Documentarian Luke

How fortunate it is for our understanding of Jesus’ life that Luke was a physician! Physicians, after all, had to be literate and well schooled in knowledge of the natural world. Luke would need to know, for example, how to identify and use plants medicinally to treat various human maladies. For his time and place, Luke would have been the closest thing to a modern day scientist. We can easily imagine him as inherently inquisitive, one driven to get to the bottom of things. So when Luke became a follower of Jesus, he clearly deemed it important to document the amazing life of his Lord and Savior. For Luke 1, we can envision him interviewing Jesus’ mother Mary to learn details of angel Gabriel’s visits to her and to priest Zechariah, both of whom were told by the angel to expect the birth of exceptional sons. Nowhere outside of Luke’s gospel are the finer details of Jesus’ and John the Baptist’s earthly origins revealed. As we take our advent journey through Luke, try to imagine Luke’s work to discover the narrative of his gospel. Let’s thank God for Luke’s dedication as a detective and a reporter! Amen!