



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

Los Osos, California

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

THE 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Season of Creation: RESTORATION

September 26, 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*

Genesis 9:8-17

—A reading from the book of Genesis

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”
—Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.

Psalms 126

The Lord brings us back to Zion, we are like dreamers,
laughing, dancing, with songs on our lips.

Other nations say, “A new world of wonders! The Lord is with them.
Yes, God works wonders. Rejoice! Be glad!

Lord, bring us back as water to thirsty land.
Those sowing in tears reap, singing and laughing.

They left weeping, weeping, casting the seed.
They come back singing, singing, holding high the harvest.

The Psalter © 1994 Liturgy Training Publications

Romans 8:18-22

— A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now.

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

Mark 4:30-32

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

People: *Praise and Glory to God.*

Jesus said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Gospeller: This is the Gospel of Christ.

People: *Praise to Christ the Word*

~ ~ ~ Reflections on the Readings ~ ~ ~

Prayers of the People

Holy One, we give thanks for the provision that you make for us as part of your bountiful Creation, even as we acknowledge our misuse and neglect of it and our continuing 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 climate change 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. We pray for the courage to act to protect and sustain natural resources. 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 by loss of habitat and 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 3, EOW

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Celebrant All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey.

And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

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 are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

Drink this, all of you:
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

All: ***Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!***

Celebrant: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with the blessed virgin Mary, blessed Benedict, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

All: *Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you now and for 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 the everlasting God shield you, east and west and wherever you go,
And the blessing of God be upon us, *the blessing of the God of life.*
The blessing of Christ be upon us, *the blessing of the Christ of love.*
The blessing of the Spirit be upon us, *the blessing of the Spirit of grace.*
The blessing of the Trinity be upon us, now and for ever more. *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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