

Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: TIS 684, TIS 591, MP 746, MP 528, vv1,2,5,6)

Sunday 9am: Family Service (also streamed via ZOOM*)

(Hymns: MP 729, MP 375, MP 1151, TIS 52)

* <https://zoom.us/j/7210725462> or by telephone (07 3185 3730, meeting ID 721 072 5462).
Contact the office for the password.


We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Rev'd Timothy writes...

In today's gospel reading we hear of Jesus going 'into the wilderness'. We have many images of wilderness in our minds. For some it is a place of desolation, of bareness, of trial. For others it is a place of recreation, of appreciation of the created order. But in the biblical interpretation, it is a place of preparation. The account by the writer of the gospel of Matthew is placed at the start of Jesus' ministry after his baptism and echoes similar stories from the Old Testament such as those of Noah, Moses or Elijah who prepared in a wilderness situation for the next stage of their journey with God.



So in essence, the 'wilderness' is not an end, but a journey with a destination. As we travel through the wilderness of Lent, whether we find it a place of desolation, or of rest, we do so in the knowledge that through it we are preparing to experience the joys of Easter.



annual MEETING

Our Annual Parish Meeting is TODAY, Sunday 22nd February at 10.30am in St Luke's Church. It will also be possible to participate in this meeting by Zoom (using the same credentials as are used for our streaming of services).

The Annual Report book is available in church and a link to an online copy was sent last Sunday.

Lent at St Luke's

As we travel through Lent, here are some of the ways in which we aim to add meaning to our journey:

Sunday services: I invite you all to arrive early for our Sunday services. I will ring a bell and read the sentence of the day five minutes before the service is due to commence, and then encourage you to sit silently in prayer until we sing the opening hymn. If you arrive after this time, please enter quietly.

Every Wednesday at 9.30am: Eucharist at St Luke's (St Luke's Connect on the last Wednesday of the months).

Tuesdays 10am or Thursdays 7pm, starting 17/19 February: Lent study group using the book "Uncharted Territory" by Rev'd Dr Canon Fran Grimes (in the Boardroom).



Readings for the First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7 The garden story reflects both gift and freedom: God entrusts humanity with the care of creation, yet temptation leads us to reach beyond what sustains life. Even in our failure, God remains present, calling us back to relationship.

Psalms 32 Forgiveness is pictured as release: silence and denial suffocate, but honest confession opens space for joy. God is not eager to condemn, but to heal.

Romans 5:12–19 Paul's sweeping vision contrasts Adam's trespass with Christ's gift. The story of human brokenness is not the final word; grace overflows, tipping the scales toward life.

Matthew 4:1–11 In the wilderness, Jesus refuses shortcuts to power, pride, or self-preservation. His trust in God shows that real strength lies in vulnerability, faithfulness, and love.

First reading

A reading from the book of Genesis

^{2:15} The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' ² The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³ but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die." ' ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to

the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalms 32

¹ Blessed are those whose sin is forgiven: whose transgression is pardoned.

² Blessed are those the Lord has cleared of guilt: in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³ While I kept silent my bones wasted away: I anguished all the day long.

⁴ Your hand was heavy upon me day and night: my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

⁵ I acknowledged to you my sin: my failure I did not conceal.

⁶ I said, 'Let me confess my transgressions to the Lord':

and you forgave the failure of my sin.

⁷ Thus let all the faithful pray to you in time of need:

surely heavy floods shall not reach them.

⁸ For you are my hiding place, you shelter me from trouble:

you surround me with songs of deliverance.

⁹ 'Let me guide and direct you on your way:

let me counsel you as I watch over you.

¹⁰ 'Be not like a horse or mule, lacking insight:

whose advance must be curbed with bit and bridle.'

¹¹ Many troubles beset the wicked: kindness surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

¹² Rejoice in the Lord and be glad you righteous:

shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Psalm Copyright © Matthew P. Anstey. All rights reserved. These psalms are being trialled and we invite you to submit feedback online at www.ansteypsalter.com

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Romans

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³ sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law.

¹⁴ Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was

to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass.

For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:12-21

Gospel Reading

A reading from the gospel of Matthew

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

³ The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these

stones to become loaves of bread.'

⁴ But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." '

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

⁷ Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." '

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹ and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Matthew 4:1-11

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Word for the Day

The readings today take us into the wilderness, not as a punishment, but as a place of encounter. In Genesis, Adam and Eve discover the weight of choice. The garden's abundance is enough, yet the whisper of 'more' draws them away from trust.

Psalms 32 reminds us that the heaviest burdens are often the ones we hide. Silence eats away at us, but honesty brings release. Forgiveness isn't about shame; it's about the joy of walking lightly again.

Paul, in Romans, sets Adam and Christ side by side. Where one choice brought alienation, another brought grace overflowing. The wilderness of sin is not the final horizon. God's generosity tilts the scales toward life.

Jesus, led by the Spirit, hungers in the desert. The temptations he faces are not trivial. They are the deep human longings for security, recognition, and control. But Jesus shows us that true life is found in dependence on God, not in clinging to power.

