



Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2022



Take your Pulse

What is your most cherished Christmas memory?

Which Christmas was the saddest for you?

Today's Reading

Luke Chapter 3

These two men whose birth stories filled the previous two chapters are now adults, and their work has begun. John's ministry is summarized with brief excerpts from his typical sermons and the description of this baptizing work. We learn his fate is to be imprisoned by Herod, as John spoke out against Herod for many evil acts, including marrying his brother's wife—and mind you, his brother was still alive at the time. Jesus is baptized, though Luke doesn't give much attention to the moment, beyond the Holy Spirit descending upon him and the voice from heaven. This matches Matthew's and Mark's stories as well. The list of Jesus' ancestors is listed in this chapter. It is interesting that John is quoted as saying, "Do not say we have Abraham as our ancestor" and then Luke proceeds to show us that Jesus has Abraham as an ancestor.



Start the Thinking

John is arrested and imprisoned because he is loudly protesting against the evils of the ruler of his people. We hear of protestors today who are willing to take a stand, even if it means they get arrested for it. What is a position you would be willing to stand up for, and to be loudly vocal about, even if it meant you would be arrested?



Conversing with God

O Holy God, the new life you offer comes with a great responsibility toward our neighbor. You call us to share what we have, to be satisfied with what we receive, and to prepare ourselves for the cleansing of the Holy Spirit. Strengthen us to live the new life you offer, that all may come to know your goodness. In Jesus' holy name we pray, Amen.



Be blessed

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.