*

- A sincere effort
- variety and trying to do something new
- a combination of things you do as part of a group or community
- things your do on your own
- a sincere reflection on the experience in your journal pages

† **Why am I completing this online journal?**

- When you think of others and act on their behalf, you learn from the experience.
- The journal is a way to reflect on the experience.

† **What do I need to do?**

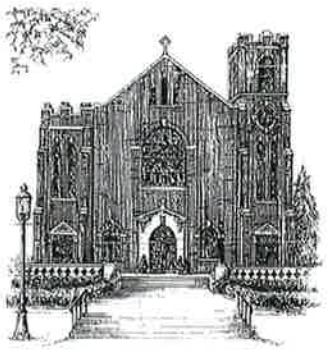
- We want you to go through your whole life thinking about how you can be of service. So, look through all the Works of Mercy and be aware of things that you can do in many of the 'categories.'
- There are no time requirements to fulfill. Some things will take five minutes; some may take a long term commitment of weeks or month. (For example, tutoring a younger child.)

† **We want you to do a variety of things**. You may like or favor one activity, but look through the list and think of ways to do a various things. There are other ways to get involved other than to do direct service. You can give money that you earn, for example. Direct service is important and you should do things that directly help people, but it is not the only avenue for being a disciple.

† **What about things like just helping around the neighborhood?** Those count too! For example, if you rake the lawn of an elderly neighbor, in a way it is visiting the ill, as well as caring for the earth. (Or at least letting your youthful strength substitute for old creaky bones!)

† **What about larger group experiences for service?** Can I participate in those too?

There are a lot of possibilities in our parish and local neighborhoods. Among them are:



† **Catholic Charities**: Please contact Susan Fowler at Sue Fowler sfowler@catholiccharities.net
† **Feed My Starving Children**. Pack and ship food to kids in areas where there is famine. You can go as a group or as a family. www.fmsc.org. 742 E. Park Avenue, Libertyville, IL 60048, 847-984-3846
† **Vacation Bible School**: A week full of fun in mid-July helping younger children learn about about their faith. Contact the religious education office at: religioused@churchofstmary.org
† **Sacrament Assistant**-help out at 1st Communion and/or Confirmation at the liturgies and receptions. Contact the religious education office at: religioused@churchofstmary.org
† **Religious Education Catechist Assistant**: During the school year, Sunday mornings at 9:30 or Tuesday afternoons at 4:15. School Preschoolers and kindergarten students have a class on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. Contact the religious education office at: religioused@churchofstmary.org
† **Children's Liturgy of the Word**-There is a helper needed to assist the leader for one week a month at the 10:00 AM Mass. Contact the religious education office at: religioused@churchofstmary.org
† **Parish opportunities**: These include regular volunteer opportunities at the Church of St. Mary- *Parish Day of Service, Christmas Sharing Tree, Easter Sharing Tree, Food Pantry, Right to Life Ministry, and more.* See the parish bulletin and/or website for information.

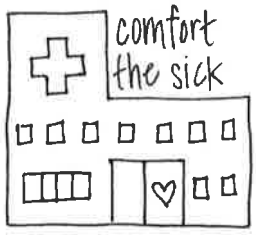
† **What if I am still stuck?**
  - Ask your sponsor for ideas. Ask your family. Ask your teachers. Ask the parish staff.

† **How do I fill out the journal?** • Go to this link: http://religiouseducation.churchofstmary.org/confirmation/

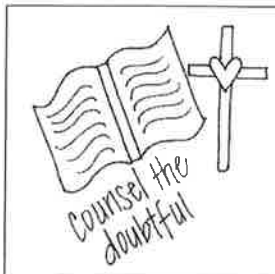
† We want you to write reflectively about:
  - a) what you did
  - b) how much time you spent
  - d) which work of Mercy was reflected in your service
  - c) what you learned
    - *Answers like "I learned a lot" or "This was a good experience" are NOT reflective answers. They are short, unthoughtful answers! We expect you to tell us what happened and what it meant to you!*

† The RE Office will receive your reflection after you submit it. You don't need to turn it in to us in any other form.

