



St Benedict's Episcopal Church
Los Osos, California
~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

THE 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Season of Creation: ABUNDANCE

September 12, 2021 – 8:00 AM SERVICE

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your faith journey, there's a warm welcome for you here!

Celebrant: *We* gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer,
and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!

People: *Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life,
Creator of the Universe, Source of all life.*

(Hildegard of Bingen)

All: *Holy and Life-Giving Spirit, You know our innermost thoughts even
before they break through into consciousness; You teach us how to pray. Breathe your
breath into our hearts and minds this morning. Prepare us for worship, that our thoughts
may turn to you and our hearts bow down in grateful praise of God - Creator, Word and
Holy Spirit, Amen.*

Canticle D

A Song of the Wilderness

Isaiah 35:1-7,10

*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, *
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
It shall blossom abundantly, *
and rejoice with joy and singing.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, *
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weary hands, *
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear!" *
Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, *
and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.
Then shall the lame leap like a deer, *
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness *
and streams in the desert;
The burning sand shall become a pool *
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.
The ransomed of God shall return with singing, *
with everlasting joy upon their heads.
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, *
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Blessed are you, O God of all creation; with you is the well of life:

People: *And in your light we shall see light.*

All: *God our Creator, who laid the foundations of the earth and stretched out the heavens as a tent cloth; how glorious is your name in all the world. Give us grace to wonder at your gift, to treasure the earth and to work for its protection and renewal; through Jesus Christ who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit One God now and for ever. Amen.*

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

—A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to all Israel: For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

—Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

Psalm 19

The sky tells the glory of God, tells the genius of God's work.
Day carries the news to day, night brings the message to night.

without a word, without a sound, without a voice being heard,
yet their message fills the world, their news reaches its rim.

There God has pitched a tent for the sun to rest and rise renewed
like a bridegroom rising from bed, an athlete eager to run the race.

It springs from the edge of the earth, runs a course across the sky
to win the race at heaven's end. Nothing on earth can escape its heat.

God's perfect law revives the soul. God's stable rule guides the simple.
God's just demands delight the heart God's clear commands sharpen vision.

God's faultless decrees stand for ever.
God's right judgments keep their truth.

Their work is more than gold, the purest gold;
their taste richer than honey, sweet from the comb.

Keeping them makes me rich, they bring me light;
yet faults hide within us, forgive me mine.

Keep my pride in check, break its grip;
I shall be free of blame for deadly sin.

Keep me, thought and word, in your good grace.
Lord, you are my savior, you are my rock.

The Psalter © 1994 Liturgy Training Publications

Revelation 22:1-5

— *A reading from the Revelation to John*

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

— *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.*

Matthew 6:25-34

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According to Matthew

People: *Praise and Glory to God.*

Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

Gospeller: This is the Gospel of Christ.

People: *Praise to Christ the Word*

~ ~ ~ **Reflections on the Readings** ~ ~ ~

Prayers of the People

Let us join together as we pray for all who are in sickness or in trouble, for all who grieve and all who fear. We pray especially for those for whom our prayers have been asked, and for those who are in our hearts...[Prayers are read from the bidding book; additional prayers may be offered silently or aloud.]

Compassionate God, **hear our prayer.**

*Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share;
Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of creation.
Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as family .
Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land and to hear and understand those who extract its resources.
Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities and to heal the wounds we have inflicted.
Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people and to shape beloved community.
For you are the One who seeks the lost, binds our wounds and sets us free, and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. **Amen.***

Confession and Absolution

As those who know the generosity of God let us confess our sins, especially the ways in which we take creation and God's gifts for granted.

All: ***Creator God, maker of heaven and earth,
we acknowledge our failure to live responsibly
as part of your creation.***

***We have taken what we want
without considering the consequences;
we have wasted and discarded,
without thought for the future.***

***Open our hearts and minds to the signs of our times,
to the groaning of creation,
so that we may turn from our greed and lack of vision
and see a world being made anew in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

*May the All-Compassionate God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.***

The Peace

Celebrant: **The peace of Christ be always with you.**
People ***And also with you.***

To maintain safe social distancing, please simply greet others verbally or with a bow or nod.

Collection plates are not passed, but you may put your contributions in the plate by the usher's station before the service, or at the Peace, or contribute at our website any time.

The Holy Eucharist

EDW I

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People ***We raise our hearts to God.***
Celebrant Let us thank the giver of life..
People ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***
Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy
God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

All ***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

Celebrant
Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life.
You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.
You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards
and show forth your bountiful grace.
But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves;
we would not see your goodness in the world around us;
and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.
Yet you never ceased to care for us,
and prepared the way of salvation for all people.
Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you.
You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness,
and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.
Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word,
made mortal flesh in Jesus.
Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory.
Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil,
opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:

“Take, eat:
This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

***Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.***

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Benedict, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Celebrant and People

***Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. AMEN.***

The Lord’s Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

All ***Eternal Spirit,
Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love Maker,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The Hallowing of your Name echo through the universe!
The Way of your Justice be followed by the people of the world!
Your Heavenly Will be done by all created beings!
Your Commonwealth of Peace and Freedom sustain our
hope and come on earth!
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.***

New Zealand Prayer Book

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.
A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: *We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.*

Holy Communion

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

[A period of silence is kept before joining in our final prayer.]

All: *Eternal God and Father,
by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed:
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves to your service,
and live this day in love to one another and to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.*

An Australian Prayer Book

The Blessing

May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marvelled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To reflect God's glory in creation
And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme

Announcements

Dismissal

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!*

Today's Eucharist Liturgy is from
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