



# St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

Los Osos, California

**The Second Sunday in Creation: Learn**

September 10, 2023

Who you are and where you are in your faith journey,  
You are warmly welcome 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, 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.***

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: *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.*

(please be seated for the readings)

## **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*

(please stand, as you are able, to welcome the Gospel)

## **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.*

(please be seated)

**[We pause for a few moments' reflection and discussion of 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**

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 aloud]

*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.*

## This Week at St Ben's

Monday 3:30p	Sep 11 Liturgy Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday 9:45a 10:30a 5:30p	Sep 12 Prayers for the Morning (Zoom) Spiritual Conversation (Zoom) Vespers in-person
Wednesday 7:00p	Sep 13 Readers Theatre Rehearsal
Friday 5:30p	Sep 15 Messy Church
Saturday 9:00a	Sep 16 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 Helen Schneiders (818) 324-2646. 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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