



On October 18, the Church remembers St. Luke, Evangelist, author of the Gospel according to Luke and also the Book of Acts.

Luke tells us at the beginning of his Gospel that he himself made a careful investigation into the events of Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension (Luke 1:1-4). We know that the person who wrote Luke also wrote Acts because he mentions his previous book (Acts 1:1-2). Some events in Jesus' life we only know about because the Holy Spirit inspired Luke to write them down. For example, Luke gives us the most detail about the events surrounding Jesus' birth (Luke 1 and 2). There is a reason Luke 2 is the appointed Gospel reading for Christmas Eve. Luke also records certain parables of Jesus that are not recorded anywhere else, such as the Good Samaritan (Luke 10) and the Prodigal Son (Luke 15). Luke is also the inspired writer who tells us about Jesus' ascension, which he mentions twice (Luke 24 and Acts 1).

Luke was most likely not Jewish himself but instead was a Gentile. He was a doctor or some kind of physician (Colossians 4:14). As a doctor, Luke would have been very highly educated. Scholars of Greek assert that the wide range of vocabulary in the books of Luke and Acts confirm that the author was very educated.

Whether or not Luke ever met Jesus before His death, resurrection, and ascension is never mentioned in the New Testament. We do not know if Luke ever met Jesus during

Jesus' earthly ministry. We do know that Luke accompanied the Apostle Paul on some of Paul's missionary journeys. Many times in the Book of Acts, Luke uses the pronoun "we," meaning that Luke himself was present. One example is Acts 16:10-13. This is the account of Paul's journey to Macedonia. While there, he met Lydia a woman who was a seller of purple goods. She heard the Gospel from Paul and came to faith in Jesus. Luke was there and gives us a firsthand account of what happened.

Another example is Acts 20:6-8. Paul is in the city of Troas. On Sunday, he is preaching at the worship service there. He preaches for so long that a young man named Eutychus fell asleep and tumbled out the window into the street and died. But Paul knelt over him and his life was restored. Again, Luke was there and gives us a firsthand account.

According to Church tradition, which may or may not be accurate, Luke was a doctor in the city of Antioch before he became a Christian and joined Paul as a missionary. Tradition also holds that Luke was a painter. In the Middle Ages the Guild of St. Luke was a guild for painters. Church tradition also tells us that Luke lived to the age of 84 and died in Boeotia, a part of Greece.

Because of Luke, we know more about our Savior Jesus. On October 18, we give thanks to God for St. Luke, Evangelist of Jesus.

