



**BREAKING  
OPEN**

Scripture Study

**I hear the ancient footsteps**

**November 9th, 2025**

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A weekly reflection based on the preaching at St Peter's by the Lake, Paynesville, together with a study guide based on the readings, some liturgical resources RCL Lectionary, and a weekly devotion

# INTRODUCTION

Revised Common Lectionary Related

**Pentecost 22C**

**Proper 27**

**Ordinary Sunday 32C**

Job 19.23-27a

Psalms 17.1-9

2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13-17

Luke 20.27-38



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Book of Common Prayer (1662) Collects

**G**rant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord,  
to thy faithful people pardon and peace:  
that they may be cleansed from all their sins,  
and serve thee with a quiet mind:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



What happens when a meteor streaks across the sky, shaking homes and stirring ancient fears? Considering this dramatic moment a profound meditation on faith and fear, we face the future with hope. Drawing from Job's unwavering declaration "I know that my Redeemer lives," he illuminates how genuine faith often emerges not from comfortable certainty, but from the rubble of life's challenges.

Through a rich tapestry of Scripture - from Job's defiant hope to Jesus' teaching about the God of the living - we are offered a transformative perspective: Christianity doesn't warn that the sky is falling, but proclaims that the Kingdom is coming. This beautifully connects to an eternal truth to present realities, from local emergency responders to the endurance of Indigenous peoples, from war memorials to modern-day saints.

This timely message reminds us that we're part of something larger—a continuous line of "ancient footsteps" that includes those who came before and those yet to come. The urgent call is clear: in a world trembling with uncertainty, we're invited to stand firm in resurrection hope, walking ancient paths of faith while creating footsteps for future generations to follow.

Can a falling meteor shake more than just the ground? How do unexpected events trigger our deepest fears about the end times, yet point us to an unshakeable hope? Through Job's defiant faith in the rubble and Jesus' promise of resurrection, we discover that God's story isn't about the sky falling—it's about His Kingdom coming.

Drawing parallels between ancient saints and modern-day heroes, such as local firefighters, this powerful message reveals how standing firm in faith creates a legacy of hope for future generations. It is a timely reminder that our Christian hope isn't fragile, but resurrection-shaped.

As we walk lightly on sacred ground,  
teach us Lord to make known your kingdom,  
and let this reflect in all that we do and say.

### **I hear the ancient footsteps**

Earlier this week, a meteor flashed across Victorian skies — a bright, burning streak that interrupted many who were out doing everyday Sunday afternoon activities. I felt the house shake as the boom rattled everything around me. My mind immediately turned to checking GeoAustralia to see if the land had moved, and then, the Vic Emergency app lit up, followed by the sirens going off at the CFA.

I listened to the radio call over to the tenders. “A ball of fire has fallen to the ground, and a column of smoke is being seen. The caller was on the lake and said it is not far from the jetty. Sounds like a meteorite. Approach with caution.” The only thing then heard was “Paynesville attending.”

For a moment, our feeds lit up with excitement, awe, a little humour...and that old instinct of “Is this it?!”

A modern Chicken Little moment:

### **The sky is falling!**

We’ve seen enough unsettling news lately that a streak of fire overhead touches a nerve we don’t often name.

And yet — when the meteor passed, there was still dawn.

The lake still held its morning calm.

Magpies still practised their carols.

And, had danger come, our CFA and SES stood ready — as they have through storm, fire, and flood, again and again.

In a world that trembles sometimes,

We are sustained by people who stand firm,

and by a God who does not abandon His creation.

### **A world afraid of endings**

There is fear in our age

- fear of upheaval,
- fear of loss,
- fear that the world is tipping,
- fear that the future is dimmer than the past.

But Scripture today tells a different story.

### **Job — Hope in ruins**

From the dust, Job whispers through pain:

“I know that my Redeemer lives.”

Not a tidy creed.

Not the voice of someone who has it all together.

This is faith in the rubble — hope not as denial but defiance:

“And I shall see God.”

Last week, at the end of the recalling of names, we read the Kontakion of the Dead. I like to use this at memorials. It is a song of defiance to this current age. It is a hope that looks beyond the grave and all that has been before. Definitely, all of us are encouraged to make our song of defiance to death: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Indeed, give rest, O Christ,  
to your servants with your saints,  
where sorrow and pain are no more,  
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

### **Psalms — Awake to God**

The Psalmist echoes Job:

“Keep me as the apple of your eye...

And when I awake, I shall see your likeness.”

Not fantasy —

**trust.**

### **Paul — Stand Firm**

Paul writes to a worried church:

“Do not be quickly shaken or alarmed...

Stand firm.”

Not escapism.

