



# St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

Los Osos, California

The First Sunday of Creation

September 3, 2023

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

## ~ Prelude ~

"Three Celtic Hymns"

Traditional

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

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.*

## ♪ Hymn of Praise #8

Morning has broken

Blue Hymnal

*Unison or harmony*

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,  
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,  
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird. \_\_\_\_\_  
like the first dew - fall on the first grass. \_\_\_\_\_  
born of the one light E - den saw play! \_\_\_\_\_

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.  
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), alt. By permission of David Higham Associates Limited, London. Music: *Bunessan*, Gaelic melody; harm. Alec Wyton (b. 1921). Harmonization Copyright © by The Church Pension Fund.

## Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Christ be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: *Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth: Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care. May we with all your creatures honor and serve you in all things for you live and reign with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

## Exodus 12:1-14

Lector: *A reading from the book of Exodus*

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on

the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

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

## **Psalm 149** spoken in unison

Hallelujah!

Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; \*  
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

Let them praise his Name in the dance; \*  
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people \*  
and adorns the poor with victory.

Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; \*  
let them be joyful on their beds.

Let the praises of God be in their throat \*  
and a two-edged sword in their hand;

To wreak vengeance on the nations \*  
and punishment on the peoples;

To bind their kings in chains \*  
and their nobles with links of iron;

To inflict on them the judgment decreed; \*  
this is glory for all his faithful people.

Hallelujah!

## Creation Reading

Lector: *A reading from Grief in a Silent Sea by Tim Gordon*

Jesus never scuba-dived on a dying Great Barrier Reef. He never saw the colors fade, the architecture collapse and the symphony silenced. But I think his words and actions at Lazarus' tomb show us how he might respond to today's environmental crises. If, while on earth, Jesus had seen the riches of creation reduced to a rubble field, he surely would have wept with us for its loss. He surely would have pointed us to its future redemption. And he surely would have used this as motivation to protect all that still remains of the planet's wonders.

"I am the resurrection and the life," said Jesus, as his cheeks shone with tears. One day, the sea will sing again.

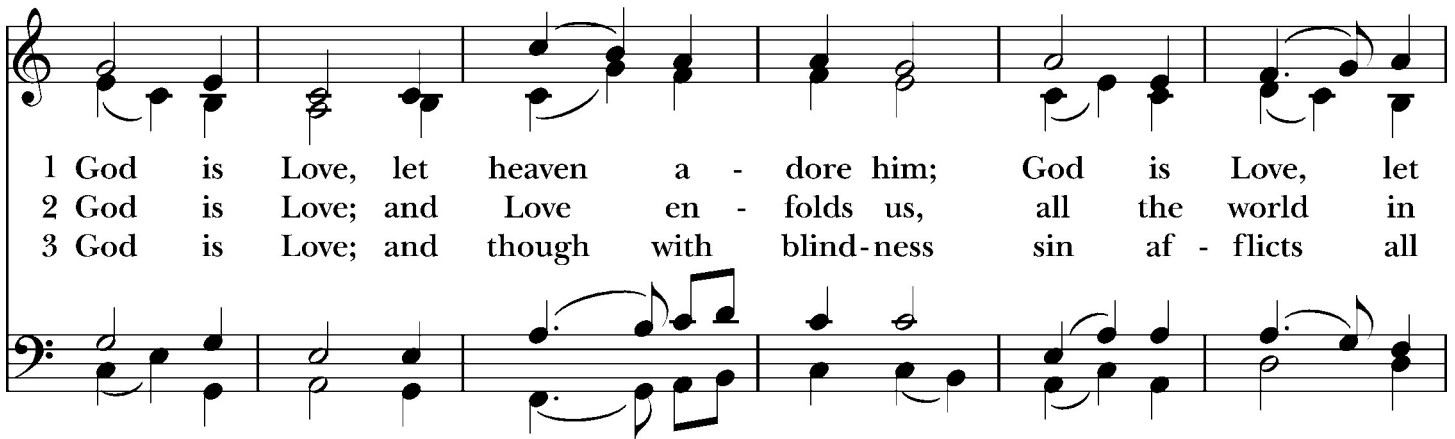
Reader: *Hear What the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

