



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

Los Osos, California

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023 8 am

Whoever you are and wherever you are in your faith journey,
there is a warm welcome for you here at St. Benedict's!

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: *Glory to God for ever and ever.*

All: *Holy and Life-Giving Spirit, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Gloria

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,*

*with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Christ be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: *O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Genesis 29:15-28

Reader: *A Reading from the book of Genesis*

Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 128

Happy are they all who fear the LORD, *
and who follow in his ways!

You shall eat the fruit of your labor; *
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, *
your children like olive shoots round about your table.

The man who fears the LORD *
shall thus indeed be blessed.

The LORD bless you from Zion, *
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

May you live to see your children's children; *
may peace be upon Israel.

Roman 8:26-39

Reader: *A Reading from Paul's letter to the church in Rome*

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him

also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Gospeller: *The Gospel of Christ*

People: *Praise to You, Lord Christ.*

[We pause for a few moments' reflection before standing to affirm our faith.]

Affirmation of Faith

Nicene Creed

All: *We trust in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We trust in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We trust in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We trust in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

Prayers of the People

With Solomon and the great sages of our lineage, let us now turn our hearts to God and seek true wisdom, saying: ***O God, hear our prayer.***

For the leaders of religious communities and parishes throughout the earth, as they journey towards truth and clarity, we pray for God's wisdom: ***O God, hear our prayer.***

For governmental officials, caught in the arms race, locked in an age of deceit and suspicion, we pray for God's wisdom: ***O God, hear our prayer.***

For the sick [especially N.], for the dying victims of incurable disease, for those chained by depressions, fear, and addiction, and for those who minister to them, we pray for God's wisdom: ***O God, hear our prayer.***

For the youth of our age in their search for the pearl of identity, we ask for God's wisdom: ***O God, hear our prayer.***

For all parents who awake today without food for their children, we ask for God's wisdom: ***O God, hear our prayer.***

For those who seek and never find, for those who travel without purpose, and for those blind to the needs of others, we ask for God's wisdom: ***O God, hear our prayer.***

[here prayers are read from the bidding book.
You may add your own, silently or aloud.]

Astonish us once again, O God, and bring forth from the storeroom of your heart the abundance of wisdom. May all who ask for our prayers know your love, and may we

give testimony to your grace in our lives of compassion. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

from *Intercessions for the Christian People*, Liturgical Press
By Steven Shakespeare

Confession and Absolution

All: *Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. 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.*

Transition Prayer

All: *O Lord,
You are the light that illumines our path.
You are the map that gives us direction.
You are the peace that makes us strong.
You are the guide whom we faithfully follow.*

*May your light illuminate our entire lives.
And your guidance bring direction to our work.
May we find inspiration in your Word,
And peace in our hearts as we follow you. Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

All: *Holy One, author 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 Lord 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 Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

Lord's Prayer

And now as our Savior Christ taught us, we are bold to say:

All: *Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those*

*who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.*

Blessing

Dismissal

Celebrant: Alleluia, Alleluia, Let us go forth in the Name of Christ

All: *Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

Today's Liturgy of the Word is from the outline in the Book of Common Prayer
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Ministers of the Service

Preacher:	Berkeley Johnson
Lector:	Jane Wu
Flowers:	Sharon Porter
Ushers:	Ron Thompson & Brian Spolarich
Altar Guild:	Letty Cotta
Online Host:	Elaine Beckham
Tellers:	Steve Cake & Diana Hammerlund
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthew

This Week at St Ben's

Sunday	July 30
2:00pm	Deanery Meeting
Monday	July 31
3:30pm	Liturgy Committee Meeting
Tuesday	Aug 1
9:45am	Prayers for the Morning (Zoom)
10:15am	Spiritual Conversation (Zoom)
5:30pm	Vespers in-person
Saturday	Aug 5
12:00p	People's Kitchen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Kitchen Crew is fine tuning the Potluck schedule.

For our next potluck on **August 6**

If your last name begins with **A thru F**, please bring a **Dessert**

If your last name begins with **G thru L**, please bring a **Main Dish**

If your last name begins with **M thru Z**, please bring a **Salad or a Side dish**

PERSONAL PRAYER – If you'd like prayer support during the week, contact Lisa Gonzalez (805-441-3386). If no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned. Prayer requests may also be emailed at any time to prayers@stbenslosos.org and requests for pastoral care may be sent to pastoralcare@stbenslosos.org.

Vespers Continues Through the Summer Join us on Tuesday Nights at 5:30 pm for Vespers. Vespers is a brief evening service often followed by fellowship. This service is adapted from a Celtic liturgy for evening prayer. It is a wonderful opportunity to pause during the week for reflection and community. All are welcome, no previous attendance needed to join in. This service is only offered in-person at this time.

Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge with gratitude the yak tityu tityu yak tiłhini (ytt) / the Northern Chumash People, and the Salinan Tribe / the T'epot'aha'l, "People of the Oaks," on whose ancestral homelands we gather, and whose vibrant culture continues today. May we always remember that the Earth does not belong to us, that we belong to the Earth, and that we are all relatives in life. Help us to be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world.

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.

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