

Bouquet Caboodle



Highland Lectionary Series

August 2, 2026

The Face of God

Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15;

Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Today's Big Idea

How do we go after what we want in life? We can scheme our way forward or we can be God-carried. The latter doesn't guarantee what we want, or does it?

Jacob's Wrestling Match

The "cheater's" escapades come round again

In every case, grace or consequence follows all of us

Fleeing Laban, waiting for Esau: Genesis 31-32:21

A wrestling match to break the manipulation cycle: Genesis 32:22-32

Wrestle instead for His blessing: choosing God as the source of happiness

A dance between naming, surrendering, receiving, recalibrating

Each pathway requires a kind of tenacity

The ultimate blessing: standing before God face to face: Genesis 32:30

The Face of God in the OT

Abraham's three visitors in Genesis 18; Manoah and Zorah in Judges 13

Moses' denied request in Exodus 33:17-23

Job's dismay in Job 42:5-6; The Psalmist trusts it to be so in Psalm 17:15

The "Bread of the Face": Exodus 25:23-30

The Face of God in the NT

Encountering the Bread of the Face in the person of Jesus, the Bread of Life

Feeding 5000: those who see His face shall live

The clearest view of face of God is on the cross

Conclusion: Letting Desire Lead to the Wrestling Mat

Let's Make a Deal: Choosing what is behind door Jesus

The tragedy of Paul's former associates

The Bread of the Face

The Key Excerpts for This Week's Thematic Thread

<i>Genesis 32:22-31</i>	<i>Psalms 17:1-7, 15</i>	<i>Romans 9:1-5</i>	<i>Matthew 14:13-21</i>
22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. 24 Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." 31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.	1 Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit. 2 From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right. 3 If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress. 4 As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent. 5 My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped. 6 I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words. 7 Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries, at your right hand. 15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.	9 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— 2 I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. 4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; 5 to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.	13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." 16 Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." 17 They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." 18 And he said, "Bring them here to me." 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.