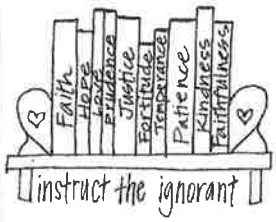
The Corporal Works of Mercy

	☐ Give food to a homeless person ☐ Donate to a food drive/pantry ☐ Pay for the person behind you in the drive through ☐ Bring meals to someone who is sick/recovering ☐ Volunteer to serve food in a shelter or home ☐ Set the table, do the dishes, or help cook dinner for your family ☐ Go shopping & deliver food to someone
	☐ Donate water to shelters or in an emergency situation ☐ Offer to get drinks for your friends or family members ☐ Run a lemonade stand and donate the profits, or just give the drinks away for free ☐ Take extra water/drinks with you to a sporting event and share ☐ Pay for the person in the drivethru behind you
	☐ Volunteer for organizations that build homes for people, have a fundraiser to help ☐ Donate old furniture, pillows, blankets, etc. to those that need it ☐ Know where safe places are and tell people about them ☐ Help someone fix up their house that needs it ☐ Invite people you know to stay with you when they need (traveling, buying a new house, in an emergency, foreign exchange student) ☐ Pay a hotel room for someone who needs it, or help pay someone's rent
	☐ Buy & donate coats for people who need them ☐ Clean out your closet and donate to an organization or even a family you know ☐ Collect baby items for moms in need ☐ Make your own things to donate- hats, scarves, etc. ☐ Have a garage sale and donate the money
	☐ Ask a priest to visit the sick person ☐ Make sure that someone brings them Communion & Anointing of the Sick ☐ Make a card, call them, bring a thoughtful gift like pillows, games, books, etc. ☐ Bring someone who is sick a home cooked meal ☐ Spend time with them, especially if they are stuck at home or in the hospital ☐ Help them with their medicine or even help pay their medical bills ☐ Be extra nice to family members when they are sick
	☐ Encourage your priest to visit someone in prison ☐ Go and visit someone in prison, send care packages ☐ Visit someone who is homebound, send cards, call them ☐ Cook for someone who is homebound ☐ Visit someone who is hospitalized or who is in residential care ☐ Go caroling, play instruments, play games, read out loud,
	☐ Attend funerals & visitations ☐ Send cards and flowers to grieving family ☐ Donate to a cause that is special to the family ☐ Make food for the family ☐ Visit a gravesite to pray ☐ Go visit the family and comfort them ☐ Help clean out the home of the deceased ☐ Help pay bills related to the funeral

The Spiritual Works of Mercy



- ☐ Point someone to the good decision
- ☐ Be encouraging
- ☐ Willingly explain things
- ☐ Share why you have hope
- ☐ Encourage someone to talk to an expert, like a priest, teacher, etc.
- ☐ Pray that people would have faith
- ☐ Pray for people with suicidal thoughts



- ☐ Give people more time- don't rush them
- ☐ If you are good at something, be willing to teach that skill to others
- ☐ Be willing to tell stories that you know about the Bible, the Saints, etc. Talk about your faith
- ☐ Don't think you are better than someone else because of your knowledge
- ☐ Don't be prideful or arrogant when you know something

- ☐ Kindly and privately talk to the person about the problem
- ☐ Suggest that they go to Confession or get advice from a priest
- ☐ Help them understand why something is wrong
- ☐ Lead people towards the good choice in a situation
- ☐ Stop the problem before it happens
- ☐ Consider the causes and effects of the problem
- ☐ Help them to know that even little things are a big deal

- ☐ Pray for families that have lost loved ones
- ☐ Offer comfort by baking them cookies, making a meal, sending a card
- ☐ Go and visit someone who is sad, spend time with them, pray with them
- ☐ Do things that make another person happy

- ☐ Always be willing to forgive someone
- ☐ Don't hold a grudge
- ☐ Give people a second chance
- ☐ Accept other's apologies with kindness

- ☐ Be patient when you trying to help someone and they don't want your help
- ☐ Don't help people expecting a thank you
- ☐ Be kind to people who make mistakes
- ☐ Let people learn from their mistakes
- ☐ Don't be mean back

