

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ *Tending Mind and Soul* ~

Los Osos, California

Ascension Day Observed

May 29, 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, alleluia Christ is Risen
People: *Christ is risen indeed, alleluia, 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 K

A Song of Our Adoption

Ephesians 1:3-10

*Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *
for you have blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ, *
that we should be holy and blameless before you.
You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ, *
according to the good pleasure of your will,
To the praise of your glorious grace, *
that you have freely given us in the Beloved.
In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ, *
the forgiveness of our sins,
According to the riches of your grace *
which you have lavished upon us.
You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight, *
the mystery of your will,
According to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ, *
as a plan for the fullness of time,
To gather together all things in Christ, *
things in heaven and things on earth.*

Collect of the Day

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: *God unheld by word or wall; power of love beyond all lords of war: lift us from dullness and cynical contempt; make us ready for your Spirit of transforming fire; and turn our hearts to the mending of the world; through Jesus Christ, the name above all names. Amen*

Acts 1:1-11

Reader: A Reading from the book of Acts

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

Psalm 47

All peoples clap your hands, shout your joy to God.
For God most high is awesome, great king of all the earth.

The One who conquers peoples and sets them at our feet
Chooses for beloved Jacob a land to be our pride.

God ascends the mountain to cheers and trumpet blasts.
Sing out your praise to God, to the king, sing out your praise.

For God rules the earth; sing praise with all your skill.
God rules over nations, high on the sacred throne.

Foreign rulers join the people of Abraham's God;
All the powers on earth belong to God on high.

Ephesians 1:15-23

Reader: A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

The Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

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

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

People: *Praise to Christ the Word*

Gospel Discussion

Prayers of the People

On this celebration of the Ascension of Christ, let us pray with amazement, wonder, awe, astonishment. Joining Christ who intercedes for all the world before God, let us offer our prayers to God, saying: O God of wonder, hear our prayer.

O God, we stand amazed; for Christ ascended from the earth in order to be everywhere at once. We are in awe; for in leaving, Jesus has not left us alone. We thank you, O God, for the life of your Son. Turn our eyes continually to see, to gaze with wonder at your miraculous ways. O God of wonder, ***hear our prayer.***

Turn the eyes of ordinary people, young and old, poor and rich, to see signs of Jesus. Show us everywhere the signs of Jesus, who is raised up and giving freedom and working power and justice. O God of wonder, ***hear our prayer.***

Turn the eyes of your church to see the poor places in which Christ now dwells. Help us to see the body of Christ, wounded and yet bright with the light of the Spirit. O God of wonder, ***hear our prayer.***

Turn the eyes of the leaders of nations to envision a new world in which peace and harmony reign. Turn the eyes of all in power to see the oppressed and the needy. For all who live by your inner sight, we give thanks. For more such people to lead the peoples, we pray. O God of wonder, ***hear our prayer.***

Turn the eyes of all gathered here beyond this place. Help us to look toward the glorified Christ, and then to look back anew. O God of wonder, ***hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for our own needs, and those of others, beginning with those in our bidding book..

*Prayers are read from the bidding book;
additional prayers may be offered silently or aloud.*

O God of wonder, ***hear our prayer.***

*O God, keep us in the spirit of amazement. Keep us believing when we cannot see;
keep us hoping while we wait; keep us looking for your presence. Fix our eyes on the glorious
one who ascended to intercede, who will come in greatest glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

"Intercessions for the Christian People" © 1990 Liturgical Press

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 Eucharist

God is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, all-compassionate and everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image; uniquely human you created each of us.

When we sinned and turned away you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature.

By his death on the cross, he made the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world and freed us from the bondage of sin.

You raised him to life triumphant over death;
you exalted him in glory.

In him you have made us a holy people by sending upon us
your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Therefore, with the faithful who rest in him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

***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.***

All glory and thanksgiving to you, Holy Father;
on the night before he died your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;
when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body
which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks,
he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you,
for this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins;
do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

***Glory to you, Lord Christ; your death we show forth;
your resurrection we proclaim; your coming we await;
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.***

Therefore loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,
his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension,

and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

*Blessing, honor and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and forever. Amen*

The Lord's Prayer

New Zealand Prayer Book

As our Savior Christ has taught us we now pray:

*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 your reign is 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.*

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: ***Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.***

The Blessing

May the outrageous welcome of the Father 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,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. ***Amen***

Prayers for an Inclusive Church © 2009 Church Pub. Co.

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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St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

2220 Snowy Egret Lane, Los Osos CA 93402

P.O. Box 6877, Los Osos CA 93412

Phone: (805) 528-0654 Email: office@stbenslososos.org

Website: www.stbenslososos.org