Wilderness is where illusions fall away. It is where we learn what really sustains us, not bread alone, not pride or prestige, but the steady voice of God's love. Lent invites us to enter our own wilderness spaces, trusting that grace will meet us there.

This week, may we not fear the desert. May we find in it wisdom, freedom, and the presence of the One who walks with us.

Ideas for Reflection

- Where do you notice the wilderness—a place of uncertainty, a stripping back, honesty, or longing—in your own life right now?
- What 'stones'—burdens, temptations, pressures, or illusions—are weighing you down? What might it look like to place one of them in God's hands this week?
- In Genesis, the whisper of 'more' draws humanity from trust. Where do you feel tempted by shortcuts, quick fixes, or the illusion of control?
- Psalm 32 reminds us that silence can suffocate. What truth or confession in your life might bring release if brought into the light?
- Lent invites us to ask: What truly sustains me? What is the 'bread' you reach for when your spirit feels hungry? What word, presence, or practice of God nourishes you most deeply?
- Paul speaks of grace tipping the scales toward life. Where might you be invited to lean into grace rather than guilt, fear, or self-reliance?
- Jesus refuses power, prestige, and self-protection. What practices help you choose faithfulness over fear, and love over pride?

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Anstey Psalter Trial

From this week until Easter Day, we will be participating in the second trial of a new liturgical psalter being translated by The Reverend Associate Professor Matthew Anstey from the Diocese of Adelaide.



Psalms have been part of worship for both Jews and Christians for millennia, and a psalter is a translation that is suitable for reading or singing in such contexts. The new psalter is being translated from the original Hebrew, taking into account the latest scholarship to produce a text that is comprehensible to contemporary English speakers, sensitive to contemporary cultural and ecclesial contexts and conveys an aesthetically pleasing rhythm and prosody.

Feedback is encouraged at www.ansteypsalter.com where you can also find more information about the project.

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

Thank you to all who came to the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner last week. It was great to use our new hall for our first parish function. The folk from Kofi Club did a wonderful job providing us with delicious food. A profit of \$677 was made.



For our Prayers

Prayer for the day

Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet did not sin: give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your will, that, as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The World

Continue to pray for those affected by the ongoing wars in Ukraine, Gaza and elsewhere, and for international bodies seeking to bring justice and peace.

The Anglican Communion

The Church of Ireland

The Diocese of Sydney: †Kanishka Raffel; Assistant Bishops – †Peter Hayward, †Christopher Edwards, †Peter Lin, †Michael Stead, †Malcolm Richards, †Gary Siew Leong Koo; Clergy and People

The Parish of Quilpie:

Anglicare SQ Southport Respite Centre

St John's College UQ: Warden – Rose Alwyn; Chaplain – Samuel Dow; Chair of Council – John Peden; members of College Council; staff & students

Our missionary partners

David and Zoë Browne, Bush Church Aid in Gladstone.

Local Schools and colleges

Marshall Road Primary, Salisbury Primary, Yeronga Primary

Our parish

As we hold our Annual Meeting, give thanks for the blessings of the year past, and pray for all that the next year will bring.

*** Those who are sick, frail or emotionally stressed**

Sandy Tonello, Ryan, Sharon L, Rev'd Shane, Mary Bickerdike, David F, Peter G, Lauren, Honor.

From the Parish Book of Remembrance

22 February: Roma Dawn Trovas; 23 February: Keith Harold Miles; 24 February: Betty Cairns; 25 February: Dorothy Maud Hamilton, Hazel Eileen McLean; 26 February: Vivian Henry Blakeney Phipps; 27 February: Howard Geoffrey Sinden; 28 February: Loane Lilley; 29 February: Delle Joy Stinton.

* Note that our prayer list for those who are sick has been revised, only including those whose names were resubmitted. If you know of anyone else who, with their permission, would like to be added to the list, please email or phone the parish office.

St Luke's Connect

The next St Luke's Connect will be held on Wednesday, 25th February from 9.30am. Service of Holy Communion followed by morning tea. All welcome.

This month: "School Tales"; bring a story to share.

Children's Church

Children's Church for 2026 continues today and throughout school terms
All welcome



Containers for Change

Donate your '10c refund' bottles and cans to St Luke's. Either bring them to church or take them direct to TOMRA (9/655 Toohey Road, Salisbury) and use the parish code: C10686424

Services This Week:

Tuesday—Friday

6pm: Evening Prayer (Zoom)

Tuesday 24th February

1.30pm: Holy Communion at Regis Salisbury

Wednesday 25th February

9.30am: Holy Communion at St Luke's

Sunday 1st March 2026

(Second Sunday in Lent)

7am: Holy Communion (St Luke's)

9am: Family Communion and Children's Church (St Luke's/Zoom)

Readings: Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

Also part of St Luke's:

**Little Angels
Tarragindi**

Anglican Childcare
opening soon:

littleangels.qld.edu.au



St Luke's Theatre Society:
stlukestheatre.asn.au

Keep in touch:

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 admin@stlukesekibin.org.au (Office)

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Parish Wardens:

Brian Wood (0466 656 149)

Alison Lampe (0408 183 701)

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Offerings:

Bank details
(internet banking):
Anglican Parish of Ekibin
A/C 0000 7820
BSB 704 901



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