

The Parable of the Weeds

Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43

19th July 2026

Loving Father, Thank You for Your patience and mercy. When we are tempted to judge others or lose hope, remind us that You are always at work. May our lives bear good fruit and reflect the light of Christ in all we do. Amen.

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

The temptation is always to pull out the weeds, to fix people, or to expect perfection from ourselves and others. Jesus offers a different way. God is patient. He sees the whole field, not just the weeds. He knows that growth takes time and that grace can transform lives. This week, resist the urge to judge quickly or become discouraged by the imperfections around you. Instead, ask how you can become good wheat, bearing the fruits of love, forgiveness, kindness, and hope. Leave judgment to God and devote your energy to becoming the person Christ calls you to be.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Psalm 86.15

Prayer of 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.

Readings

First Reading from Genesis 28.10-19a

¹⁰Jacob left Beer-sheba 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.' ¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' ¹⁷And he 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.'

¹⁸So Jacob 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; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.
Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical background: Jacob is fleeing after deceiving his brother Esau. Alone and uncertain about the future, he dreams of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven, where God renews His covenant and promises, "I am with you wherever you go."

Meaning and Relevance today: God's grace reaches us even when we feel lost, fearful, or unworthy. In times of uncertainty, we can trust that God is present and guiding our journey.

Reflection question: *Where is God inviting me to recognise His presence in my life today?*

Psalm 139.1-11; 139.23-24

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 from Romans 8.12-25

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³for 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. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For 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!' ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and 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. ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that 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. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³and 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. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Hear the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical background: Writing to the Christians in Rome, St Paul reminds them that through Christ they are adopted as God's children. Even amid suffering, they live with the hope of sharing God's future glory.

Meaning an Relevance today: Christian hope is rooted not in present circumstances but in God's promises. Faith gives us the strength to persevere, knowing that God is leading us towards a glorious future.

Reflection question: *What helps me keep hope alive when life is difficult?*

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 13.24-30; 13.36-43

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

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. ²⁷And the 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?" ²⁸He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" ²⁹But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both 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, ⁴²and they 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!

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Biblical background: Jesus tells the parable of the wheat and the weeds to explain the Kingdom of Heaven. An enemy sows weeds among the wheat, but the farmer waits until harvest so the wheat is not damaged. Jesus later explains that God alone will judge at the end of time.

Meaning and Relevance today: God is patient and merciful, allowing time for people to repent and grow in holiness. Instead of judging others, we are called to remain faithful, trusting God's justice and focusing on living as fruitful disciples.

Reflection question: *Am I spending more energy judging the "weeds" around me, or growing as the "wheat" God calls me to be?*

News & Notices

You Are Invited

Join us for the
**Official Opening
and Blessing**
of the
**St Peter's
Parish Centre**
by The Right Reverend
Jeremy Greaves
Archbishop of Brisbane



ALL WELCOME

 Saturday, 25 July |  3:00 pm |  St Peter's Anglican Church, Gympie

*Please join us as we celebrate and dedicate this new space
for the life and ministry of our parish and community.
Refreshments to follow.*

Baptism Welcome: A warm welcome to St Peter's today to **Rhyllie and her son Harrison**, who are both being baptised today and their family and friends who join them.

THIS WEEK: Sun: 8.30 am & 5.30 pm Gympie; 9.30 am Rainbow Beach |

Mon: 9.30 am Mainly Music | **Tue:** 5.00 pm Meditation | **Wed:** 12.00 noon Service

Sunday's 5.30 pm ZOOM Link: **Zoom information is the same each week**

Web address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7246788483> Meeting ID: 724 678 8483

Prayers for those in need

Jim Alford; David Arthur; Azzrah; Nicholas Barrett; Anne Brown; Pam Dorman; Jill, Holly & Alby; Joyce Gall; Allan Gall; Peter Gall; Glennys; Jenny; Lillian Lochel; Marnie Richards; Shirley Summerville; Graham and Beris Trainer; Robyn Vagg; Melodie Zylstra.

*Thanksgiving for the life of: **Randall Brown***

How to contribute to our Church financially

Deposits may be made by internet transfer from your bank direct to our Church Bank Account using the following information:

Account Name: Anglican Parish Gympie **BSB:** 704-901 **Accnt Number:** 0000 5910

Please use all the four zeros when entering the Accnt No..

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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