Not panic.

But **steadfast discipleship.**

### **Jesus — God of the Living**

Jesus meets the Sadducees’ cynicism:

Life does not end in human categories.

Resurrection is not bureaucracy.

**God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.**

### The Christian vision of “the end”

The Christian faith does not say:

                                  The sky is falling.  
It says:                   The Kingdom is coming.  
Not collapse —  
                                  communion.  
Not fear —  
                                  fulfillment.  
Not destruction —  
                                  God making all things new.

### Our ancient footsteps

Bob Dylan once sang:

“I hear the ancient footsteps  
like the motion of the sea...”

That line carries the very spirit of All Saints:

- \* footsteps of those who came before us,
- \* footsteps beside us today,
- \* footsteps yet to come.

Ancient faith, present witness, future hope.

Here in Gippsland, we walk on land shaped by ancient footsteps —  
First Peoples who tended Country, whose culture and spirit have  
endured through deep suffering, and whose voice we honour even  
now in a time when Treaty hopes have been granted in our State  
Parliament.

**When steps falter,**

**We honour what has been begun,**

**And we keep walking.**

Because Gospel hope does not abandon the future —

**It creates one.**

### Remembrance

And this week we move toward 11 November.

Ancient footsteps again —  
names carved in town cenotaphs,  
in church rolls of honour,  
in memory gardens,  
and in our hearts.

Not glorifying war,  
but honouring courage, grief, and devotion to peace.

Life cherished.  
Sacrifice honoured.  
Peace prayed for still.

So today our readings call us to five truths:

1. Faith is defiance against meaninglessness  
— **Job, speaking hope in the dust**
2. Resurrection is real  
— **Jesus: God of the living**
3. The end is not terror  
— **but Kingdom, communion, Christ**
4. Stand firm, don't be shaken  
— **like CFA & SES in crisis,**  
**like saints who held the line,**  
**like those who strive for justice, truth, and peace**
5. Our footsteps matter  
— **We walk with those before and those to come**

### Conclusion

So yes, meteors streak across the sky.

Nations struggle.

Treaties are forged.

Wars rage.

Loved ones pass.

Questions remain.

But our hope is not fragile.

It is resurrection-shaped.

                                  We walk ancient paths —  
                                  companion to saints before,  
                                  alongside saints beside us,  
                                  forming footsteps for saints yet to come.

Because we know that our Redeemer lives.  
And we live to Him. Amen.

# Discussion Questions

## 1. "The Sky Is Falling" — Fear and Faith

- What does the meteor moment reveal about our instinct to fear the worst, and how does Christian faith reshape our response to sudden crises?
- When have you recently felt "the sky is falling"? How can we practise grounding our fear — whether global or personal — in trust that God's love and purpose still hold firm?

## 2. Job's Cry — Faith as Defiance

- How does Job's declaration, "I know that my Redeemer lives," embody faith as a form of defiance rather than denial?
- In your own life, what does it mean to "sing Alleluia" in the face of loss, uncertainty, or grief? Where might God be inviting you to a deeper hope amid struggle?

## 3. Stand Firm — Faithfulness in a Shaking World

- What does it mean to stand firm in faith when so much around us feels unstable or confusing?
- Who or what helps you to remain steady — like the CFA or SES do in times of crisis — when your own world trembles? How might you offer that steadiness to others?

## 4. "I Hear the Ancient Footsteps" — Walking Together

- How does recognising the ancient footsteps — saints, elders, ancestors, and those yet to come — enlarge our sense of belonging in God's story?
- What "footsteps" are you walking in today? How can you walk with reverence for those before you and hope for those who follow, whether in family, church, or community?

## 5. Resurrection and Remembrance — The End as Communion

- What difference does it make to see the "end" not as collapse, but as God's communion — the Kingdom made complete in love?
- As we approach Remembrance Day, how can remembering the dead — and honouring the living — strengthen our daily resolve to be people of peace, reconciliation, and resurrection hope?

This five-day devotional will be trekking the sermon from this weekend. It will explore the themes of faith, hope, and resilience in the face of life's uncertainties.

Each day will offer reflection, prayer, and a closer examination of the Scriptures shared during the sermon, guiding us on a journey toward understanding and embracing our steadfast God and His plans for us.



**Weekly Practice:** Begin and end each day this week with this quote from the Benedictus, Zechariah's song at the birth of his son, John the Baptist:

*"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

## Day 1 Scripture: Job 19:25

The first day of our devotional focuses on the powerful declaration of faith found in the book of Job. When faced with unimaginable loss and despair, Job remains steadfast. His words, "I know that my Redeemer lives," echo through history as a testament to hope amid ruins. Job's faith wasn't a denial of his circumstances, but a defiance against them. This is a call to trust that God's promises of redemption stand firm, even in the rubble of our lives.

