

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ *Tending Mind and Soul* ~

Los Osos, California

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 26, 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 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: *God of compassion, you call us out of the bindings of death on this, our resurrection day: make us ready to surrender the fear in which we hide to step into your future alive and unashamed; through Jesus Christ, the life of the world. Amen.*

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009)

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

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

Psalm 130

Source: The Psalter © 1994 Liturgy Training Publications

From the depths I call to you, Lord hear my cry.
Catch the sound of my voice raised up, pleading.

If you record our sins, Lord, who could survive?
But because you forgive we stand in awe.

I trust in God's word, I trust in the Lord.
More than sentries for dawn I watch for the Lord.
More than sentries for dawn

Let Israel watch. The Lord will bring mercy and grant full pardon.
The Lord will free Israel from all its sins.

Romans 8:6-11

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason, the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

John 11:1-45

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

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

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

Discussion of the Readings

Prayers of the People

Come, God, like the wind, move us, direct us. Come as the breath, fill us, refresh us. Come to your church which without you is dull and dry, and fill us with your Spirit. Call us out of death and darkness into life and light. We pray for the renewal of your church in its devotion and mission, for all who proclaim your life-giving powers and share in your redeeming love. Come, O God, restore, renew, **revive your people.**

We pray for all whose hope is lost, who feel cut off from life, for refugees and displaced peoples, for all who flee from oppression and tyranny, for all who are homeless, for all who suffer from the effects of war or natural disaster. Come, Savior, restore, renew, **revive your people.**

We pray for areas where communities have broken down or have died, for places of environmental degradation. We pray for friends and loved ones who are worn out, for relationships that are in danger of dying.

Come, Savior, restore, renew, **revive your people.**

We pray for all who are ill, for all who are in weakness, for all who are bereaved. We remember all who have given up on life. We pray for the disturbed, for those living with mental illness, for all who walk in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Come, Savior, restore, renew, **revive your people.**

We pray for those who have requested our prayers and those who are in our hearts.

[Prayers are read from the bidding book and you are invited to add your own, aloud or silently]

Come, Savior, restore, renew, **revive your people.**

We give thanks for all who set us an example of love and vitality and who have now entered your greater glory. May we be inspired by their lives and seek to live to your praise and glory. Come, Savior, restore, renew, **revive your people.**

Holy Author, you have challenged the powers of darkness, through your Child, and have committed your church to share in your redeeming works; grant that we, who bear witness to your saving power in words, may do so in deeds; through him who died for us and rose again, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit is one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Confession

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 us, forgive us all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us 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 General Thanksgiving

All-Compassionate God, Source of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Savior Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. 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.*

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Creator, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

May the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Dismissal

Let us go forth in peace to love and serve our God.
Thanks be to God.

This Week at St Ben's

Tuesday

9:45a Prayers for the Morning
10:30a Spiritual Conversation
5:30p Vespers followed by supper

Wednesday

11:00a Laundry Love
4:00p Laundry Love

Thursday

3:00p Healing Ministry meeting

Friday

9:00a Gentle Yoga

Saturday

11:00a People's Kitchen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caro+ will be away until Wednesday March 29. If you need help please contact Hannah in the office or Maureen Titus

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION: A new conversation starts this week with a video of Brian McLaren, author of *The Great Spiritual Migration* which will be the basis of the next conversation.

PEOPLE'S KITCHEN: We serve our neighbors at 40 Prado on April 1st at 11:30. Please let Pat Henry know how you can help. We are looking for a new organizer for this ministry. Please let Pat or Caro+ know if you are interested.

HOLY WEEK and EASTER Services

Tuesday April 4, 4:45 Stations of the Cross 5:30 Vespers

Thursday April 6, 7:00p Maundy Thursday service

Good Friday, April 7, 12:00p Good Friday Liturgy

2:15p Stations of the Cross

Easter Vigil, April 8, 7:45p

Easter Day, April 9, 8am and 10:30am

CLIMATE CHANGE INSIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES: A special workshop on April 15 starting at 10am will include *Out of this World* climate insights from NASA, a screening of *Nation in Transition* from the American Resilience Project, and an opportunity to get help with *Sustain Island Home* from CalPoly Climate Fellows. Presented by Earthcare. See Don Maruska for more info.

We know you are looking forward to sharing **Caro's Retirement Party** with her, our church and community members on May 19. The Parish Council invites your donation to help cover the expenses. Gifts may be made at church or online or by mail; please indicate Caro's Party on your donation. We appreciate your generosity to make this a wonderful celebratory day.

PERSONAL PRAYER – If you'd like prayer support during the week, contact Jill Denton (805-543-1101) 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.



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