

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ *Tending Mind and Soul* ~

Los Osos, California

Advent III

December 11, 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: Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People: *You come to your people and set them free.*

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 J

A Song of Judith

Judith 16:13-16

I will sing a new song to my God, *
for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.
Let the whole creation serve you, *
for you spoke and all things came into being.
You sent your breath and it formed them, *
no one is able to resist your voice.
Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths, *
rocks melt like wax at your presence.
But to those who fear you, *
you continue to show mercy.
No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you, *
but whoever fears the Lord shall stand in your sight for ever.

Collect of the Day

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: *God of the burning sand and thirsty ground: you called John into the wilderness to announce a new creation far from palaces of royal power; make us ready for your intensity, the judgement that opens our senses to the poverty of our world and calls to life what lingers in death; through Jesus Christ, the One who is to come. Amen*

Prayers for an Inclusive Church, Church Pub. 2009

Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader: *A Reading from the book of Isaiah*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall 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 haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

James 5:7-10

Reader: *A Reading from the Letter of James*

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Matthew 11:2-11

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

People: ***Glory to You, Lord Christ.***

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers

are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to You, Lord Christ.*

Discussion of the Readings

Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

[Prayers are added from the bidding book. You are encouraged to add your own prayers of thanksgiving or intercession]

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

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.

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:

Celebrant and People

***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

***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.***

The Celebrant continues.

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.*

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: *Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Blessing

Dismissal

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

Today's Eucharist Liturgy is from
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prepared by The Standing Liturgical Commission of the Episcopal Church
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This Week at St Ben's

Tuesday Dec 13

- 9:45a Prayers for the Morning (Zoom)
- 10:15a Spiritual Conversation (Zoom)
- 5:30p Vespers followed by Supper (In-person)
- 6:30p Parish Council (Zoom)

Thursday Dec 15

- 5:30p Choir Rehearsal

Friday Dec 16

- 9:00a Gentle Yoga
- 5:30p Messy Church

Saturday Dec 17

- 9:00a Men's Breakfast
- 11:00a—4:00p Advent Prayer Pop-up

Sunday Dec 18

- 8:00a Contemplative Communion
- 10:30a Eucharist
- 3:00p Celebration of Carols

Announcements

WELCOME TO CANON MARTHA who is worshipping with us today and meeting with the Transition Committee

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION - this week the conversation continues on the ideas in Tibetan Buddhist Pema Chodron's book, Welcoming the Unwelcome. You are welcome even if you have not read the book.

PRAYER PLACE POP UP at the Abundance Shop Saturdays in Advent, Join your Trailblazer Discovery Team, Sandy Fisher, Cathy Gildea, Barbara Hirahara, and Deacon Jen, at our Prayer Place Pop-up at the St. Ben's Abundance Shop during the season of Advent! Starting December 3 through 17th from 11-4, stop by for a blessing-to-go or a cup of coffee to stay. We will offer prayer, a question of the day based on the season of Advent, or just an opportunity to share anything that might be on your heart. Please stop by and invite others you know to do the same.

CELEBRATION OF CAROLS: The St. Benedict's Singers, directed by Scott Glysson and accompanied by Paul Woodring will once again provide a wonderful carol concert on December 18 at 3pm. Invite your friends and neighbors!

POINSETTIAS: If you would like to contribute and dedicate a poinsettia this Christmas there are envelopes at the back of the church. The deadline is December 18.

PERSONAL PRAYER – If you'd like prayer support during the week, contact Helen Schnieders 818-324-2646. If no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned. Prayer requests may also be emailed at any time to prayers@stbenslososos.org.

PARISH COUNCIL: We are looking for three people to serve on the Parish Council starting February 1. Is this a ministry that God is calling you to?



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