



## St Benedict's Episcopal Church

Los Osos, California

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

8:00 am - December 26, 2021

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

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

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

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 L

### A Song of Christ's Humility

*Philippians 2:6-11*

*Though in the form of God, \**

*Christ Jesus did not cling to equality with God,  
But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, \*  
and was born in human likeness.*

*Being found in human form, he humbled himself \*  
and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.*

*Therefore, God has highly exalted him \**

*and given him the name above every name,*

*That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, \**

*in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

*And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, \*  
to the glory of God the Father.*

### Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

All: Hidden God, who made the face of Moses shine with the gift of your friendship: teach us the law of love, carried by breath of spirit and planted in hearts of flesh that we might be children again and the world restored to you; through Jesus Christ, the Glory of God. *Amen.*

## Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Reader: *A Reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

## Psalms 147

Hallelujah!

How good to sing God praise! How lovely the sound!  
God rebuilds Jerusalem and gathers the exiles of Israel,  
healing the brokenhearted, binding their aching wounds.

God fixes the number of stars, calling each by name.  
Great is our God and powerful, wise beyond all telling,  
who upholds the poor but lets the wicked fall.

Sing thanks, sound the harp for our God.  
God stretches the clouds, sending rain to the earth,  
clothing mountains with green.

God feeds the cattle and young ravens when they call.  
A horse's strength, a runner's speed – they count for nothing!  
God favors the reverent, those who trust in God's mercy.

Jerusalem, give glory! Praise God with song, O Zion!  
For God strengthens your gates, guarding your children within.  
And fills your land with peace, giving you golden wheat.

God speaks to the earth, the word speeds forth.  
God sends heavy snow, scatters frost like ashes,  
And hurls chunks of hail. Who can stand such cold?

God speaks, the ice melts; God breathes, the streams flow.  
God speaks to Jacob, to Israel gives laws and decrees.  
God has not done this for others, no others receive this wisdom.  
Hallelujah!

Source: The Psalter © 1993 Liturgical Training Publications

## Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Reader: *A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians*

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had

come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: *Thanks be to God*

## **John 1:1-18**

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

People: *Praise and Glory to God.*

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. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

People: *Praise to Christ, the Word.*

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

## **Prayers of the People**

*Brothers and sisters in the faith, God has called us into the family of the church.*

*In the Spirit of Christ, we call out "Abba, Father," asking our creator to hear the prayers we offer, saying: God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the human family:

Eternal Father, you entrusted to Mary and Joseph the life of your child, Jesus. Strengthen all parents and children in the bonds of love, peace, and faith.

God, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the household of the church:

Creator of life, make your church a fruitful vine to all who are reborn in the living waters of baptism. May we find ourselves continually nourished and refreshed at the table of Christ's body and blood.

God, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for those who suffer:

Consoler of the afflicted, sustain the homeless and the abandoned.

Protect the widowed and the orphaned. Comfort those who mourn the dead.

God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for the families of this community:

God of love, like a mother you nourish us with your grace.

Quicken in us the seed of Christ's word, that we might reveal his life to the whole human family.

We pray for the needs and concerns of our parish.

[Intercessions are read from the Bidding Book.

The people may add additional names in the comments.]

God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

*Gracious God, may your favor and blessing rest upon the family which you have gathered in the name of your child Jesus. Accept the prayers we offer in his name, and strengthen us to do your will, now and always. Amen.*

Source: Intercessions for the Christian People © 1990 Liturgical Press, OSB

## Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God.

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,*  
                  *the evil done on our behalf,*  
                  *and the good that we have left undone.*  
***Forgive, restore, and strengthen us***  
                  *through our Savior Jesus Christ,*  
                  *that we may abide in your love*  
                  *and serve only your will. 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.***

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

## The Holy Eucharist

EDW 3

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**

New Zealand Prayer Book

*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.*

## **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: *Father-Mother God,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.  
Amen.*

*Source: oremus.org*

### **The Blessing**

May we who have been touched by the Word made flesh be his body for the world, his hands to bring blessing, his senses to glory in the promise of creation restored; and the blessing of God: Creator, Creator, Word and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.  
*Amen.*

Prayers for an Inclusive Church, © 2009 Steven Shakespeare, Church Pub. Co.

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### **Announcements**

### **The 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  
"Enriching Our Worship" Supplemental Liturgical Materials  
prepared by The Standing Liturgical Commission of the Episcopal Church  
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