



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

Los Osos, California

The Third Sunday of Creation—Act

September 17, 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 God: Creator, Word, and Holy Spirit.

People: *And blessed be his kin-dom, now and for ever. Amen.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: *All-compassionate and most merciful 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.*

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

All: *O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.*

Exodus 14:19-31

Reader: *A Reading from the book of Exodus*

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all

of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 114

Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.

The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.

The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *

you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Creation Reading

Reader: *A Reading from the Babylonian Talmud, Taanit 23a*

While the sage, Honi, was walking along a road, he saw a man planting a carob tree.

Honi asked him, "How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?"

"Seventy years," replied the man.

Honi then asked, "Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat its fruit?"

The man answered, "I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise I am planting for my children."

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: ***Thanks be to God***

Matthew 18:21-35

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

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be

made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

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

[We pause for a few moments' reflection and discuss 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

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy; *Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy; *Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy; ***Hear our prayer.***

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy; ***Hear our prayer.***

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy; ***Hear our prayer.***

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy; ***Hear our prayer.***

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

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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: May the All-Compassionate 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 18 Liturgy Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday 9:45a 10:30a 5:30p	Sep 19 Prayers for the Morning (Zoom) Spiritual Conversation (Zoom) Vespers in-person
Wednesday 3:00p	Sep 20 Earthcare Meeting
Friday 5:30p	Sep 22 Messy Church

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 and requests for pastoral care may be sent to 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.