Today, let us consider what it means to hold onto faith when everything around us seems to be falling apart. As we ponder Job's conviction, we are reminded of our own resilience in God's steadfast love. In life's darkest moments, faith can be a beacon, guiding us through uncertainty and fear.

- Recall a time when you relied on faith during a challenging period. How did it influence your outlook?
- What are the current areas in your life where you need to declare "I know that my Redeemer lives"?
- How can Job's unwavering faith inspire you today?
- Pray for the strength to stand firm in faith, regardless of your circumstances.
- Ask for the reassurance of God's presence during times of trouble.

## Day 2 Scripture: Psalm 17:8,15

On the second day, we delve into the comforting words of the Psalmist who prays to be kept as "the apple of your eye." This message invites us to rest in God's unwavering care. In times of distress, knowing that God treasures us



helps anchor us. The Psalmist's trust gives us a framework for understanding divine protection and intimacy.

Awakening to see God's likeness speaks to a transformational closeness with the Creator. It's about waking to the reality of God's presence every day. As we deepen our faith, we embrace a life shaped by divine influence, looking beyond trials and toward the hope found in God's eternal promises.

- Reflect on a moment when you felt God's protective presence in your life.
- Consider how knowing you are "the apple of God's eye" changes your perspective during challenging times.
- What does the idea of awakening to God's likeness mean in your daily life?
- Pray to recognise and cherish the ways God protects you each day.
- Seek God's likeness in your interactions and decisions.

### Day 3 Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:2, 15

Moving into the third day, Apostle Paul's counsel remains relevant. Writing to a community fraught with concern, he urges them to "not be quickly shaken or alarmed." His message is one of standing firm in faith, unperturbed by the chaos that might swirl around us. The Thessalonians are reminded that steadfastness is vital in discipleship, not escapism or panic.

This advice transcends time, encouraging us today to root ourselves in the teachings of Christ. Even when faced with uncertainty and doubt, a steadfast heart strengthens our walk with God, enabling us to withstand life's storms with peace and assurance.

- Think about what "standing firm" means to you in your faith journey.
- Identify challenges that tempt you to waver in faith.
- How can you apply Paul's message to remain steadfast despite external pressures?
- Pray for the resilience to maintain faith amidst societal changes and personal struggles.
- Ask for guidance in being unwavering in support for others in their faith.

### Day 4 Scripture: Luke 20:38

On our penultimate day, we join Jesus as He responds to questions about life after death, underscoring that God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. His challenge to human notions of finality offers a radical hope through

the lens of resurrection. This isn't about bureaucratic finality; it's a vibrant testament to eternal life and fulfilment.

Jesus' assurance invites us into a profound understanding of God's kingdom. Life, as seen through Jesus' teachings, transcends death, urging us to focus on a relationship with God that transforms both the present and opens pathways into eternity.

- How does viewing God as the God of the living alter your understanding of resurrection?
- Reflect on areas in your life where you need to embrace this living hope.
- What practices can help anchor you in the reality of God's resurrective power?
- Pray for a deeper appreciation of life's continuity beyond physical existence.
- Seek encouragement and courage to live fully in Christ's resurrective promise.

### Day 5 Scripture: Revelation 21:5

Our final day centres around God's promise: "Behold, I am making all things new." This revelation encapsulates the core message of the Christian faith—not collapse, but communion; not fear, but fulfilment. It's an invitation to participate in God's kingdom-building work, reminding us that our footsteps, both ancient and yet to come, matter deeply.

This vision of renewal calls us to witness and engage in God's ongoing creation. By living testament to God's promises, we partner in crafting a world that reflects His love and peace. As we complete this devotion, let us carry forward the hope and transformation it brings into our lives and communities.

- How does this vision of God making all things new inspire your current circumstances?
- What steps can you take to participate in God's renewing work?
- Reflect on how your actions today can impact change for future generations.
- Pray for the grace to see and contribute to God's renewing work in your life and community.
- Seek a refreshed spirit and commitment to God's kingdom in moving forward.

# End notes and further reading

Sacra Pagina: The Gospel of Luke (St Paul's Press) (Johnson)

Rev Dr Andrew McGowan: Andrew's Version: <https://substack.com/@abmcg>

David Adams, Glimpses of Glory, Year C

The following authors as featured at The Worship Cloud

[www.theworshipcloud.com](http://www.theworshipcloud.com)

N. T. Wright,  
Jane Williams,  
P James Woodward,

Paula Gooder  
Mark Pryce,  
David Perry

## Brabarlung Totem

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