

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ *Tending Mind and Soul* ~

Los Osos, California

First Sunday after Epiphany

January 8, 2023

—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 be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: *And blessed be God's kin-dom, now and for ever. Amen.*

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 16

The Song of Zechariah

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, *
you have come to your people and set them free.
You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, *
born of the house of your servant David.
Through your holy prophets you promised of old to save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us,
To show mercy to our forebears, *
and to remember your holy covenant.
This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship you without fear, *
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
To give God's people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: *God of freedom, your beloved meets us where we are, immersed in the flow of life: by his humility and solidarity raise us from fear and guilt; may the arc of the Spirit's flight make us a people of peace; through Jesus Christ the Son of Righteousness, Amen.*

Prayers for an Inclusive Church, Church Pub. 2009

Isaiah 42:1-9

Reader: *A Reading from the book of Isaiah*

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

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

Psalm 29

Source: The Psalter © 1994 Liturgy Training Publications

Give the Lord glory, you spirits! Give glory! Honor God's strength!
Honor the name of the Lord! Bow when the Lord comes, majestic and holy.

God's voice thunders above the massive seas; Powerful, splendid,
God shatters the cedars, shatters the cedars of Lebanon,
Makes Lebanon jump like a calf, Sirion like a wild ox.

God's voice strikes fire, makes the desert shudder,
Qadesh struggle in labor, deer writhe in labor.
God strips the trees.

All shout "Glory" in your temple Lord, for you rule over all for ever.
Give strength to your people, Lord, and bless your people with peace.

Acts 10:34-43

Reader: *A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

Matthew 3:13-17

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

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

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Gospeller: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

Readings Discussion

Prayers of the People

We give thanks for our baptism, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. We give thanks for those who brought us to faith, who inspired us by word and example. We pray for the outreach of the church to all who do not know God, and for all who have never heard the gospel clearly. We pray for preachers, prophets and the St Ben's Trailblazing team, for all who reveal your presence. Holy One as we dwell in you, *may we know that you dwell in us.*

We pray for all who provide us with our needs; We pray for farmers and fishermen, for providers of food and security. We pray for the sheriff, firefighters and paramedics, for all first responders. Holy One as we dwell in you, *may we know that you dwell in us.*

God, we remember all who have lost vision, all who have lost hope.

We pray for the despairing peoples of our world, may they know that they abide in you and in your love. We remember the lonely and the rejected. We pray for all unwanted children and all refugee and street children. We pray for all who are in trouble or sickness especially...

[here prayers are added from the bidding book and then you are invited to add your own thanksgivings and intercessions silently or aloud.]

Holy One as we dwell in you, *may we know that you dwell in us.*

We rejoice that we have been baptized into your death and resurrection and we pray for the faithful who have departed this life. We pray that our loved ones may rejoice in the fullness of your presence. Holy One as we dwell in you, *may we know that you dwell in us.*

Holy Father, who at the baptism of your beloved Son, revealed his glory, grant us a glimpse of that glory in our lives; that we may ever be immersed in your presence, Father with the Son and the holy Spirit, one God for ever. Amen.

Adapted from *Clouds and Glory*, David Adam, c2001

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: *God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. 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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St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

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This Week at St Ben's

Tuesday	9:45a	Prayers for the Morning (Zoom)
	10:15a	Spiritual Conversation (Zoom)
	5:30p	Vespers in-person
Thursday	5:30p	Choir Potluck
	7:00p	A Storied Pilgrimage on Race
Friday	9:00a	Gentle Yoga
Sunday	8:00a	Contemplative Communion
	10:30a	Eucharist
	12:30p	Parish Council

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH SURVEY This very important survey is designed to help the Transition Team learn about the St. Benedict's community and what we should be looking for in a new Rector. It is crucial that everyone in the parish participate! Please complete the survey by January 29. You can complete it online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StBens>. Paper copies are available on the Usher's Table at the back of the sanctuary. If you need a paper copy sent to you, please contact the church office. Thank you for your participation!

STORYTELLING GATHERINGS As part of the process for developing the Parish Profile, the Transition Team will be hosting Storytelling gatherings throughout the month of January. These are in-person small group gatherings that are an opportunity to share your favorite memories of St. Ben's: worship, ministry, and of course our dear friends. Sign ups will be posted in the Great Room with dates and locations. One session will be via Zoom for those who prefer not to meet in-person. We hope everyone will participate.

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION: This Tuesday, January 10th we will start to consider the Celtic path based on the book by Julianne Stanz, *Braving the Thin Places*. You are welcome even if you don't read it. Tues at 10:15, Zoom.

CHOIR POTLUCK: January 12th at 5:30pm. All past and potential singers are invited to a potluck to make plans for the coming year.

COMING SOON! This year's Annual Church meeting will be held on February 5th. As well as the normal business, this will be the first meeting of the process towards calling a new priest which involves several important steps.

CALLING NEW LEADERS: The Parish Council/Vestry is looking for new members for a three year term. If God is calling you, please talk to Esta Kandarian or Sandy Fisher.

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 and requests for pastoral care may be sent to pastoralcare@stbenslososos.org.

BIRTHDAYS: Jan 11: Roz Malone

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Our Mission Statement

St. Benedict's is an inclusive Christian community that celebrates the divine in all beings, and inspires spiritual growth through joyful sacramental worship, loving service, creative expression, thoughtful inquiry, and commitment to social justice.

Our Inclusivity Statement

The people of St Benedict's are called to share God's love as we minister with and to all persons in Los Osos and beyond, providing worship, nurture, fellowship, and service.

Our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic condition, or physical or mental ability.

We embrace and seek to preserve the beautiful, amazing diversity of God's creation. We cooperate in ministry with other local churches and groups of God's people as we participate in the worldwide mission of Christ.

Bishop Lucinda Ashby
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