

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ *Tending Mind and Soul* ~

Los Osos, California

Earth Sunday

April 24, 2022

—8 a.m. Service—

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

Celebrant: Alleluia Christ is Risen
People: *He is Risen indeed, Alleluia*

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: *Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, which lacks nothing; for God created fine creatures and pleasant trees in order that humans might enjoy them. Amen*

Prayer from The Rabbinical Assembly of Conservative Judaism

Ezekiel 47:6-12

He said to me, 'Mortal, have you seen this?'

Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on one side and on the other. He said to me, 'This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. People will stand fishing beside the sea from Engedi to En-eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.'

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

Psalm 147

Source: The Psalter © 1994 Liturgy Training Publications

Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God!

How pleasant to sing glorious praise!

The Holy One with immeasurable wisdom, calls each star by name.

God rebuilds Jerusalem

And gathers the exiles of Israel.

God heals the brokenhearted

And binds up their wounds.

God counts the number of the stars

And calls them all by name.

Great is our God and mighty in power;

There is no limit to God's wisdom.

God lifts up the lowly

But casts the wicked to the ground.

The Holy One with immeasurable wisdom, calls each star by name.

Sing to God with thanksgiving;

Make music on the harp to our God,

Who covers the heavens with clouds
And prepares rain for the earth,
Who makes grass grow upon the mountains
And green plants to serve humanity,
Who provides food for flocks and herds
And for the young ravens when they cry.
God is not impressed with the might of horses
and does not value the strength of people,
God has pleasure in those who fear God,
In those who await gracious favor.
The Holy One with immeasurable wisdom, calls each star by name.

Worship God, O Jerusalem;
Praise your God, O Zion;
For God has strengthened the bars of your gates;
And has blessed your children within you
God has established peace on your borders;
And satisfies you with the finest wheat.
The Holy One with immeasurable wisdom, calls each star by name.

God sends out a command to the earth,
And word runs very swiftly.
God gives snow like wool;
And scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
God scatters hail like bread crumbs;
Who can stand against the cold?
God send forth a word and melts them;
God blows wind, and waters flow.
God declares to Jacob
Statutes and judgments for Israel.
God has not done so to any other nation;
To them God has not revealed judgments.
Hallelujah!
The Holy One with immeasurable wisdom, calls each star by name.

Romans 8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

Mark 4:26-32

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

People: *Praise and Glory to God.*

Jesus also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Gospeller: This is the Gospel of Christ.

People: *Praise to Christ, the Word.*

Gospel Discussion

Prayers of the People

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

Source: A prayer for our earth, Pope Francis

We pray for those whose lives are closely connected to ours and for those who are in our hearts,
starting with the bidding book.

[here you may add your own prayers of intercession or thanksgiving, aloud or silently]

O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, our brothers the animals to whom thou gavest the earth as their home in common with us.

We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to thee in song, has been a groan of travail.

May we realize that all living things live not for us alone but for themselves and for thee, and that they love the sweetness of live. Amen

St Basil the Great 330-379 CE

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: *Faithful God in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the
wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. We
thank you for feeding us with this bread. May it strengthen us that by the power of the
Holy Spirit we may embody your desire and be renewed for your service through Jesus
Christ our Savior. Amen.*

The Blessing

May the waters flow peacefully; may the herbs and plants grow peacefully; may all the divine powers bring unto us peace. May the rain come down in the proper time, may the earth yield plenty of corn, may the country be free from war. May the peace of God reign in your hearts and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Adapted from a Hindu prayer

Dismissal

Alleluia, alleluia, let us go forth in peace to love and serve our God.
Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

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