

THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST

We refer to Saint Luke as the evangelist because he wrote one of the four gospels. In Greek, gospel is evangelion. An evangelist is someone who brings the gospel (good news) of Christ to others.

In this icon, we see Saint Luke actively writing, using the materials available to him during his time. He was a well educated man and his writing reflects his knowledge.

1

GOAL

Review of the synoptic gospels and discuss the purpose of Luke's gospel

2

AT CHURCH

We listen to the gospel being read every Sunday during the Divine Liturgy.

3

AT HOME

Read the daily gospel reading as part of your family prayers or during dinner together



Gospel:
in Greek is
"evangelion" ~
meaning "good
news" of Christ



Evangelist:
Someone who
brings the "good
news" to others



Synoptic:
"taking a common
view" in reference
to Matthew, Mark,
and Luke's gospels

THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

We are going to learn more about how Saint Luke wrote his gospel, as well as, review some main points about Matthew and Mark's gospels too.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called the synoptic gospels because all three of them focus on the life, teachings, and miracles of Christ. The Gospel of John is a little different from the other three. He fills in some things that were left out by the other evangelists and he also focuses on explaining who Jesus is and why He came.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all want to teach us about Christ, but they are writing to different groups of people. They each have a slightly different goal because of who will be receiving their gospel. If three of you decided to write about what you learned in church school today - one of you writes to your parents, one of you writes to your brothers and sisters, and one of you writes to your parish priest - you would each write a story that is both the same and different from one another. This is because each of you finds some parts of your lesson just as important as the other two of you, but you will also try to write about



what is most important to the person receiving your story.

Matthew writes his gospel to Jews. He wants to let them know that Christ is the Messiah they have been waiting for all this time.

Mark is writing to Gentiles (anyone who is not a Jew). The Gentiles are not waiting for a Messiah so Mark does not focus on this part. Instead, he wants to share with them that Jesus is the Son of God - so he tells all about the amazing miracles of Jesus.

Luke is writing to a Gentile named Theophilus. He knows Theophilus will share the gospel with others too. Luke wants Theophilus (and others) to know that Jesus came to save the whole world,

EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

[The Remarkable Gospel of St. Luke](#) - Search the Scriptures Podcast

[Crash Course on the Gospels: Conclusion](#) - Search the Scriptures Podcast

The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pages 15 - 21



especially people who are poor, sick, or feel like there's nobody in the world that cares about them.

Back in Jesus' time, they didn't use a specific year when they talked about time like we do today. Instead, when they were writing and telling people about events that were happening, they would include all the rulers at that time. They did this because everyone knew about the rulers and this enabled them to know approximately when the event occurred.

For example, if you were writing a story about what you were doing 3 years ago, you could start your story out something like this, "At the beginning of Covid, I spent a lot of time swimming in our backyard pool." People reading your story would have a pretty good idea when this occurred - you didn't specifically tell them when this happened, but it's probably the summer of 2020.

Luke was a historian, which means researching his information before he wrote it was important to him. He made sure he talked to everyone he could and told us exactly which rulers were in power during the time of Jesus.

ACTIVITY

Pass out the worksheet (end of this lesson) and pencil to each child and go through it together as a class.

You can preemptively write down words on the board for the blanks on the worksheet for anyone that may want help spelling them.

Goal: to teach our kids how Saint Luke is recording the time period in his gospel, as well as, for review of the synoptic gospels and to learn what our kids found most memorable in past lessons.

THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

AT HOME

FOR PARENTS

Illumine our hearts, O Master Who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee. For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

- A Prayer Before Reading Holy Scripture

Teach our children about the gospels:

Where can we learn more about Holy Scripture? Oftentimes Father Vasile will provide insight to each Sunday's gospel during his sermon. Ask your kids questions about Father's sermon or start a conversation on the way home about that day's gospel reading.

