



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

Los Osos, California

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 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: *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.*

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: *God be with you*

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: *Let us pray.*

All: *God of flood and fire, calling us to turn from dead halls echoing with greed: may the gift of your Spirit come to us from another place, burning with life and a hope that will not be quenched; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen*

Zephaniah 3:14-20

— *A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

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

Canticle 9

The First Song of Isaiah

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in God and not be afraid.
For God is my stronghold and my sure defense, and will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to God and call upon the Holy Name;

Make God's deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember
that God's Name is exalted.
Sing praises, for God has done great things, and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Philippians 4:4-7

— *A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

Luke 3:7-18

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

People: *Praise and Glory to God.*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has

two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Gospeller: This is the Gospel of Christ.

People: *Praise to Christ the Word*

~ ~ ~ Reflections on the Readings ~ ~ ~

Prayers of the People

Rejoicing now, we welcome with gladness the coming presence and abiding peace of our Savior saying: Lord you are our deliverer. You are our refuge and our strength.

We pray for the church of Jesus Christ, that the Way of Love may be the true mission of all congregations across the globe. Lord you are our deliverer. *You are our refuge and our strength.*

We pray that your grace may be welcome in the hearts of all leaders in all nations and provinces including Joe, our president, and Gavin, our governor, that they may be led toward decisions that promote your divine justice for all peoples. Lord you are our deliverer. *You are our refuge and our strength.*

We pray that all people will be drawn toward good stewardship; and will stand up to oppose discrimination, human trafficking, devaluation based on race, religion, culture, sexual orientation or gender; physical or sexual abuse; and will support accessible health care and access to sanctuary. Lord you are our deliverer. *You are our refuge and our strength.*

We pray for those who are isolated in our community, those without housing, those who live in their vehicles, and for all the compassionate volunteers, including St. Benedict's, Los Osos Cares, People Helping People and others, who sacrifice of themselves to provide food, warming shelter, laundry service and a welcoming presence to their neighbors. And we pray that those who are less fortunate may take advantage of available local resources that they may improve their living and economic situations. Lord you are our deliverer. *You are our refuge and our strength.*

We pray for all those who suffer in body mind and spirit, including the frail and the fearful, those who are all alone, those who are weary and weak, those who are captives to evil and vice. We pray for the homeless, prisoners of addiction, those separated from their children or families due to immigration laws and those in fear of deportation; those who live in conditions of unrest, violence or war; those seeking asylum here, those confined to care facilities or penal institutions; and for those whose lives are closely linked with ours, beginning with those in the bidding book:

[After the petitions are read please add your own prayers and thanksgivings silently or aloud]

Lord you are our deliverer. *You are our refuge and our strength.*

We pray for all those who have died that they may rise in the glory of the resurrection. Lord you are our deliverer. ***You are our refuge and our strength.***

Loving Savior, who is the true light of peace that comes into the world, grant us a glimpse of your glory that we may rejoice in your presence and abide in your love through Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.***

The Holy Eucharist

EDW I

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 **It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.**

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation 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

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life.
You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.
You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards
and show forth your bountiful grace.
But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves;
we would not see your goodness in the world around us;
and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.
Yet you never ceased to care for us,
and prepared the way of salvation for all people.
Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you.
You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness,
and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.
Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word,
made mortal flesh in Jesus.
Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory.
Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil,
opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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, and when he had given thanks, he 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.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Benedict, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Celebrant and People

*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: *We give you thanks, Lord, for these heavenly gifts,
kindle us with the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.*

The Blessing

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, 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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THIS WEEK AT ST. BENEDICT'S

Sunday, Dec 12

8:00 am – Contemplative Eucharist service (also on Zoom)
9:20 am – Bible Study
10:30 am – Eucharist service – (also live-streamed on FB)
12:30 pm – Parish Council Meeting

Monday, Dec 13 RECTOR'S SABBATH

Tuesday, Dec 14

9:45 am – Prayers for the Morning (Zoom)
10:15 am – Spiritual Conversation: "The Book of Joy" (Zoom)
5:30 pm – Vespers service, in person at the church (also on Zoom)

Wednesday, Dec 15

3:00 pm – Earthcare Meeting
5:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec 16

3:00 pm – Advent Study: "All the Earth is Waiting" (In-person and on Zoom)

Saturday, Dec 18

9:00 am – Men's Breakfast at Celia's Garden Café

Sunday, Dec 19

8:00 am – Contemplative Eucharist service (also on Zoom)
9:20 am – Bible Study
10:30 am – Eucharist service – (also live-streamed on FB)
3:00 pm – Celebration of Carols Christmas Concert (also on FB)