All: *Thanks be to God*

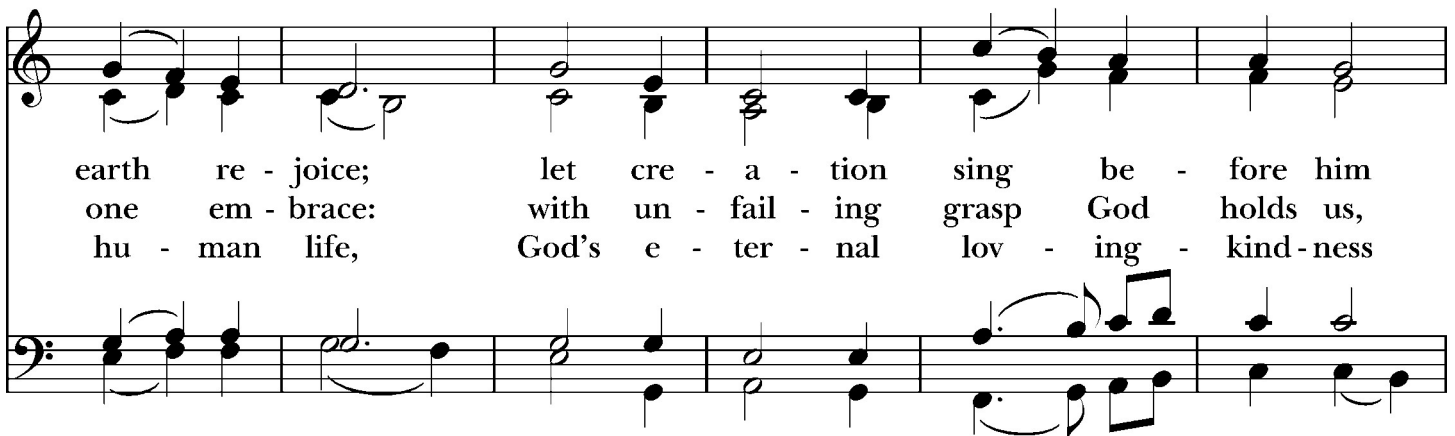
### ♪ Gospel Hymn #379

#### God is love

Blue Hymnal



1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let  
2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in  
3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all



earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him  
one em - brace; with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,  
hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness



and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -  
ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are  
guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through  
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that  
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.  
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.  
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt. Held by A.R. Mowbray & Co. Ltd. Music: *Abbot's Leigh*, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991). Copyright © 1942 Renewal 1970, by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

## Matthew 18:15-20

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

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

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Gospeller: *The Gospel of Christ*

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

## Sermon

The Rev. Judith Stevens

[We pause for a few moments' reflection before affirming our faith.]

## ♪ 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

God's word tells us that those who love their neighbors have fulfilled the law. Out of love and compassion for a broken world, let us pray to the Lord, saying: **Lord, have mercy.**

For nations crippled by international debt, for nations who must beg and scramble for the necessities of life, for nations whose people live in poverty, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all Christians who have more than they need, that taking the Lord's word to heart, they may be content with what is necessary and generously share their surplus with the poor, Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering the children of our own country caught in the cycle of poverty, ignorance, disease, and despair, Let us pray to the Lord: ***Lord, have mercy.***

For those in San Luis Obispo county, and those in our Los Osos neighborhood who are out of work and out of luck, for broken families, for those crippled by debt, for those at their wit's end, Let us pray to the Lord: ***Lord, have mercy.***

[here prayers are added from the bidding book and  
you are invited to add your own prayers silently or in the chat]

