

# St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ *Tending Mind and Soul* ~

Los Osos, California

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 20, 2022

—8 a.m. Service—

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 God of our salvation.  
People: *Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.*

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 H

## A Song of Hosea

Hosea 6:1-3

Come, let us return to our God, \*  
who has torn us and will heal us.  
God has struck us and will bind up our wounds, \*  
after two days revive us,  
On the third day restore us, \*  
that in God's presence we may live.  
Let us humble ourselves, let us strive to know the Lord, \*  
whose justice dawns like morning light, its dawning as sure as the sunrise.  
God's justice will come to us like a shower, \*  
like spring rains that water the earth.

## Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you  
People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: *Living Mystery, whose way is not ours, whose name cannot be bought or sold: lead us from justice without compassion and sacrifice without mercy to a love which nurtures and a grace without price; through Jesus Christ, the true Bread. Amen*

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009)

## Exodus 3:1-15

*A reading from Exodus*

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,  
and this my title for all generations."

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

## Psalm 63 1-9

Source: The Psalter © 1994 Liturgy Training Publications

A psalm of David when he was in the desert of Judah

God, my God, you I crave; my soul thirsts for you,  
my body aches for you like a dry and weary land.  
Let me gaze on you in your temple: a vision of strength and glory.

Your love is better than life, my speech is full of praise.  
I give you a lifetime of worship, my hands raised in your name.  
I feast at a rich table, my lips sing of your glory.

On my bed I lie awake, your memory fills the night.  
You have been my help, I rejoice beneath your wings.  
Yes, I cling to you, your right hand holds me fast.

## 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

*A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians*

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did.

Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

## Luke 13:1-9

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

People: ***Praise and Glory to God.***

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Gospeller: This is the Gospel of Christ.

People: ***Praise to Christ, the Word.***

## Prayers of the People

Holy One we look for you, we long for you, our whole being thirsts for you and your love. Open our eyes, awaken us to what is around us and make us aware of your coming. We pray for all who tend and nurture the young in the faith, for all who are growing in awareness of you and your world. May St. Benedict's be an instrument of peace and justice in our community. In your love and mercy, ***hear us and help us.***

Holy One, as you have given us this world to live in, help us to use its riches and resources with sensitivity and care. Bless and guide all who are working on the land, especially those who farm in Los Osos Valley. We pray for all who supply our food and our daily needs, all who are involved in research with crops and cultivation in the face of climate change. In your love and mercy, ***hear us and help us.***

We give thanks for our homes and our loved ones. We pray for our places of work. May we be faithful and honest in our dealings: make us sensitive to each other's needs and hopes. We pray especially for homes with young children and for those supporting young adults. In your love and mercy, ***hear us and help us.***

God of love and salvation, we pray to you for all who are facing disaster in the failure of crops, all suffering from storms and earthquakes; for the victims of war especially in Ukraine, for all refugees and those who are victims of violence. We pray for all who are will or who have been injured in accidents. We remember those close to us in times of special need...

[here prayers are added from the bidding book. You are encouraged to add your own prayers silently or aloud]

Holy One, in your love and mercy, ***hear us and help us.***

You are our helper and you sustain us in all circumstances. We pray for all who will die today; for our loved ones departed, that you will bring them into the fullness of joy in your kingdom. In your love and mercy, **hear us and help us.**

*All-Compassionate and ever-loving God, you are more ready to hear us and to forgive us than we are to come to you. Forgive us for the times we have sinned and failed you; strengthen us as we seek to serve you, that we may follow you in the ways of peace and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen*

## **Confession and Absolution**

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

Minister and People:

***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: May our all-compassionate God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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**

EOW 2

Celebrant: May God 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: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all

things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you 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: Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, 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. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Benedict, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

All: *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.***

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. This is God's table and all are welcome here.

*If God is calling you, you are welcome to receive communion, If you prefer to receive a blessing,  
please cross your arms over your chest.*

## Closing Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: *Most loving God, creator and redeemer,  
we give you thanks for this foretaste of your glory.  
Through Christ, and with all your saints,  
we offer ourselves and our lives to your service.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit,  
to stand with you in your world.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the servant,  
our friend and brother. Amen.*

New Zealand Prayer Book

## The Blessing

May the outrageous welcome of the Creator accept us for who we are;  
may the incarnation of the Word touch and hold us close;  
may the wandering of the Spirit help us risk ourselves for love;  
and may the blessing of God All-Compassionate,  
Author, Word, and Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always.  
*Amen*

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