- ☐ Pray with people who are going through hard times
- ☐ Ask your friends how you can pray for them
- ☐ Memorize the "Eternal rest" prayer and pray it for those who have died
- ☐ Pray when you drive past a cemetery
- ☐ Pray a Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Mass, Holy Hour for a specific person
- ☐ Remember especially: soldiers, those who are sick or dying, pope, bishops, priests, deacons, and babies who are in danger of abortion

Luke Essay

Choose one of the options below as the subject of your Essay

Option 1

Choose one of the parables unique to Luke's Gospel below:

The two debtors 7:41-43
The good Samaritan 10:30-37
Friend at midnight 11:5-8
Rich fool 12:16-21
Severe and light beatings 12:47-48
Barren tree 13:6-9
Lowest seat at the banquet 14:7-14
Excuses for not attending a banquet 14:16-24
Building a tower 14:28-30
Waging war 14:31-32
Lost coin 15:8-10
Prodigal son 15:11-32
Shrewd manager 16:1-9
Rich man and Lazarus 16:19-31
Slave serves the master 17:7-10
Widow and judge 18:2-5
Pharisee and tax collector 18:10-14

- Read through the parable several times becoming familiar with the characters, the movement of the story and the 'teaching moment(s).'
- Then pray and ponder the relevance of this parable in your own life.
- Use these questions to help you write your essay:

Why did you choose this parable? What is it about? What meaning does it have to you? Can you share an example of a current event or occasion when the parable was relevant to you?
Include how this parable from Luke's Gospel can teach us today.

Option 2

Choose one of the Scripture stories listed below that are unique to Luke's Gospel:

Promised birth of John 1:1-4
Announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary 1:26-38
Mary's visit to Elizabeth 1:39-56
Birth of John the Baptist 1:57-80
Birth of Jesus 2:1-20
Presentation in temple 2:21-38
Childhood visit to Jerusalem 2:41-52
Good news to the poor 4:14-23, 25-30
Miraculous catch of fish 5:1-11
Raising of widow's son at Nain 7:11-17
Encounter with homeless woman 7:36-50
Rejection by Samaritan village 9:51-56
Return of the seventy 10:17-20
Mary and Martha 10:38-42
Healing of crippled woman 13:10-17
Healing of man with dropsy 14:1-6
Cleansing of ten lepers 17:11-19
Story of Zacchaeus 19:1-10
Jesus weeps over Jerusalem 19:41-44
Reason for Peter's denial 22:31-32
Jesus before Herod 23:6-12
Pilate declares Jesus innocent 23:13-16
Jesus on the road to Emmaus 24:13-35
Jesus appears to disciples 24:36-39
Jesus' ascension 24:50-53

- Read over your selection several times to familiarize yourself with the story and characters.
- Now ponder that you are present in the story as either a main character, secondary character or even as a bystander.
- Recreate the story, with you in it.

Include your observations of the events and your reflections as a witness. Why do you think this story was included in Scripture?

Confirmation Sponsors

"As a rule there should be a sponsor for each of those to be confirmed. These sponsors bring the candidates to receive the sacrament, present them to the minister for the anointing, and will later help them to fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit whom they have received."
(The Rite of Confirmation #5)

Why do I need a Sponsor?

From the earliest days of the Church, those seeking communion with the Church were supported by specific people chosen from the community. At your Baptism those significant people were your parents and godparents (your baptismal sponsors) who promised that you would be raised in the faith. They professed their faith because you could not speak for yourself. Your parents accepted the responsibility of training you in the practice of the faith. Your godparents promised to help your parents. In Confirmation you will speak for yourself; you will renew your baptismal promises. You will be supported by a sponsor who will stand with you and present you to the Bishop for Confirmation and will later help you to fulfill your baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Who can be a Sponsor?

It is desirable that the godparent at Baptism also be the sponsor at Confirmation. This change expresses more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and also makes the function and responsibility of the sponsor more effective.

A sponsor must, as Canon 874 states:

- † Have the qualifications and intention of performing this role.
- † Have completed their sixteenth year.
- † Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with their faith and the role to be undertaken.
- † Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared
- † Not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed.

What does a Sponsor do?

