

Today we celebrate the feast of St. Luke. According to Eusebius, Luke was born at Antioch in Syria. Additionally, in his letter to the Colossians, St. Paul refers to Luke as a "beloved physician." (Col. 4:14)

Certainly, most people are aware that Luke is one of the four evangelists who provided us with one of the gospels. Luke is the author of the longest gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. His gospel is considered the most beautiful and poetic. He is a beautiful writer in that he uses the best grammar and the most eloquent and correct Greek in the New Testament.

Luke's gospel places special emphasis on evangelizing Gentiles. For example, in his gospel we hear the gospel of the Good Samaritan and the story of grateful leper who is a Samaritan (Lk 17:11-19).

Additionally, Luke's gospel also places particular emphasis on the poor. In his gospel, we have Mary's *Magnificat* where she tells us that God has brought down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. Mary proclaims that the rich are sent away empty and the hungry are filled with good things.

Furthermore, Luke's gospel emphasizes God's mercy and the forgiveness of sins. For example, in chapter 15 there is the famous parable of the prodigal son who is welcomed back by his father.

Moreover, Luke's gospel emphasizes the role of Mary in salvation. For example, we hear about the Annunciation with Mary's "yes" and her visit to Elizabeth where we are given one of our most well-known and beloved prayers, the "Hail Mary."

After Paul's death, we do not know what happened to Luke. Some writers say that he was martyred, while others say he lived a long life. There is a tradition that Luke died in Greece at the age of 84.

Luke is often depicted with the icon of a winged ox because his gospel opens and concludes in the Temple, the place of sacrifice. The wings, for their part, symbolize that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to travel through the world.

Finally, Luke is the patron of the medical profession. Given that his symbol is an ox, he is also the patron of butchers. Today, we give thanks to God for Luke's beautiful writings and his remarkable faith. St. Luke, pray for us!