



Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday 7 am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: TIS 586, For the healing of the nations, MP 106, MP 188)

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

(Hymns: TIS 547, MP 88, MP 626, MP 744)

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

You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Psalm 86.15

Rev'd Timothy writes...

Our Old Testament reading this week is the story of Jacob's vision of a ladder from earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending. When I went searching for a graphic to put alongside this paragraph, I was presented with images of an exercise machine akin to a treadmill where one climbs without ever moving, the electric arcs that continually move above the head of Frankenstein's monster, any number of flights of steps in parks, including the one from Edward and Turbot streets to Wickham Terrace in Brisbane, and references to the famous Led Zeppelin song! When finally I found some biblical inspired images, they included medieval icons of believers trying to ascend, with demons biting their ankles to bring them back down.



The metaphors here seems to pose hard questions. Is the path between earth and heaven never ending? Is it something that is hard to traverse (the Brisbane steps were originally just a steep dirt track)? Is it something that can be bought?

But in the history of biblical interpretation the message is more hopeful, and I eventually found a modern painting that illustrated this for me. One Jewish interpretation of Jacob's Ladder sees the angels as representing the exiles that would suffered before the coming of the messiah. Only the last angel makes it to the clouds; but they do, signifying that there would be an end to the suffering. Another interpretation suggests that the place where Jacob has his dream was actually Moriah, the location of the future temple in Jerusalem, the 'bridge' between heaven and earth.

In Christian interpretation, one cannot go past John 1:51, where Jesus tells Nathanael that he will "see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." The rock that Jacob used a pillow can be seen as Christ (in 1 Corinthians 10:4, Paul says that the spiritual rock that their ancestors followed was Christ). Hence the message is that the way between earth and heaven is opened and mediated by Jesus. There is movement both ways on the ladder.

And the promise that this image gives, is open to all. Jacob was a morally dubious character (recall our reading last week where he swindled his brother), but yet he received this vision, and he played a pivotal part in the story of God's people.

Readings for the 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10–19a On the run, alone, and unsure of what lies ahead, Jacob finds himself in a vulnerable place. There, he encounters God in a way he does not expect and receives a promise of presence. What seems ordinary becomes a place of holy encounter.

Psalms 139: 1–12, 23–24 What Jacob encounters in one place, the psalmist knows to be true in all places: God knows us deeply and is present with us wherever we go. There is no place we can be beyond God's care. To be fully known by God is also to be deeply loved and gently held.

Romans 8:12–25 From the psalmist's assurance of being known and held, Paul speaks of life in the Spirit as a relationship with God. We are named as children of God, invited to live with trust and hope as part of that belonging.

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 This parable, one of a series about the reign of God, invites us to ponder its meaning. It speaks of a hopeful trust in God's way, where what is growing may be unclear, yet remains held within the promise of God's unfolding reign

First reading (7am & 9am)

A reading from the book Genesis

¹⁰Jacob left Beersheba and went towards Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I

am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' ¹⁶Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' ¹⁷he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

¹⁸Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹He called that place Bethel.

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalms 139:1-11,23-24

¹ O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:
you know when I sit or when I stand, you comprehend my thoughts long before.

² You discern my path and the places where I rest:
you are acquainted with all my ways.

³ For there is not a word on my tongue:
but you, Lord, know it altogether.

⁴ You have encompassed me behind and before:
and have laid your hand upon me.

⁵ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
so high that I cannot endure it.

⁶ Where shall I go from your spirit:
or where shall I flee from your presence?

⁷ If I ascend into heaven you are there:
if I make my bed in the grave you are there also.

⁸ If I spread out my wings towards the morning:
or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

⁹ Even there your hand shall lead me:
and your right hand shall hold me.

¹⁰ If I say 'Surely the darkness will cover me:
and the night will enclose me',

¹¹ The darkness is no darkness with you,
but the night is as clear as the day:
the darkness and the light are both alike.

²³ Search me out, O God, and know my heart:
put me to the proof and know my thoughts.

²⁴ Look well lest there be any way of wickedness in me:
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

Second Reading (7am only)

A Reading from the book of Romans

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³ not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Gospel reading

A reading from the gospel of Matthew

²⁴He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” ²⁸answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” ²⁹he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ‘

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ ³⁷He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

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Word for the Day

God’s presence is felt in many ways through today’s readings.

Jacob discovers it in an unexpected place, the psalmist speaks of being fully known, and Paul describes a life held in relationship with God.

Together, they remind us that we are not alone—that even in times of uncertainty or distance, we are known and accompanied. And perhaps, as we notice this more deeply, we may find ourselves living with a growing trust in the One who holds us.

Ideas for Reflection

- As you reflect, you may wish to hold this alongside your responses: to be fully known by God is also to be deeply loved and gently held.
- When have you felt that God was particularly close to you?