A Sponsor is expected to:

- † Journey with the candidate during the different aspects of the local preparation program, including Rehearsal and the celebration of Confirmation.
- † Be a friend and companion to the candidate, helping the candidate before and even after the actual celebration of the Sacrament.
- † A sponsor should be chosen early in your sacrament formation process so they can walk through your faith journey with you.

After discerning your choice of sponsor, conduct and submit the **Sponsor Information & Interview Sheet** google form found on the Google Classroom to your teacher or catechist.

Rules of Capitalization

The Bible and Sacred Books – Capitalize all names for the Bible, books and versions of the Bible and all other sacred books.

Examples: Bible · Scripture · Good News · Word of God · Holy Bible · Old Testament · New Testament · Gospels · Ten Commandments · Lord's Prayer · Gospels · Gospel of Luke, Matthew, Mark, John · New American Bible

Creeds and Official Church Teaching – Capitalize all names of creeds and Biblical prayers and titles.

Examples: Lord's Supper · Apostles' Creed · Catechism of the Catholic Church · Nicene Creed

God, Jesus, Holy Spirit – Capitalize all names for God.

Examples: Father · Almighty · God · Lord · Holy Spirit · Jesus · Son of Man · Christ · Messiah · Lord of Hosts · Redeemer · Savior · Holy Trinity · Yahweh

Mary and the Saints – Capitalize all names and titles given to Mary and all of the Saints.

Examples: Our Lady · Our Lady Queen of Peace · Holy Mary · Holy Mother of God · Blessed Virgin · St. John the Baptist · St. John of the Cross · St. Teresa of Avila · St. John the Apostle · St. James the Greater

Liturgy and Sacraments – Capitalize church feasts, seasons, holy days, and names of the sacraments.

Examples: Mass · Advent · Christmas · Epiphany · Ash Wednesday · Lent · Holy Thursday · Good Friday · Triduum · Easter · Pentecost · Ordinary Time · All Saints' Day · Immaculate Conception · Ascension · Baptism · Reconciliation · Eucharist · Confirmation · Anointing of the Sick · Holy Orders · Matrimony

Rules of Capitalization Exercise

Please make capitalization corrections on the following by drawing a line through each letter that should be capitalized and writing the capital letter above it.

Example: J C S G S
jesus ehrist is the son of god and our savior.

1. The bible is a sacred book for all christians.

2. The four gospels were written by matthew, mark, luke, and john.

3. The lord's prayer was given to us by jesus.

4. We often refer to the mother of jesus as the blessed virgin, the holy mother of god, and our lady.

5. Jesus was baptized by st. john the baptist.

6. The Sacraments of Christian Initiation are baptism, confirmation, and eucharist.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Luke shows Jesus as a man with compassion for all people, "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory to your people Israel." Together, Luke and Acts form two volumes telling Jesus' story and the beginnings of the Christian Church.

LUKE'S Gospel, like that of Matthew, is now generally agreed to be dependent upon Mark's outline, but Luke omits Mark 6:45–8:26 and inserts instead what is called the "travel narrative," describing Jesus' journey from Galilee to Jerusalem *(see right)*. Much of Luke's material not based on Mark has parallels in Matthew. Some scholars think that Luke had access to Matthew's work, but the majority holds that Luke and Matthew drew independently on an earlier source, or sources, known as Q *(p 301)*.

LUKE

Luke's sign is a winged ox. He was probably the author of the Gospel according to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.

LUKE'S AIMS

Both Luke and Acts were written by the same author and dedicated to Theophilus, a Greek, about whom little is known. Luke set out his intentions clearly at the beginning of his historical work: *"Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account ..."* (Luke 1:1–4). In writing about a new movement that seemed to be both heretical and subversive, Luke needed to present it as the fulfillment of God's plan for the world: to the Romans and Greeks, he wrote to distance Jesus from Israel's political aspirations; to the Jews, he wrote that Jesus' messiahship was in accordance with the Scriptures. Like the biblical histories, Luke told the story in order to show God at work in history, and he emphasized how important the work of the Holy Spirit is.

Luke was concerned to make God's plan of salvation (a key term in Luke/Acts) evident to Theophilus and to his other readers. Central to this plan were the life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus – which have brought new hope to the poor and needy – and the offer of God's powerful blessings and the beginning of a new age to those who are spiritually humble. Luke also wanted to draw a picture of the new community in the kingdom of God, beginning with the twelve *(pp 328–331)*, extending into the mission of "the seventy," and continuing into the Church (Luke 10:1–17).