*Lord, you invited the beggars and the crippled, the lame and the blind, to eat and drink at your table and to feast in your kingdom; and lo, here we are. Grant us the grace to extend to others the same generosity you have shown to us; for you are our Lord, our God forever and ever. Amen.*

## Confession

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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 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](http://www.stbenslososos.org) at any time.*

**♪ Offertory Hymn #304**

**I come with joy**

Blue Hymnal

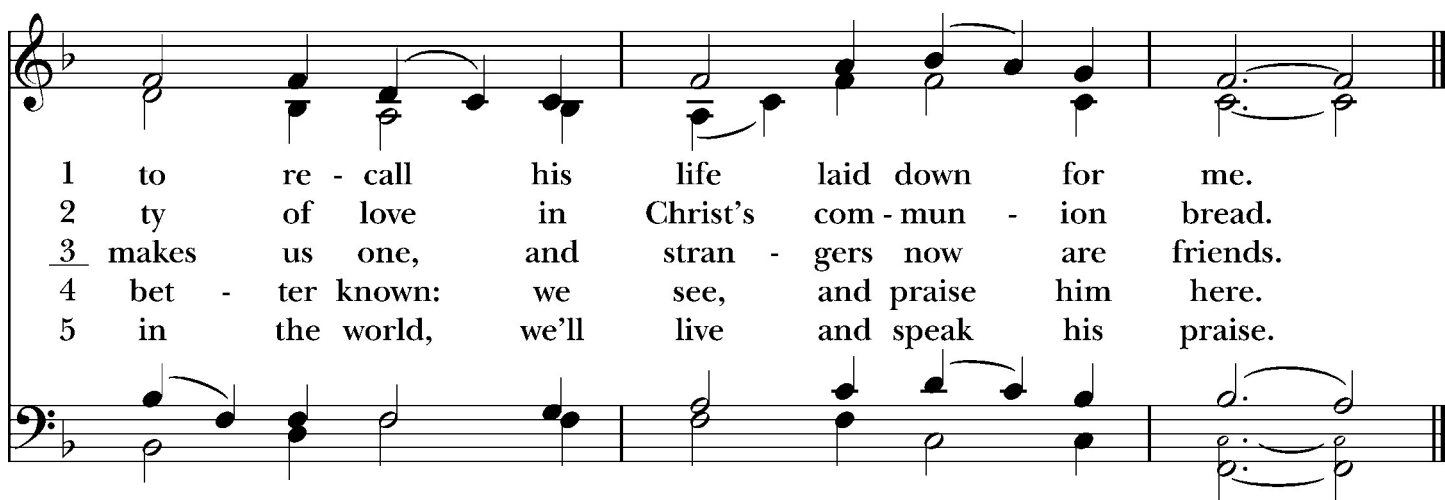
*Unison or harmony*

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to  
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each  
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll





1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der  
 2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -  
 3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us  
 4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship  
 5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple



1 to re - call his life laid down for me.  
 2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.  
 3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.  
 4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.  
 5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), alt. Copyright © 1971 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Land of Rest*, American folk melody; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983).

## ♪ Doxology:

Hymn tune #400]

[sung]

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow  
 Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia  
 Praise God the Source of all our gifts  
 Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts  
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*

## Holy Eucharist

EOW3

Celebrant The Lord be with you.  
 People *And also with you.*  
 Celebrant Lift up your hearts.  
 People *We lift them to the Lord.*  
 Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 People *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

Celebrant All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey.

And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we sing with joy:

## ♪ Sanctus

WLP 785

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.  
 heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

Words: Variation on a traditional liturgical text. Music: Composer of melody unknown; arr. based on a two-part version as taught by Pablo D. Sosa (b. 1933).

The celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

Drink this, all of you:  
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,  
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

All        ***Dying, you destroyed our death.  
Rising, you restored our life.  
Christ Jesus, come in glory!***

Celebrant    Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with the blessed virgin Mary, blessed Benedict, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

All        ***Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
we worship you our God and Creator  
in voices of unending praise.  
Blessed are you now and for ever.        AMEN.***

## **Lord’s Prayer**

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

**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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

The celebrant breaks the Bread

*Silence*

## ♪ Fraction Anthem

(sung in rounds)

WLP 874

### *Principal Canon*

Who - ev - er eats this bread will live for - ev - er.

Who - ev - er eats this bread will live for - ev - er.

## Holy Communion

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

*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. As your group is called forward, please spread out to widen the circle and increase safe social distancing.*

### ~ Communion Music ~

*“Let us Break Bread Together”*

Words: African-American spiritual  
Afro-American spiritual;

Music: Let Us Break Bread  
arr. and harm. David Hurd (b. 1950)

## ♪ Communion Hymn #654

Day by day

Blue Hymnal

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:

to see thee more clear - ly, love thee more dear - ly,

fol - low thee more near - ly, day by day.

Words: Att. Richard of Chichester (1197-1253). Music: *Sumner*, Arthur Henry Biggs (1906-1954). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

Silence

## Final Prayer

*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*

## Blessing

## Announcements


## ♪ Final Hymn #296

We know that Christ is raised

Blue Hymnal

1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no  
2. We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing  
3. The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with  
4. A new cre - a - tion comes to life and

more. death. life. grows Em - braced by death, he broke its  
Re - born, we share with him an  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the  
As Christ's new bod - y takes on



fear - ful hold, And our de - spair he turned to  
 East - er life As liv - ing mem - bers of our  
 Church of God. Bap-tized, we live with God the  
 flesh and blood. The u - ni - verse re - stored and

blaz - ing joy. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Sav - ior Christ. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Three in One. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 whole will sing: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Romans 6:4, 9; John B. Geyer, b.1932, ©  
 Tune: ENGELBERG, 10 10 10 with alleluia; Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

## Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the Name of Christ

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## ~ Postlude ~

*"Tambourin"*

L. C. Dequin

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## Ministers of the Service

Celebrant:	The Rev. Judith Stevens
Eucharistic Minister:	Alan Kiste
Lector:	Bob Pelfrey
Flowers:	Sharon Porter
Ushers:	Connie Weldon & Brian Spolarich
Intercessor:	Helen Schneiders
Altar Guild:	Pat Stoneman
Online Host:	Don Maruska
Tellers:	Bryson McKelvey & Diana Hammerlund
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthew
Harpist:	Jennifer Sayre

## **This Week at St Ben's**

Monday Sep 11

3:30p Liturgy Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday Sep 12

9:45a Prayers for the Morning (Zoom)

10:30a Spiritual Conversation (Zoom)

5:30p Vespers in-person

Wednesday Sep 13

7:00p Readers Theatre Rehearsal

Friday Sep 15

5:30p Messy Church

Saturday Sep 16

9:00a Men's Breakfast

## **Announcements**

**New Office Hours:** The office hours are changing! The new hours are Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday from 2-5pm.

**The Flower Guild** welcomes new Member, Pamela Bleisch! Volunteers continue to be welcomed to help with St. Ben's Sunday floral arrangements. If you are considering doing so, perhaps providing one once in a while, please talk to Sharon Porter. Reimbursement for your flower purchase is available.

**Spiritual Conversation:** The Spiritual Conversation discussion will be based on ideas from Joan Chittister's [Awakenings: Prophetic Reflections](#). You do not have to read the book to participate. Tuesdays at 10:30 on [Zoom](#).

**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 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](mailto:prayers@stbenslososos.org) and requests for pastoral care may be sent to [pastoralcare@stbenslososos.org](mailto:pastoralcare@stbenslososos.org).

**Bidding Book Prayers:** If you'd like to request prayers for someone to have their names read out 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.

**Liturgy Committee:** If you have any computer skills, the Liturgy committee welcomes you to join our team and learn how compile and format the Sunday morning bulletins.

### **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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