+ + + + + + + + + **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE** + + + + + + + + +

A Celebration of Carols with the St Benedict Singers

Sunday December 19 at 3pm

Blue Christmas Service

Tuesday December 21 at 5:30pm, instead of Vespers

Christmas Eve Services - Friday December 24

Carols and Communion around the Crèche at 4:30pm

Sung Festival Eucharist – at 8pm, preceded by Carols at 7:45pm

Christmas Day – Saturday December 25

Quiet Communion Service with *a cappella* carols – 10am

Followed by a light brunch

First Sunday after Christmas – Sunday December 26

Contemplative Communion Service – 8am

Christmas Lessons and Carols Service – 10:30am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEGINNING IN JANUARY, there will *no longer be an 8am service* on the first Sunday of the month.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT NEXT SUNDAY - Join us next Sunday afternoon at 3pm for our annual carol concert. Enjoy a lively sing-a-long of familiar carols from across the centuries, and special music presented by the St Benedict Singers and community musicians. This event will be live-streamed on Facebook for those who don't attend in person. Due to Covid restrictions seating is limited and there are very few seats left. Contact the church office or follow the link on our website to see if there are any still available. The concert is free and refreshments will follow.

VOLUNTEER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - If you participate in one of the service ministries, or would like to, and plan to attend either the 4:30 or 8:00pm Christmas Eve services, please let Lorraine Schwenk know that you're available. [\(805\)-200-7908](tel:805-200-7908) (text is best). She is working on the schedule but needs to hear from people volunteering for those services.

POINSETTIAS - If you would like to honor a loved one by contributing for Christmas poinsettias, please use the envelopes at the usher's station to indicate the exact wording of your dedication (as in memory, thanksgiving, or honor.) Please print clearly. Suggested contribution is \$10 each. Place envelope in offering plate.

Deadline: Dec 19

OPERATING FUND INCOME FOR NOVEMBER

Nov Income: \$10,446.06	YTD Income: \$182,221.12
Nov Budget: \$13,454.17	YTD Budget: \$147,995.87
Nov Deficit: (\$ 3,008.11)	YTD Surplus: \$ 34,225.25

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

<i>-- Birthdays--</i>		<i>-- Wedding Anniversaries --</i>	
Dec 16	Jane Wu	Dec 13	Don & Liz Maruska
		Dec 17	David & Sarah Chesebro

COMING IN JANUARY:

Epiphany Star Party – Wednesday, January 5 – 6:30pm

Memorial Svc for Larry Swafford – Saturday, January 15 – 3pm

Annual Parish Meeting – Sunday, January 23 – 12:00pm

Tree-planting workday – Saturday, January 29th

TUESDAY SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION - Our current Tuesday morning spiritual conversation is based on [The Book of Joy](#) by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. This conversation is open to anyone and everyone whether or not you read the book. On-line via [Zoom](#) on Tuesdays at 10:15am. A service of **Prayers for the Morning** is also available on Tuesdays, starting at 9:45.

ADVENT STUDY GROUP Advent is a special time of preparation; preparing our inner selves for the coming of the Christ. To help us do that, we will have an online Advent study group on Thursdays at 3pm. The meetings will include time for prayer and silence as well as conversation based on **All Earth is Waiting – Good News for God’s Creation at Advent** by Katie Z. Dawson. We will explore the familiar Advent themes of hope, preparation, joy, and peace with the heavens and earth in mind and consider how all creation longs for the coming of Christ, taking seriously the notion that the good news of Christ is good news for all the world. Sessions will last no more than 90 minutes and will be in-person at the church and also available on Zoom Dec 2 through Jan 6 (skipping Dec 30). A few books are available at the church or from <https://www.cokesbury.com/All-Earth-Is-Waiting>.

PERSONAL PRAYER – A member of the Healing Prayer Ministry team is available each week after the 10:30 service to pray with you for special concerns. If you’d like this prayer support during the week, contact **Louisa Beeler** at **(805) 543-2898**. If no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

BIDDING BOOK PRAYERS – If you’d like to request prayers for someone to have their names read out during the worship services on Sunday, please write them in the bidding book on the stand by the usher’s station as you come into church.

DONATIONS - Collection plates are not passed during the service, but you may put your contributions in the plate by the usher’s station before the service, or contribute on-line at: <https://www.StBensLosOsos.org/support-us/> or by mail to our PO Box. Thank you for your offerings! We are grateful for God’s financial providence and blessing.

ST. BENEDICT’S CONNECTIONS - Please do not hesitate to reach out to each other to stay in contact, and feel free to contact Caro+ at 805-704-5826 or caro@stbenslososos.org. She loves to hear from you. In an emergency, texts are best.