



Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday 7 am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: MP 50, TIS 607, MP 132, TIS 256)

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

(Hymns: TIS 821, vv1-3, TIS 668, Will you come and follow me (The Summons), TIS 755)

*** <https://go.stlukesekibin.org.au/zoom> or by telephone (07 3185 3730, meeting ID 721 072 5462). Contact the office for the password.**

If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow him.

Rev'd Timothy writes...

One of the blessings of following the Revised Common Lectionary, is that we hear a lot of scripture read Sunday by Sunday, much more than can be addressed in a single sermon. Over the last few weeks we have been particularly looking at the gospel readings from Matthew, and in particular as to what the author is telling us about who Jesus is. But through the readings from the Old Testament we have also been given a whistle-stop tour of the ancient stories of the Israelites, stories which are foundational to the understanding of the Jews in Jesus' day, and the early church of Matthew's day.



Last week we read the birth story of Moses, one of the great inspirational leaders of the Hebrew people. We heard how he was auspiciously saved from an early death by the Pharaoh's daughter, and one would have thought that he was destined for great things. But, as is so often the way in scripture, God's way is not the expected way. Moses falls out with both the Egyptians and the Hebrews, and in this week's reading as become a nomadic shepherd literally in the back of beyond. And, when he least expects it, he sees a manifestation of God, in a burning bush that doesn't burn up. God tells him that he has a plan for the deliverance of God's people, and that Moses has been chosen to help deliver it. Moses is incredulous, but in the end acknowledges that it is God, whose holy name is 'I am' who is calling.

And this is a story that repeats itself throughout time. Think of David, a shepherd who became the great King. Or of Mary, an unmarried woman who bore Jesus. Called from the ordinary to do the extraordinary in the power of God. And God still calls people to share his plans for the world and creation.

TODAY Sunday at 9am

Today is a fifth Sunday, and so we will have a special inter-generational service at 9am with a theme of giving thanks for creation.

Our children will help lead the service and there will be interactive activities for all ages. There will be Holy Communion at that service and it will be streamed on Zoom as usual.



Readings for the 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1–15 Moses encounters God in an unexpected moment of presence. Drawn beyond fear and self-doubt, he is invited into God's work of liberation. Where might God be meeting us in the midst of our everyday lives? How might we be drawn beyond our fears into something larger than ourselves?

Psalms 105:1–6, 23–26, 45b remembers the promises and unwavering faithfulness God makes with Abraham that, in time, lead to freedom through Moses and Aaron. How might we recognise God's involvement in our own lives? In what way might this move us to praise and wonder?

Romans 12:9–21 Paul outlines the essentials of genuine Christian living, emphasising authentic love, hospitality, and patience in the face of suffering. What is it that makes these acts so radical? What might it mean for us to bless our enemies and to overcome evil with good?

Matthew 16:21–28 Jesus predicts his inevitable suffering and death in Jerusalem, then issues the radical command that true followers must deny themselves and take up their cross. How might we hear this call in our own time and place? How might Jesus' words reorient our lives and priorities?

First reading

A reading from Exodus

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' ⁵ Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' ⁶ He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God

of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' ¹¹ But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' ¹² He said, 'I will

be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

¹³ But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' ¹⁴ God said to Moses, 'I am who I am .' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you." ' ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The Lord , the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you":

This is my name for ever,
and this my title for all generations.

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 105.1-6; 105.23-26

¹ O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:
tell among the peoples what things he has done.

² Sing to him, O sing praises:
and be telling of all his marvellous works.

³ Exult in his holy name:
and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.

⁴ Seek the Lord and his strength:
O seek his face continually.

⁵ Call to mind what wonders he has done:
his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,

⁶ O seed of Abraham his servant:
O children of Jacob his chosen one.

²³ Then Israel came into Egypt:
and Jacob dwelt in the land of Ham.

²⁴ There the Lord made his people fruitful:
too numerous for their enemies,

²⁵ Whose hearts he turned to hate his people:
and to deal deceitfully with his servants.

²⁶ Then he sent Moses his servant:
And Aaron whom he had chosen.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Romans

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' ²⁰ No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.'

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:9-21

Gospel reading

A reading from the gospel of Matthew

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any

want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Matthew 16:21-28

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Word for the Day

What does it mean to carry our cross? What did it mean to Jesus' original audience? In the Roman world, the cross was not a metaphor but a public sign of shame and powerlessness. A person carrying a cross had no claim to status, reputation, or possessions—those things that often define our lives no longer carry weight.

Jesus is saying: live as though those old power games no longer define you! Dead to the power games! Dead to the reputation games! Dead to the endless pursuit of more! Dead to the instinct for constant self-preservation! And yet this dying is not the end.

This dying is also a mysterious kind of living. What was designed to be an instrument of imperial terror and public humiliation becomes a call for courageous love. What was thought to be a divine curse (Deuteronomy 21:23) is revealed to be the ultimate means of divine blessing. Jesus calls human beings to join this love-and-resurrection movement.

Imagine people like this in the world. Imagine communities like this, at home in those territories beyond fear and insecurity, learning to live with costly love.

