

**St Benedict's Episcopal Church
Los Osos, California**

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

**The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Christmas Day**

December 25, 2021 10am

Whoever you are and wherever you are in your faith journey,
there is a warm welcome for you here at St. Benedict's!

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: *Glory to God for ever and ever.*

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.*

Collect of the Day

Source: ICEL

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: *Today, O God of light, your loving kindness dawns, your tender compassion shines upon us, for in our Savior, born of human flesh, you reveal your gracious gift of our birth to life eternal. Fill us with wonder on this holy day: let us treasure in our hearts what we have been told, that our lives may proclaim your great and gentle mercy. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God for ever and ever. Amen*

Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

~ Hear What the Spirit is Saying to God's People.

Psalm 97

Source: The Psalter © 1994 Liturgy Training Publications

The Lord rules: the earth is eager, joy touches distant lands.
God is wrapped in thunder cloud, throned on justice, throned on right.

Fire marches out in front and burns up all resistance.
Overhead, God's lightning flares, the earth shudders to see it.

Mountains melt down like wax before the Lord, the ruler of all.
Overhead God's justice resounds, a glory all people can see.

Idolaters are the fools, they brag of empty gods.
You gods, be subject to the Lord!

Zion hears, and is happy.
The cities of Judah are joyful about your judgments, Lord.

You, Lord, you reach high in majesty above the earth,
far higher than any God.

Those who love the Lord hate evil;
God shields their faithful lives and breaks the hold of the wicked.

Light will rain down on the just, joy on the loyal heart.
Be joyous in the Lord God, you people of faith,
praise God's holy name!

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
~ *Hear What the Spirit is Saying to God's People.*

Luke 2:1-20

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

People: ***Glory to You, Lord Christ.***

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for

you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.
People: *Praise to You, Lord Christ.*

Reflection

The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall

Prayers of the People

Clouds and Glory by David Adam — © Morehouse Pub 2001

Jesus, Son of Mary, you have come among us, to be one of us. We welcome you into our homes, we welcome you into our hearts, we welcome you into our lives. Let all who come to your church worship with the shepherds, and adore you with the wise men. We pray for the time when the world may know your love and saving power. Empower your church to show forth your glory. Prince of peace, *reveal to us your glory.*

The peace of your presence be upon your troubled world, the power of your presence protect us from evil, the light of your presence scatter the darkness from before us. Give peace on earth, peace among the nations and peace in each land. Prince of peace, *reveal to us your glory.*

Fill us with wonder and awe, fill us with joy and thanksgiving, that our lives may proclaim your grace and your glory. Be known in our homes, in our lives and in all our dealings. Prince of peace, *reveal to us your glory.*

You could find no room at the inn. We remember before you all who are homeless and can find no place of rest. We pray for street children and children in care, for all who are lonely and feel neglected this Christmas, for those who will spend Christmas in the hospital, for all who are ill or in any kind of difficulty, especially those for whom our prayers have been asked...

[Prayers from the bidding book are read. The people may add additional prayers silently or aloud.]

Prince of peace, *reveal to us your glory.*

We rejoice that you became human that we might share in the Divine; you came down to lift us into your kingdom. We pray for all our loved ones departed and that we may share with them in a vision of your glory. Prince of peace, *reveal to us your glory.*

Lord Jesus Christ, may we come to worship you with the shepherds, proclaim you with the angels, seek you with the wise men, offer ourselves to you with Joseph and Mary, and rejoice in your love, Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Spirit now and for ever. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: ***God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.***

Celebrant: Almighty 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.

♪ Hymn # 111

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Blue Hymnal

The Eucharist

Scottish Episcopal Church

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: Worship and praise belong to you, Father, in every place and at all times. All power is yours. You created the heavens and established the earth; you sustain in being all that is.

In Christ your Son our life and yours are brought together in a wonderful exchange. He made his home among us that we might forever dwell in you.

Through your Holy Spirit you call us to new birth in a creation restored by love. As children of your redeeming purpose, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

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

Celebrant: Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving God, for the gift of your Son born in human flesh. He is the Word existing beyond time, both source and final purpose, bringing to wholeness all that is made.

Obedient to your will he died upon the Cross. By your power you raised him from the dead. He broke the bonds of evil and set your people free to be his Body in the world.

On the night he was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, he loved them to the end. At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:

“Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Therefore let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We now obey your Son’s command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom. Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ’s Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, St Joseph, the apostles and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters, living and departed.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ.

All: ***By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

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

All: ***Our Father in Heaven***
hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

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

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.
This is God's table, and all are welcome here.

[We pause for a few moments' reflection before joining in our final prayer.]

All: ***We praise and thank you, creator God, for you have not left us alone.***
You have come among us as Emmanuel, the promised of ages, and come to
us still in word and Spirit, in bread and cup. Make us holy, and bring us to
perfection, that when Christ comes again we may shine like lights before his
face, who with you and the Spirit lives forever. Amen

Church of England (adapted)

The Blessing

♪ Hymn # 100

"Joy to the World" [omit v 3]

Blue Hymnal

The Dismissal.