



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

Los Osos, California

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023 10:30 am

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

~ Prelude ~

"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

traditional African American Spiritual
© 2020 Hope Publishing Company

Arranged by Joel Raney

♪ Opening Hymn #410

Praise my soul

Blue Hymnal

Unison or harmony

1 Praise, my soul, the King of hea - ven; to his feet thy tri - bute bring;
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple in dis - tress;
3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;

ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing;
praise him still the same as ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless;
in his hand he gen - tly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.
sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Descant for use with unison singing

4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;
 sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847). Music: *Lauda anima*, John Goss (1800-1880); desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971).
 Descant by permission of Novello and Company, Limited.

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 the 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***

Alleluia #7



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Music: Alleluia 7; Jacques Berthier, © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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.***

Sermon

Berkeley Johnson

[We pause for a few moments' reflection before affirming 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 mothers and fathers 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 in the chat.]

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.***

Please greet each other in the chat.

Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

Those wanting a special prayer for a birthday, anniversary, or travel, please share in the chat.

51. For a Birthday p 830

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as *his/her/their* days increase; bless and guide *him/her/their* wherever *he/she/they* may be. Strengthen *him/her/them* when *he/she/they* stand(s); comfort *him/her/their* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him/her/their* up if *he/she/they* fall; and in *his/her/their* heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *him/her/their* life/lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

52. For an Anniversary p 431

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

53. For Travelers p 831

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel [in particular _____]; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them into safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Transition Prayer

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.

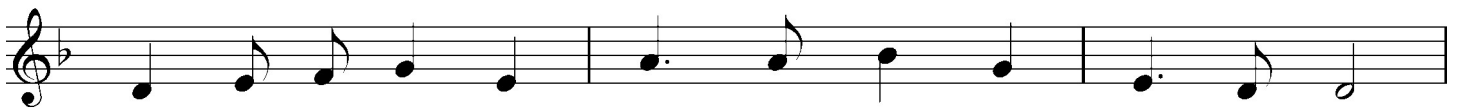
The Offertory

You can contribute at our website www.stbenslososos.org at any time.

♪ Offertory Hymn #605

What does the Lord Require

Blue Hymnal



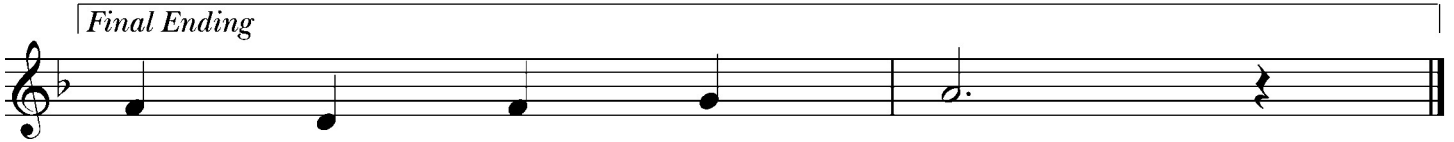
1 What does the Lord re - quire for praise and of - fer - ing?
2 Ru - lers of earth, give ear! Should you not jus - tice show?
3 Still down the a - ges ring the pro - phet's stern com-mands.
4 How shall my soul ful - fill God's law so hard and high?



What sac - ri - fice de - sire, or trib - ute bid you bring?
Will God your plead - ing hear, while crime and cruel - ty grow?
To mer - chant, work - er, king he brings God's high de - mands.
Let Christ en - due our will with grace to for - ti - fy.



Do just - ly; love mer - cy; walk hum - bly with your God.
Do just - ly; love mer - cy; walk hum - bly with your God.
Do just - ly; love mer - cy; walk hum - bly with your God.
Then just - ly; in mer - cy we'll (hum - bly walk with God.)



hum - bly walk with God.

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Music: *Sharptorne*, Erik Routley (1917-1982). Copyright © 1969 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

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.*

(silence)

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

Announcements

♪ Final Hymn #396

Now Thank we all our God

Blue Hymnal



1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voic - es,
 2 O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us!
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won - drous things hath done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
 With ev - er - joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est hea - ven,



who from our mo - ther's arms hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 e - ter - nal, Tri - une God, whom earth and heaven a - dore;



with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ev - er - more.

~ **Postlude** ~

“Little Prelude in e minor”

JS Bach

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
Music reproduced and broadcast under One License #A706314

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Kitchen Crew is fine tuning the Potluck schedule. Below you will find the assignments for what to bring next Sunday:

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**

Take Action on Our Church's Values: The Episcopal Church provides a great set of Action Alerts on key issues before Congress. The alerts help Episcopalians automate expressing our views to our representatives in Congress. You also can edit your messages to personalize your concerns. The most recent Alert is "Urge Congress to End Gun Violence." You can see the Action Alerts at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/action-alerts/>.

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

BIDDING BOOK PRAYERS – If you'd like to include someone's name in the prayers during the worship services on Sunday, please write them in the bidding book on the stand by the usher's station as you come into church.

The Search Committee is completing the Parish Profile in August, at which point they will seek feedback and approval from the Parish Council, Canon Martha, and the bishop. They will also share the profile with the congregation when it is ready.

Please pray for the work of the committee, and our congregation as a whole, as we navigate this time of change and uncertainty. The members of the Search Committee are: Michael Lucas, Brian Spolarich, and Jane Wu (all continuing members of the Transition Team), as well as Letty Cotta, Diana Hammerlund, Barbara Hirahara, and Bob Pelfrey. Please contact any of us if you have questions or concerns.

Finances We are halfway through our fiscal year and continue to be in a good financial position. Income is over budget due to early payment of pledges and strong Abundance Shop sales. The impact of the rector transition and open music director position mean we continue to see lower expenses due to reduced salary and benefits. The combined effect puts us \$52k ahead of budget year-to-date. Thanks be to God! Looking ahead, it is important to remember that over a multiyear period, the trend is toward fewer pledge dollars. Once we have our new rector and music director onboard, we will have more consistent salary obligations. Thank you in advance to our Finance Committee as they help us manage these changes.

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. Please contact Lisa Gonzalez or Rev. Jen with any questions.

Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge with gratitude the yak tityu tityu yak tilhini (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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