



Advent Day 7 (written by Deb Bakken)

Ladder

Genesis 28:12-15

He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." (NIV 1984)

Ladders are mostly used for getting up to places you can't reach from where you are standing. Sometimes a ladder is actually more important for going down to get to a safe place. If a building is on fire, a fireman uses a ladder to bring people down to safety.

In Jacob's dream, angels were going up and down the stairway or ladder that went up to heaven. God sent the angels to comfort Jacob at a time when he was concerned about his future. God's words from the top of the stairway told about the Savior who would come down the ladder to save people from their sins. God said, "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring." God also promised to take care of Jacob on his journey.

We know that our sins keep us from climbing a ladder to God. God only lets those who are holy enter heaven. We are thankful that Jesus came down the ladder to be one of us. His holy life and innocent death took away our sins. In Jesus, we are now holy, too. Jesus' resurrection guarantees our life with God in heaven.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for the angels who watch over our way on earth and for Jesus who makes our way to heaven. Amen.