



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

Los Osos, California

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023 8:00 am

You are warmly welcome at St. Benedict's for who you are
and where you are on your faith journey!

Officiant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

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

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.*

Canticle P

A Song of the Spirit

Revelation 22:12-17

"Behold, I am coming soon," says the Lord,
"and bringing my reward with me, *
to give to everyone according to their deeds.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, *
the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who do God's commandments,
that they may have the right to the tree of life, *
and may enter the city through the gates.

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, *
with this testimony for all the churches.

"I am the root and the offspring of David, *
I am the bright morning star."

"Come!" say the Spirit and the Bride; *
"Come!" let each hearer reply!

Come forward, you who are thirsty, *
let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

Collect of the Day

Officiant: Christ be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Officiant: Let us pray together.

All: *Merciful God resisting the iron fist which reaps where it did not sow: give us courage to accept your faith in us and compassion to stand with all who are cast aside; through Jesus Christ, who became nothing that we might have everything. Amen.*

(please be seated for the readings)

Judges 4:1-7

Reader: *A Reading from the book of Judges*

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’”

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 123

To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

So our eyes look to the Lord our God, *
until he show us his mercy.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Reader: *A Reading from Paul’s letter to the church in Thessalonica*

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

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

Matthew 25:14-30

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

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Officiant: The Gospel of Christ

People: *Praise to You, Lord Christ.*

Discussion

Brian Spolarich

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

(please stand as you are able)

Prayers of the People

The day of the Lord is soon upon us, a day not of wrath but of salvation. As children of the light and of the day, let us await the coming of the Lord in prayer on behalf of the human family around the world, saying: O God, for the sake of Christ, have mercy on us.

Let us pray for those who use their lips and lives to proclaim the good news of Christ's return, that they may persist in their zeal, empowered and emboldened through the gifts of your Spirit. O God, for the sake of Christ, *have mercy on us.*

Let us pray for those who, with joy and longing, await the return of the Messiah, that they may not grow weary in well-doing, but witness to the immediate and everlasting promise of our holy Redeemer. O God, for the sake of Christ, *have mercy on us.*

Let us pray for those whose lives are marked by hunger and need, grief and loneliness, anger and strife,

discord and uncertainty, that each may be assured of the grace and mercy of God. O God, for the sake of Christ, *have mercy on us.*

Let us pray for those who are prevented from praying with us, the persecuted and their persecutors, that each may be convinced of the good news of Jesus Christ and respond with faith and commitment. O God, for the sake of Christ, *have mercy on us.*

Let us pray for ourselves, that the Spirit will ready us for the return of our Savior and King, that we may enjoy forever the exhilarating life awaiting the faithful in heaven. O God, for the sake of Christ, *have mercy on us.*

Let us pray for those who suffer affliction of any kind, that God, their constant companion and champion, may grant them healing and hope and life.

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

For these and all our prayers, O God, for the sake of Christ, *have mercy on us.*

Officiant: *Because you are God, you hear our prayers. Because you are merciful, you promise to answer. We commend to you, merciful God, ourselves and those for whom we pray, through the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.*

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 special concern, 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.

The General Thanksgiving

All: *Holy One, author of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

(silence)

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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.*

Blessing

Officiant: 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

Dismissal

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

All: *Thanks be to God.*

Ministers of the Service

Officiant:	Brian Spolarich
Flowers:	Sharon Porter
Altar Guild:	JW Wright
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthews

This Week at St Ben's

Monday 3:30p	Nov 20 Liturgy Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday 9:45a 10:30a 5:30p	Nov 21 Prayers of the Morning (Zoom) Spiritual Conversation (Zoom) Vespers in-person
Sunday 8:00a 10:30a	Nov 26 Contemplative Service Eucharist Service

Announcements

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.

HELP SAVE LIVES IN THE HOLY LAND Please urge your members of Congress to push for the creation of a humanitarian corridor into Gaza to allow urgently needed food, water, medical supplies, and fuel to vulnerable people.
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/resources-for-the-conflict-in-the-holy-land/>

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION - This week we will have a discussion 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](#).

PERSONAL PRAYER – If you'd like prayer support during the week, contact Louisa Beeler (805) 543-2898. If no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned. Prayer requests may also be emailed at any time to prayers@stbenslosos.org and requests for pastoral care may be sent to pastoralcare@stbenslosos.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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