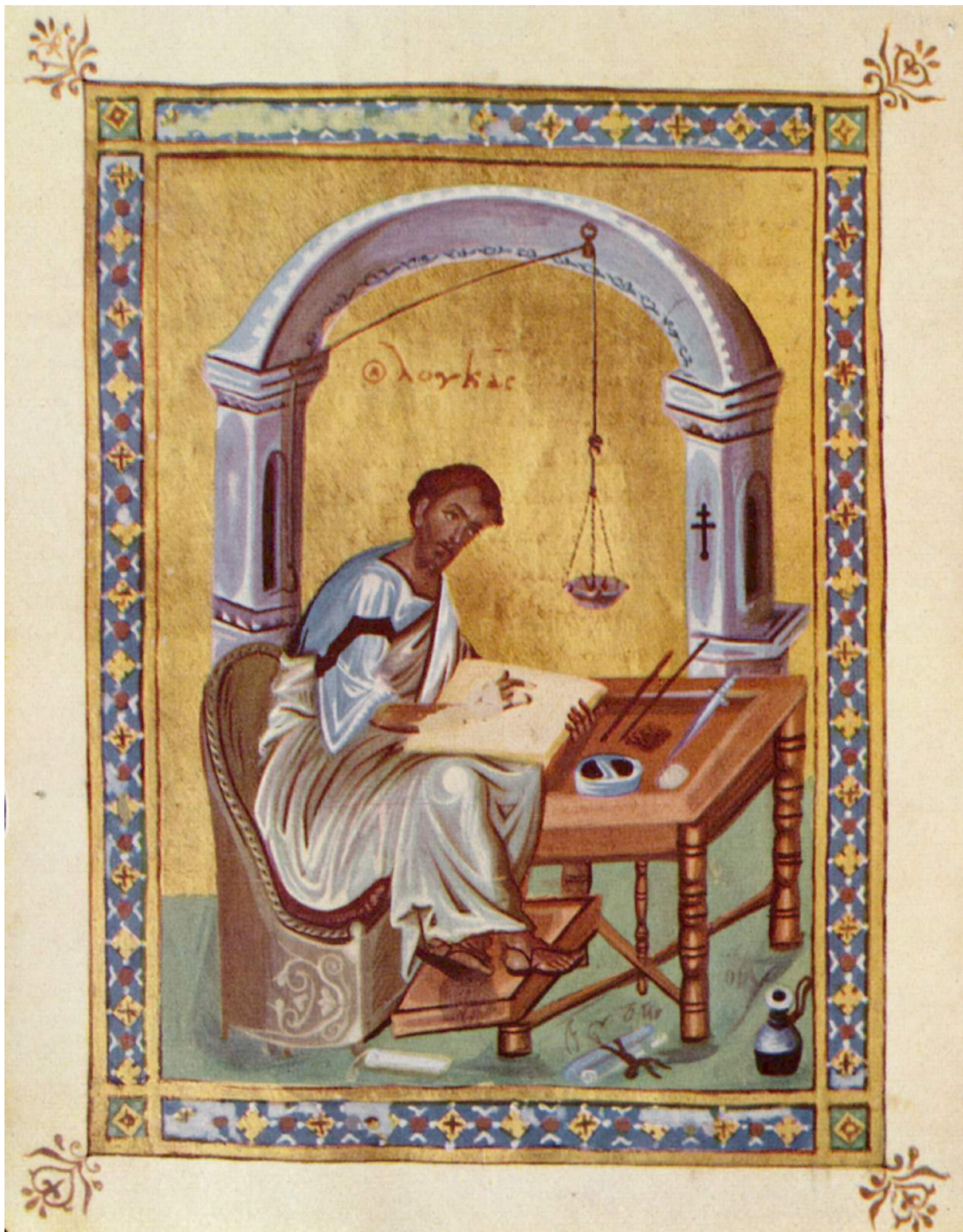
There are also several great commentaries on the gospels from - the Church Fathers, Saint Theophylact, Fr. Lawrence Farley, and Dr. Jeannie Constantinou. You can even listen to Dr. Jeannie's podcasts on Ancient Faith Radio in the car and then explain the podcast on their level during dinner.

HOME ACTIVITY #2

Find the daily [gospel reading on the GOARCH website](#) or app, and read it:

Choose one:

- To yourself each day this week
- To your family as they eat dinner each night this week
- During your family prayer time each evening this week



SAINT LUKE

THE HISTORIAN

Saint Luke used the historical writing style of that age to record the time period of Jesus' life. He did this by telling us who the rulers were at this time. Everyone knew about the rulers, so they had a good idea when these events occurred.

Directions: Fill in the blanks to create a record of your church school program in the historical style of writing used by Saint Luke.

I wanted to share with you, (name of person) _____
some of the lessons we have learned in our church school.

In the days of (our bishop) _____,
of (location) _____,
there was a priest named _____.

He wanted all the classes to learn about one theme each year
together. Our teachers (names) _____
and _____ taught us about:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____