- When have you felt the absence of God?
- Are there times when you would rather not have God around?
- What was different between the situations above?
- What image comes to your mind when you think of your relationship with God?
- Paul contrasts the roles of an enslaved person and a child. What difference does it make to be the child of God rather than the slave of God?

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Parish Camp 2026

Our Parish Camp is on again this year at the Glengarry Boy's Brigade site by the beautiful Lake Atkinson. It is on from Saturday morning 1st August to Sunday afternoon 2nd August (or come just for a day). We have kept our prices the same as last year.



Book NOW via trybooking.com/DNHKI (or via booking form available in church).

Pray with David and Zoë Browne in Gladstone

David and Zoë are our link missionaries with BCA in Gladstone. They write:



Give thanks for the 40th birthday celebrations of St Peter's this month; a testament to faithful service and God's provision. As the weather gets colder, pray for Soup Kitchen diners and people without accommodation.

Mission to Seafarers

Thank you to Margaret Sheehan which Brian delivered last week.

Mission to Seafarers Brisbane have produced their latest newsletter. Read it here: tinyurl.com/MTS-Brisbane-2026-Q2



Join the choir attending Evensong at Holy Trinity Anglican Church this Sunday 19th July, 6:00pm.

To catch the bus, meet in St Luke's carpark by 4:55pm to catch the 5:05pm 120 bus.

To carpool, meet in the St Luke's carpark so we can leave by 5:20pm latest.

For more information, call Brian on 0466 656149.

For our Prayers

Prayer for the day

Saving God, in Jesus Christ you opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The World

Pray that the warring factions in the Middle East will return to the negotiation table.

The Anglican Communion

The Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

The Diocese of Perth: †Kay Goldsworthy; Assistant Bishops – †Kate Wilmot, †David Bassett, †Hans Christiansen; Clergy and People

The Parish of St John's Cathedral: Peter Catt, Julia Van Den Bos, Jessica Grant, Ann Solari, Gemma Dashwood, Jamee-lee Callard, Ray Clifton, John Morgan, Mary Roberts, Alwyn Hayes, Alan Sandaver, Libbie Crossman, Linda McWilliam, Bruce Boase, Nicole Colledge, Ann McGuinness, Paul Mitchell, Stewart Perry, George Markotsis, †Bill Ray, †Doug Stevens, Eleanor Mancini, Ros Clifton, Marian Free, Ross Burnett, Greg Jenks, Gary Harch, Daniel Hobbs, Brian Hughes, Cheryl Selvage, Lauren Martin, Carol Palmer, Tim Booth, Tania Eichler, Pauline Harley, Gillian Moses, Eron Perry, David Ruthven, John Rolley, Bruce Henzell, Ruth Mathieson

Little Angels ELC, Salisbury

Toowoomba Anglican School, Toowoomba: Principal – Nick Johnstone; Chaplaincy team; Chair of School Council – Mac Drysdale; members of School Council; staff & students

Our missionary partners

The Church Missionary Society and missionaries sent from the QNNSW branch.

Local Schools and colleges

Yeronga High, Mansfield High, Holland Park High, Mt Gravatt High, Brisbane State High

Our parish

Pray for the diocesan property team and the builders as the final defects are closed out on our campus.

Those who are sick, frail or emotionally stressed

Ryan, Sharon L, David F, Peter G, Lauren, Rita, Don, Margaret, Peter F., Maxine and Robyn McElnea, Glen and Rose, Mon McNeill, Ian Basham, Scott L, Tim Vassella

From the Parish Book of Remembrance

19 July: Noel Hazzard, Dorothy May Richards, Jane Elizabeth Barrett, Ross Pumpa;

21 July: Mary Dorothy Taeffe, Glennis Estelle Troy; 22 July: Iris Daisy Ekeberg; 23 July:

Janice Abbott, James Anderson; 24 July: June Audrey Black; 25 July: Harold Stabler, Kenyon Thomas Lennon, Robin Logie Wilkinson.

Children's Church

We start Children's Church again for Term 3
TODAY 19th July.



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**

Also part of St Luke's

**Little Angels
Tarragindi**

Anglican Childcare
opening soon:

littleangels.qld.edu.au



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

Services This Week:

Tuesday-Friday

6pm: Evening Prayer on Zoom

Sunday 26th July:

9th Sunday after Pentecost

7am: Holy Communion at St Luke's

9am: Family Communion at St Luke's
with Children's Church

*Readings: Genesis 29:15-28, Psalm 105:1-11,
Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:44-58*

Keep in touch:

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Parish Warden:
Brian Wood (0466 656 149)

Offerings:

Bank details (internet banking):

Anglican Parish of Ekibin

A/C 0000 7820

BSB 704 901

Or scan the **QR
code** to give
online:



[https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/TIM/?
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