



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

THE 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Season of Creation: DESOLATION

September 19, 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.*

Isaiah 5:1-10

—A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry! Ah, you who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is room for no one but you, and you are left to live alone in the midst of the land! The LORD of hosts has sworn in my hearing: Surely many houses shall be desolate, large and beautiful houses, without inhabitant. For ten acres of vineyard shall yield but one bath, and a homer of seed shall yield a mere ephah.

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

Psalms 102

Hear my prayer, Lord, let my cry reach you.

Do not turn from me in my hour of need.

When I call, listen, answer me at once.

For my days dissolve like smoke, my bones are burned to ash.

My heart withers away like grass.

I even forget to eat, so consumed am I with grief.

My skin hangs on my bones.

The Psalter © 1994 Liturgy Training Publications

Revelation 6:12-17

—A reading from the Revelation to John

When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and there came a great earthquake; the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree drops its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll rolling itself up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth and the magnates and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the

mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

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

Mark 11:12-20

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

People: ***Praise and Glory to God.***

On the following day, when they came from Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see whether perhaps he would find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. He said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard it. Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves; and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He was teaching and saying, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.” And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city. In the morning as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots.

Gospeller: This is the Gospel of Christ.

People: ***Praise to Christ the Word***

~ ~ ~ Reflections on the Readings ~ ~ ~

Prayers of the People

We give thanks for the provision that you make for us as part of your Creation, even as we acknowledge our need of your guidance and your life-giving grace, saying: Creator of Creation, open our eyes to your love.

We pray for all people of faith around the world, asking that we may have the will and the commitment to reduce the effects of global warming on all your creatures. We pray especially for the prophets, the scientists and ecologists and the politicians who make decisions on our behalf. Creator of Creation, ***open our eyes to your love.***

We pray for the nations of the world, that we may learn to cooperate for the greater good. We pray especially for those who are feeling the worst effects of climate change, those who are forced to leave their homes, for the millions of refugees and those trying to help them. Creator of Creation, ***open our eyes to your love.***

We pray for the organizations that are working to raise our awareness of the environment, and who campaign for the greater good of all beings. We pray especially for the work of our local organizations including EcoSlo, the Land Conservancy, the Sierra Club, and St. Benedict's Earthcare. Creator of Creation, ***open our eyes to your love.***

We pray for all beings whose lives are closely linked with ours, giving thanks for our companion animals and the wild ones who share our land and our neighborhoods with us. We pray especially for those species that are endangered and which face extinction. Creator of Creation, ***open our eyes to your love.***

We pray for all those who are in times of difficulty and illness, especially those who are dear to us. [Here prayers are read from the bidding book.] Please add your own prayers of intercession and thanksgiving..... Creator of Creation, ***open our eyes to your love.***

We give thanks for those who have shared life and love with us and who have gone on before. May they know the peace and joy of your New Creation. Creator of Creation, ***open our eyes to your love.***

Holy Creator, help us to see your hand at work in the world around us, and help us to become wise stewards of this small piece of your vast Creation, co-creators with you in bringing into full realization the reign of your love and the life of your kin-dom. All this we ask in the Name of your Christ in whom all things have their beginning and find their completion. 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

Eucharistic Prayer 2, EDW

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 We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you 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 Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, 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. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Benedict, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

All *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

*Lord of the harvest,
with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in Creation
and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom;
by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us
and make us wise and generous stewards of the good things we enjoy;
through your Son Jesus Christ.
Amen*

“A Time for Creation” - Church of England

The Blessing

May God the Creator who clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the birds of the air, provide you with all we need for life in its fullness. *Amen*

May God the Son, who fed the five thousand and turned water into wine, feed you with his life and transform you in his love. *Amen.*

May God the Holy Spirit who hovered over the waters of creation and formed the world from chaos form you in the likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth. *Amen*

And the blessing of the Trinity be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

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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