



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!

~ Prelude ~

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Arranged by Timothy Shaw

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“It Is Well With My Soul”

Arranged by Terry Osman

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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.*

♪ Hymn #7

Christ whose glory fills the skies

Blue Hymnal

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pan - ied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!

Sun of Right-eous - ness, a - rise! Tri-umph o'er the shades of night:
joy - less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Ratisbon*, melody from *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, 1524; adapt. att. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870); harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

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***

1 Help us, O Lord, to learn the truths your word im - parts: to
 2 Help us, O Lord, to live the faith which we pro - claim, that
 3 Help us, O Lord, to teach the beau - ty of your ways, that

stu - dy, that your laws may be in - scribed up - on our hearts.
 all our thoughts and words and deeds may glo - ri - fy your Name.
 yearn - ing souls may find the Christ and live a life of praise.

Words: William Watkins Reid, Jr. (b. 1923), alt. Copyright © 1959 by the Hymn Society. (admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.) All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *St. Ethelwald*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

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.*

Sermon

Rev. Karen Seigfriedt

Additional Reading from Genesis 50: 15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

[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

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.***

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 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.)

Final Ending

hum - bly walk with God.

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

♪ 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

BCP Prayer C

Celebrant: The Lord be with you all.

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: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

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

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: ***By your will they were created and have their being.***

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: ***Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: ***By his blood, he reconciled us.
 By his wounds, we are healed.***

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*All: We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.*

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People: *Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.*

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. AMEN.


The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we sing:

Voice



Our Fa-----ther in

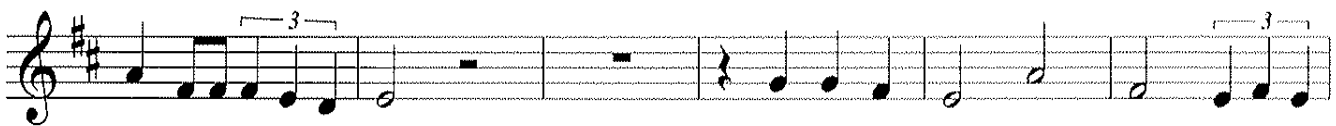


Heaven

Holy be-³ your name

Your kingdom come;

Your will be



done on earth as in heav'n.

Give us this day our dai-----ly



bread.

Forgive us our sins as we for- give those who sin a - gainst us.



Save us from the time of tri-al and de - li-ver-us from e-vil

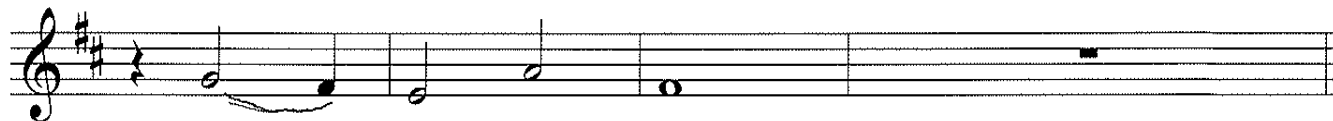
For the



king - dom the po-wer and the glo----- ry are yours now & for---e---ver



A -----men A -----men A -----men



A -----men A -----men.

The Breaking of the Bread

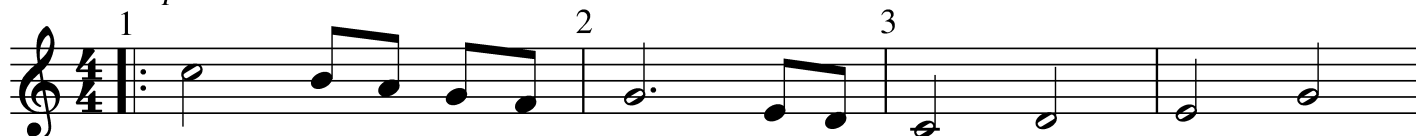
The celebrant breaks the Bread

♪ 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: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

The celebrant continues:

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*If God is calling you, you are welcome and invited to receive communion.
Please contact the church office to arrange to receive communion in your home.*

♪ Communion Music

“Interlude No. 9”

Paul A. Tate

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♪ Communion Hymn

Be not afraid

Gather 596

Refrain



Do not fear to hope tho' the wick-ed rage and rise, our



God sees not as we see, suc-cess is not the prize. Do not



fear to hope for tho' the night be long, the race shall not be



to the swift, the fight not to the strong.

Verses



- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Look to God | when you are sure |
| 2. Look to God | when vic - to - ry |
| 3. Look to God | when cyn - ics say |
| 4. Look to God | when rea - son fails |



your sin is great - er than grace.
 seems out of jus - tice' sight.
 our plan - et's doom is sealed.
 and ter - ror reigns in the night.



Look to God	whose love is gift.	Be - lieve and
Look to God	whose might - y hand	brought forth the
Look to God	by whose great pow'r	the dead were
Look up - on	the cru - ci - fied	and see be -

D.C.



you can be - hold him face to face.
 day from the cha - os of the night.
 raised and the lep - ers were healed.
 yond in - to Eas - ter's dawn - ing light.

Prayer

*All-compassionate and ever-living God,
 we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
 of the most precious **Body and Blood**
 of your **Son our Savior Jesus Christ**;
 and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
 that we are living members of the **Body of your Son**,
 and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
 And now, **Father**, send us out
 to do the work you have given us to do,
 to love and serve you
 as faithful witnesses of **Christ our Lord**.
 To him, to you, and to the **Holy Spirit**,
 be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

Blessing

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a parent. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God’s blessing be with you always. Amen.(source: from Saint Clare)

Announcements

Final Hymn

Amazing Grace

LEVAS 181

1. A - maz - ing grace!_ how sweet the sound, That
 2. 'Twas grace that taught_ my heart to fear, And
 3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 5. When we've been there_ ten thou - sand years, Bright

1. saved a wretch like me!_____ I once was lost, but
 2. grace my fears re - lieved;_____ How pre - cious did that
 3. word my hope se - cures;_____ He will my shield and
 4. have al - read - y come;_____ 'Tis grace that brought me
 5. shin - ing as the sun,_____ We've no less days to

1. now am found, Was blind, but now__ I see._____
 2. grace ap - pear The hour I first__ be - lieved!_____
 3. por - tion be As long as life__ en - dures._____
 4. safe thus far, And grace will lead__ me home._____
 5. sing God's praise Than when we'd first__ be - gun._____
 6. now am found, Was blind, but now__ I see._____
 7. grace ap - pear The hour I first__ be - lieved!_____
 8. por - tion be As long as life__ en - dures._____
 9. safe thus far, And grace will lead__ me home._____
 10. sing God's praise Than when we'd first__ be - gun._____

Words: Stanzas 1-4, John Newton (1725-1807; Stanza 5, Ascr. John Rees, c. 1859. Music: *New Britain*, CM, *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; harm. John Barnard (b. 1948). Harm. Copyright © 1982 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved.

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world,
 rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

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

♪ Postlude

"O Waly Waly"

English Melody

Arr. Paul A. Tate

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Ministers of the Service

Celebrant:	Rev. Karen Siegfriedt
Eucharistic Minister:	Diana Hammerlund
Lector:	Don Maruska
Flowers:	Brian Spolarich
Ushers:	Connie Weldon & Ron Thompson
Intercessor:	Louisa Beeler
Altar Guild:	Diana Hammerlund
Tellers:	Diana Hammerlund & Alice Welchert
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthew

This Week at St Ben's

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

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.



St. Benedict's Episcopal Church
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