



## The Gospel According to Luke 10:16-21

The Lord said to his disciples, "He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

Today is the feast day of St. Luke the Evangelist



This Apostle was an Antiochean, a physician by trade, and a disciple and companion of Paul. He wrote his Gospel in Greek after Matthew and Mark, after which he wrote the Acts of the Apostles, and dedicated both works to Theophilus, who, according to some, was Governor of Achaia. He lived some eighty-six years and died in Achaia, perhaps in Patras, the capital of this district. His emblem is the calf, the third symbolical beast mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10), which is a symbol of Christ's sacrificial and priestly office, as Saint Irenaeus says.

When in our church, look up at the icon of Christ Pantocrator (All Mighty) on the ceiling over the solea. All the Evangelists are present there.

## **Apolytikion for St. Luke, Third Tone**

O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, intercede to our merciful God, that He may grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

## **Discussion**

St. Theophylactos points out that Christ is preparing to send out his disciplines to preach and evangelize. They were understandably concerned about leaving their Master and going out on their own, especially since they were going to regions that would not easily accept what they were teaching. Christ, knowing their thoughts and anxiety (as He knows ours), reassures them by telling them that it is not their word that unbelievers may reject, but the Word of God. In like manner and understanding, He is telling them (and us) that when God performs miracles through them and people understand God's Word and believe, this is God's doing and not theirs.

It is quite easy to get puffed up and full of boastful pride when we forget where our blessings truly come from!

Once the disciples return and are amazed at the Work of God, particularly in casting out demons, Our Lord reminds them that Lucifer, the light-bearing angel, fell from Heaven and became Satan because he chose to rebel against God. In the same way, we can cast off evil and temptation by remembering God's love and mercy for us and choosing to do good works to serve His Creation and glorify His Name.

Let's pray that we do not forget where our blessings come from and that we are always grateful for them and do the things Our Lord commanded with our blessings.

Here is a link to a video to follow up on establishing the habit of praying.

<https://www.goarch.org/-/be-the-bee-150-are-you-struggling-to-pray?-inheritRedirect=true>