



Apostle and Evangelist Luke

Feast day Oct. 18

St. Luke appears in his icon his large forehead is symbolic of great wisdom. St. Luke was a man of many talents who remained a bachelor, devoting himself entirely to serving Christ. His fellow apostle, St. Paul called him the "glorious physician." St. Luke came from the city of Antioch, Syria, but was a Roman and an early convert to Christianity. In addition to being a physician, he was a missionary, an iconographer, a linguist and writer who possessed historical clarity and great expression as seen in the Gospel and the Book of Acts which are attributed to his writings. He is the patron saint of physicians and artists.

Troparion in tone 5

Let us praise with sacred songs the Holy Apostle Luke,

The recorder of the Joyous Gospel of Christ,
And the scribe of the Acts of the Apostles,
For his writings are a testimony of the Church of Christ:
He is the Physician of human weaknesses and infirmities.
He heals the wounds of our souls,
And constantly intercedes for our salvation!

Kontakion in tone 4

You became a disciple of God the Word,
With Paul you enlightened all the world,
Casting out its darkness by composing the Holy Gospel of Christ.



*Apostle and Evangelist
Luke, the first iconographer*

The holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostle and Evangelist Luke is the [author](#) of the [Gospel of Luke](#), the companion of the Apostle Paul ([Phil](#) 1:24, [2 Tim](#) 4:10-11), and is numbered among the [Seventy Apostles](#). He was a native of Syrian [Antioch](#) and a physician, and is the founder of [iconography](#).

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 pointed out by St. [Irenaeus](#). His [feast days](#) are celebrated on [October 18](#); on [April 22](#) with Apostles [Nathaniel](#) and [Clement](#); on [June 20](#) on which day his [relics](#), among others, were translated to the [Church of the Holy Apostles](#) in Constantinople; and on [January 4](#), the [synaxis](#) of the Seventy.

[Saint](#) Luke, was of Greek origin born in the Hellenistic city of Antioch, [\[1\]](#) and was extremally educated. His studies included Greek philosophy, medicine, and art in his youth. He was also a professional physician. St. Luke came to Jerusalem where he came to believe in the [Lord](#). He and [Cleopas](#) met the [resurrected](#) Lord on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24).

After [Pentecost](#), Luke returned to Antioch and worked with the Apostle Paul, traveling with him to Rome, and [converting Jews](#) and [pagans](#) to the Christian Faith. "Luke, the beloved physician, ... greets you," writes the Apostle Paul to the Colossians ([Colossians](#) 4:14). At the request of Christians, St. Luke wrote his [Gospel](#) in the first century. According to some accounts this [took](#)

[place](#) around 60 A.D., and according to others around 80 A.D. After St. Paul's [martyrdom](#), St. Luke preached the Gospel throughout Italy, Dalmatia, Macedonia, and other regions. He painted icons of the Most-holy Theotokos—not just one, but three—as well as icons of the Holy Apostles [Peter](#) and Paul. For this reason, St. Luke is considered the founder of Christian iconography. In his old age, he visited Libya and Upper Egypt; from Egypt he returned to Greece, where he continued to preach and convert many with great zeal despite his age.

In addition to his Gospel, St. Luke wrote the [Acts of the Apostles](#) and dedicated each of these works to Theophilus, the governor of Achaia. Luke was 84 years old when the wicked idolaters tortured him for the sake of Christ and hanged him from an olive tree in the town of Thebes, in Beothia of Greece [\[2\]](#).

St. Luke wrote the first [icon](#), of the Most Holy [Theotokos](#) Directress or Hodigitria, mentioned in the [Paraklesis](#) to the Theotokos:

Speechless be the lips of impious ones,
Those who do not reverence
Your great icon, the sacred one
Which is called Directress,
And was depicted for us
By one of the apostles,
Luke the Evangelist.
—[The Service of the Small Paraklesis \(GOARCH\)](#)

Source: http://orthodoxwiki.org/Apostle_Luke