LUKE'S MESSAGE

Luke's Gospel begins and ends in Jerusalem. It stresses Jesus' Davidic descent, but it also points to the universal scope of God's work by extending the genealogy back to Adam, the father of all humanity (3:38). In contrast to Mark 6:1–6, Luke placed Jesus' sermon at Nazareth at the start of his ministry, as it includes the main themes of both Luke and Acts: the Holy Spirit, healing the poor and oppressed, preaching, and God's activity outside Israel (4:16–30). The murderous rage that this caused points forward to the Crucifixion. Luke emphasized the role of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' ministry. John the Baptist and his parents

were filled with the Holy Spirit (1:15, 41, 67), as was Simeon at Jesus' presentation. Jesus began his ministry "filled with the power of the Spirit" (4:14) and predicted the descent of the Spirit on his own disciples (12:12).

Luke's selection of parables reveals Jesus' vivid interest in humanity and illustrates some of his concerns, including the poor and the marginalized (women, children, outcasts, and cripples), and the dangers of wealth. These stories reverse normal assumptions about blessedness, such as a despised tax collector who is closer to God than a self-righteous Pharisee (18:9–14), a disgraced son who is nearer to his father's heart than his model elder brother (15:11–32), a rich man unaware of Lazarus starving at his door (16:19–31), and a rich fool who in God's sight has nothing (12:13–21).

Luke's Gospel, like Acts, begins in prayer (1:10; *cf.* Acts 1:14) and shows Jesus praying at critical moments: *"Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God"* (6:12; *cf.* 3:21; 5:16; 9:18, 28; 11:1). Only Luke uses the word *agony* of Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane (22:44). Yet prayer in Luke's Gospel also includes thanks and praise, such as the songs of Zechariah, Mary, and Simeon featured at the beginning of the book.

JOURNEYS

Luke's main addition to Mark is a travel narrative of Jesus' journey from Galilee to Jerusalem (9:51–18:14), a journey of more than just geographical importance, with its echoes of Moses and Israel in the desert. Before Jesus began his journey, Moses and Elijah appeared at his Transfiguration, *"speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem"* (or more literally, "the exodus [of redemption] he was to fulfill"). The Greek for "go" (*poreuesthai*) occurs 22 times in these chapters, and also in the double meaning of Jesus' death mentioned in Luke 13:33: *"Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem."* Like Paul, Luke's Gospel presents Jesus' death as the new Passover and Exodus, with Christians symbolizing Israel journeying through the desert to the Promised Land (1 Cor. 5:7; Luke 10:1–13). Luke's final journey story, of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, describes Jesus revealing himself to his disciples after the Resurrection: *"He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened . . ."* (24:30–31).

Luke extended his journey theme to steer Christian eyes away from the hoped-for return of Christ and toward the present day-to-day task of discipleship and witnessing. Christians are to *"take up their cross daily"* and ask *"each day [for] our daily bread."* Their salvation lies not in the days ahead, but "today," as Jesus says in his sermon in Nazareth: *"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing"* (4:21). Luke has a universal perspective, and his Gospel points forward to a universal salvation.

THE BOOK

TITLE The Gospel According to Luke

DATE Not given. If Luke used Mark, c.80? ‡

AUTHORSHIP Traditionally thought to be Luke, "the beloved physician," companion of Paul (Col. 4:14; Philem. 24; 2 Tim. 4:11). Acts 1:1 tells Theophilus that this book follows the first (*cf.* Luke 1:3), and it is generally agreed that Luke and Acts are by the same author.

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KEY THEMES

Jesus as a compassionate man, caring for the poor and the oppressed, fulfilling Scripture (4:18–21)

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The activity of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' work

•

The good news is for those who were not highly regarded – tax collectors, Samaritans, Gentiles, and women

For further reading see bibliography numbers: 117, 152, 279, 282, 321, 436, 443, 518, 519, 610, 742, 758, 796, 816, 821

Bowker, John (1998), *The Complete Bible Handbook*, New York, DK Publishing, Inc.