



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

Los Osos, California

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

THE 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Season of Creation: **WONDER**

September 5, 2021 – 8AM SERVICE

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

Officiant: *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

Officiant: 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.*

Source: "A Time for Creation: Liturgical Resources for Creation and Environment," The Church of England

The Readings from Holy Scripture

[A period of silence is kept following each reading.]

Job 38:1-11, 16-18

—A reading from the book of Job

The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?— when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped'? Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this."
— *Hear What the Spirit is Saying to God's People.*

Psalms 89:1-18

I sing your love all my days, Lord, your faithfulness, from age to age.*
I know your love is unending; your fidelity outlasts the heavens.
"I, God, covenant with my chosen one, I swear to David, my servant, *
to establish your house for ever, to uphold your throne, from age to age."
The skies tell your wonders, Lord, the stars, your constant love.*
In the heavens what equals you? What god compares with you?
Great and dreaded God, you strike terror among the holy ones.*
Who is like you, Lord of might, clothed in truth, a God of power?
You rule the storming seas, you calm the roaring waves.*
Yes! You split the sea monster and scatter your enemies.
Yours the sky, yours the earth, yours the world of creatures. *
You created north and south.
Mount Tabor and Mount Hermon sing out your name.

Yours, a mighty arm, yours, a powerful hand raised in triumph.*
Justice and right anchor your throne, fidelity and love attend you.
How your people rejoice! You summon us into your light.*
Lord, your name is our joy, and your justice, our strength.
You, our glory and power, favor us with victory,*
you the Holy One of Israel, our shield, our Lord, our king.

The Psalter © 1994 Liturgy Training Publications

Colossians 1:1-14

— *A Reading from letter to the Colossians*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

John 1:1-5

— *A Reading from John's Gospel.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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

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

Prayers of the People

Intercessor

Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

Intercessor and People

In the beginning, ***God was.***

Here and now, ***God is.***

In the future, ***God will be.***

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet. God, Giver of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it. God, Giver of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed. God, Giver of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being. God, Giver of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits. God, Giver of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict. God, Giver of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings. God, Giver of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures. God, Giver of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help.

[Prayers are read from the bidding book;
additional prayers may be offered silently or aloud.]

God, Giver of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died. God, Giver of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

Eternal God, the light of all who know you, come and fill our hearts with your love. Help us speak when many keep silent, help us stand for what is right when many sit in indifference Increase our faith and charity, until your kingdom comes and heaven and earth rejoice in everlasting glory; through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

from: Honoring God in Creation -2 by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music TEC

Confession of Sin

Officiant *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 us, forgive us all our sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power
of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.*

The Peace

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

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant *And as our Savior Christ teaches 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 General Thanksgiving

Officiant *All-compassionate God, Father of all mercies,
we your humble servants give you thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages.*

All ***Amen.***

[We pause for a moment of silence before joining in our final prayer]

Officiant Let us pray together:

***O God of our ancestors, God of our people,
Before whose face the human generations pass away:
We thank you that in you we are kept safe for ever,
and that the broken fragments of our history are gathered up
in the redeeming act of your dear Son.
Help us to walk daily in the Communion of Saints,
declaring our faith in the forgiveness of sins
and the resurrection of the body.
Now send us out in the power of your Holy Spirit
to live and work for your praise and glory. Amen.***

Anglican Church of Kenya (adapted)

The Blessing

Officiant

May God the Creator who clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the birds of the air, provide US 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 us with his life and transform us in his love. ***Amen.***

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

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

Announcements

The Dismissal.

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

[You are invited to make your offering at: <http://www.stbenslososos.org/support-us/>]