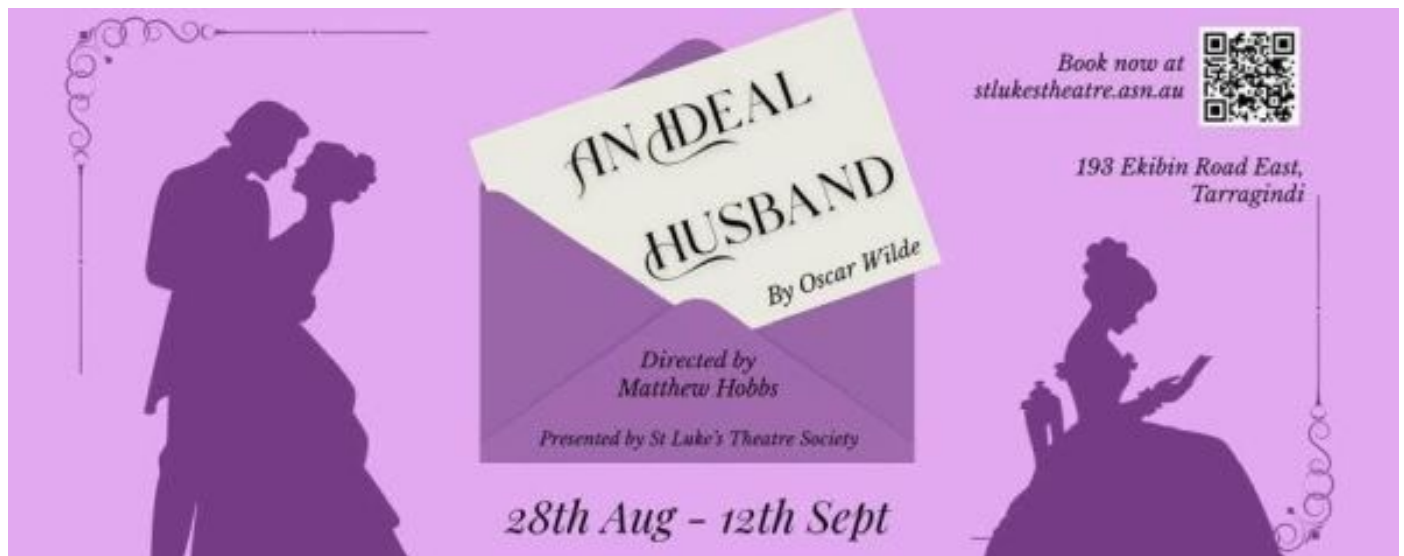
Ideas for Reflection

- Like Peter, we may resist the idea of a suffering Messiah. What stirs within you when you hear Jesus speak of the cross? Resistance? Curiosity? Hope?

- ▶ When Jesus calls his followers to take up their cross, what might he be inviting us to release—status, control, certainty, or self-protection? Where do you sense this invitation in your own life?
- ▶ The way of the cross loosens the grip of fear and opens space for courageous love. How might this shape the way we live in a culture that prizes comfort and security?
- ▶ The cross is also the way of resurrection—the promise that love is stronger than fear. Where in your life or community do you long to see that resurrection life emerging?

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St Luke's Theatre Society presents...



Book your tickets now at stluketheatre.asn.au, 0493 778 379

For our Prayers

Prayer for the day

O God, whose Son has shown the way of the cross to be the way of life: transform and renew our minds that we may not be conformed to this world but may offer ourselves wholly to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Saviour; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The World

Pray for the peoples of Nepal and Tibet affected by the ice, water and mud slide.

The Anglican Communion

The Church in the Province of the West Indies

The Parish of Buderim: Lucy Morris, Lynette Neil, John Cornish, Montague Morris, Theo Woods, Ann Shepperson

Anglicare SQ & Indooroopilly Parish: Thread Together

Our missionary partners

For the work of the Anglican Board of Mission and Anglicans in Development and the projects they support

Local Schools and colleges

Queensland University of Technology, University of Queensland, Griffith University

Our parish

Pray for our musicians as they help lead us in worship.

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, Scott L, Tim Vassella.

From the Parish Book of Remembrance

30 August: Walter James Peters, Mervyn John McDonald; *31 August:* Margaret Dorothy Campbell; *1 September:* Dorothy Anne Edwards; *5 September:* Janet Betty Bramley, Dorothy Maud Williamson

Children's Church

Children's Church continues next week, and every Sunday in school term.

Children are always welcome at our services and there is always a Children's talk at 9am Sunday.



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 6th September:

15th Sunday after Pentecost

7am: Holy Communion at St Luke's

9am: Family Service with Communion
at St Luke's
(with Zoom stream)

*Readings: Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149,
Romans 13:1-10, Matthew 18:10-20*

Keep in touch:

 priest@stlukesebibin.org.au
(Rector, Rev'd Dr Timothy Nicholson)

 admin@stlukesebibin.org.au (Office)

 families@stlukesebibin.org.au
(Children's church)

 3848 2123 (Rectory and Office)

 P.O. Box 79, Wellers Hill, QLD 4121

 www.stlukesebibin.org.au

 @stlukesebibin

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
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