

# St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ *Tending Mind and Soul* ~

Los Osos, California

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 25, 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: *Undignified God, spirit of dangerous feasts, inviting the unclean to your table; find us in the far country of hopelessness and greed; free us from the prison of resentment and envy and bring us back to life; through Jesus Christ, the friend of sinners, Amen.*

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009)

## **Joshua 5:9-12**

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

## **Psalm 32**

**H**appy the pardoned, whose sin is cancelled, in whom God finds no evil, no deceit.  
While I hid my sin, my bones grew weak from endless groaning.

Day and night, under the weight of your hand,  
my strength withered as in a summer drought.

Then I stopped hiding my sin and spoke out, "God, I confess my wrong."  
And you pardoned me.

No wonder the faithful pray to you in danger!  
Even a sudden flood will never touch them.

You, my shelter, you save me from ruin.  
You encircle me with songs of freedom.

"I show you the path to walk. As your teacher, I watch out for you.  
Do not be a stubborn mule, needing bridle and bit to be tamed."

Evil brings grief; trusting in God brings love.  
Rejoice in the Lord. Be glad and sing, you faithful and just.

Source: The Psalter © 1994 Liturgy Training Publications

## **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

## **Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According to Luke.  
People: *Praise and Glory to God.*

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Gospeller: This is the Gospel of Christ.  
People: *Praise to Christ, the Word.*

## Prayers of the People

Holy God, when we wander from the way, call us back;  
When we stray from the truth, redirect us;  
When we do not live life to the full, inspire and refresh us.  
May we and your whole church follow him who is the way, the  
Truth and the life.  
We pray for all who have wandered away from the faith, for all  
Who have lost touch with you and your love.  
We remember all who are pilgrims and seekers.

Lord, we turn to you. **Enfold us in your peace.**

Lord God, we pray for all who have been separated from loved  
Ones, through war or circumstance, for those who have left  
Home and become lost.

We remember those who live on the streets of our cities.  
We pray for all who live in poverty and debt.

Lord, we turn to you. **Enfold us in your peace.**

We give thanks for our families, our parents and all who love us.  
We pray especially for those who are dear to us but with whom  
we have lost contact.

We ask your blessing upon all who are taken into care,  
For all separated from loved ones through illness.

Lord, we turn to you. **Enfold us in your peace.**

Lord, we pray for places where your glory is marred or scarred:  
For all who live in slum dwellings,  
For all who do not have enough to eat or someone to care for them.  
We remember all lonely and distressed people.  
We ask your blessing upon all who are ill at home or in hospital.

Lord, we turn to you. **Enfold us in your peace.**

We pray for all whom you have called home into your kingdom  
Where sorrow and pain are no more.  
We remember especially...

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

Lord, we turn to you. **Enfold us in your peace.**

*Lord of all compassion, we return to you like children who had wandered away:  
We trust in your love, we rejoice in your mercy, we know you will accept us.  
Lord, enfold us in your peace, and forgive us our sins;  
Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and  
The Holy Spirit be all honor and glory 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 3

Celebrant May God 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 say 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

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 God give you grace, to become the people he has called you to be,  
that you may live and work to his praise and glory. And the blessing of God, Author,  
Word, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.*

*Traces of Glory*, David Adam © Morehouse Publishing 2000

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