



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ *Tending Mind and Soul* ~

Los Osos, California

The Fourth Sunday in Creation—Advocate

September 24, 2023

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 be the one, holy, and living God.

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

All: ***Holy and Life-Giving Spirit, Almighty God, 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.***

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: *Creating God, your name is written on every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. We praise and worship you for the magnificence of your Creation. Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole Creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

(please be seated for the readings)

Exodus 16:2-15

Lector: *A reading from the book of Exodus*

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Reader: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.*

All: ***Thanks be to God***

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.

He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.

They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.

He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.

For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.

So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.

He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,

That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.

Hallelujah!

Creation Reading

Lector: *A Reading from "Everything that Breathes Praises God," Reflections: God's Green Earth (Spring 2007), Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew*

Responding to the environmental crisis is a matter of truthfulness to God, humanity, and the created order. It is not too far-fetched to speak of environmental damage as being a contemporary heresy or natural terrorism. We have repeatedly condemned this behavior as nothing less than sinful. For beings to cause species to become extinct and to destroy the biological diversity of God's creation; for humans to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate; by stripping the Earth of its natural forests, or by destroying its wetlands; for humans to injure other humans with disease by contaminating the earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life with poisonous substances—all these are sins before God, humanity, and the world. We have tended to restrict the notion of sin to the individual sense of guilt or the social sense of

wrongdoing. Yet sin also contains a cosmic dimension, and repentance from environmental sin demands a radical transformation of the way we perceive the natural world and a tangible change in the way we choose to live.

Reader: *Hear What the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

All: ***Thanks be to God***

(please stand as you are able as we welcome the Gospel)

Matthew 20:1-16

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

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Gospeller: *The Gospel of Christ*

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

[We pause for a few moments' reflection before discussing the readings.]

Affirmation of Faith

Nicene Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

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

We pray for Christians in areas where they are oppressed, for those who face cynicism at home or at work, for all who are afraid to confess their faith. We remember those seeking to spread the gospel in non-Christian areas. Lord, in your mercy *help us to be gracious to us.*

Bless all employers with a spirit of fairness and grace. We remember all who have to queue for work, all who depend on Social Security. We pray for all who are without work, for those on low incomes, for those who cannot get work through prejudice or protection rackets. May all who prosper be generous and willing to share with the needy. We pray for all relief organizations. Lord, in your mercy, *help us and be gracious to us.*

We give thanks for our own work and our homes. We pray for all who supply us with the things we need. We remember homes where families go hungry, those who are in great debt, those who have had their homes repossessed. Lord, in your mercy, *help us and be gracious to us.*

We remember all who are unable to work through disability. We pray for all who are handicapped, for all who are permanently on sickness benefit, for the chronically ill, for those who cannot do paid work for looking after a loved one who is ill. Lord, in your mercy, *help us and be gracious to us.*

We give thanks for all who have been faithful labourers in your harvest; may we with them rejoice in your love and generosity in your everlasting kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, *help us and be gracious to us.*

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

Lord, teach us to live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Let us not be intimidated by opposition or criticism. Keep us firm in the faith you have set before us; through Christ who has triumphed and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

from *Clouds and Glory* © 2001 David Adam

Confession and Absolution

All: *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: Almighty 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 others verbally or with a bow or nod
respecting each other's social distancing preferences.
Please be seated when you are ready.

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.*

(please stand as you are able)

Holy Eucharist

Iona

Celebrant:

The table of bread and wine is now made ready.

It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him.

It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself.

It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.

So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more;

you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time;

you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; Come.

It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

May Christ be with you,

All: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts,

All: *We lift them up to God.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God,

All: *It is right to give both thanks and praise.*

Celebrant: We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ. Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, we sing to you. With the angels of light who envelop us, with Michael and the host of heaven, with all the saints before and beside us, with Columba and Brigid, Patrick and Margaret, Blessed Mary and Blessed Benedict, with brothers and sisters, east and west, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

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.

Celebrant: Blessed is our brother Jesus,
who walks with us the road of our world's suffering,
and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it
he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying,
This is my body, given to you.



In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it
he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying,
This cup is the new relationship with God,
sealed with my blood. Take this and share it.
I shall drink wine with you next in the coming Kingdom of God.

All: ***Loving God,
through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread,
So that we may know your touch in all bread, all matter.
We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his
community through the centuries, and shares with us now.
Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts
and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.***

Celebrant: Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread
and wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life,
healing, renewing and making us whole. And as the bread and wine

which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.

*All: Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
all honor and glory are yours, All-Compassionate God,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN*

The Lord's Prayer

The New Zealand Book of Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

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 peoples 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 for ever.

Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the Bread

Silence

Holy Communion

Celebrant : The gifts of God for the people of God.

If God is calling you, you are welcome to receive communion when the celebrant invites your section forward. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. As your group is called forward, please spread out to widen the circle and increase safe social distancing.

Closing Prayer

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

(please be seated)

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

This Week at St Ben's

Monday 3:30p	Sep 25 Liturgy Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday 9:45a 10:30a 5:30p	Sep 26 Prayers for the Morning (Zoom) Spiritual Conversation (Zoom) Vespers in-person
Wednesday 11:00a 4:00p	Sep 27 Laundry Love Laundry Love
Thursday 3:00p	Sep 28 Healing Ministry
Sunday No 8:00a Service 10:30a	Oct 1 St. Francis Day & Eucharist Service

Potluck on Sunday, October 8th to honor the Bishop's visit!

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**

Announcements

The Altar Guild serves each Sunday by setting up and creating sacred space and then putting the vessels and linens away at the end as well as by looking after everything we use in worship. There are openings for two or more people to join the team. If God is calling you to this special ministry please talk to Diana Hammerlund.

Personal Prayer: If you'd like prayer support during the week, contact Sandy Fisher. 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.

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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