



# St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

Los Osos, California

Reign of Christ

November 26, 2023 8:00 am

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

## About Our Service

An all-gender restroom is located through the white door at the left of the sanctuary. All other restrooms are located by exiting out the doors and going down the outdoor wooden walkway towards the red door and then down the hallway to the left. Please ask an usher for assistance if needed.

We invite everyone to stand and sit during various parts of the service. Indicators are found within parentheses throughout the bulletin. Apologies if any are missing.

Please silence your phones.

## During Communion

We have gluten-free wafers available. Please let your nearest usher know *before the service begins* if you would prefer a gluten-free wafer, and they will inform the celebrant.

We use wine per the Canons of the Episcopal Church. If you prefer to abstain from alcohol for any reason, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive the cup by sight. Taking Communion with just one element (Bread) is considered complete.

(please stand as you are able)

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

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

Officiant : 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.*

## 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 : God be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

Officiant : Let us pray together.

**All:** *Destitute king, one with the hungry, the naked and the scorned: may our faith  
be proved not in dogma and piety but in serving you in the last and the least;  
through Jesus Christ, the stranger's Lord. Amen.*

(please be seated for the readings)

## **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

*Reader: A Reading from the book of Ezekiel*

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be

their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken..

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

*People: Thanks be to God*

## **Psalm 100**

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

## **Ephesians 1:15-23**

*Reader: A Reading from Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*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 25:31-46**

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

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

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,

naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Gospeller: *The Gospel of Christ*

People: *Praise to You, Lord Christ.*

## Discussion

Lisa Gonzalez

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

(please stand as you are able)

## Prayers of the People

You are the King of Glory, the eternal Son of the Father; we give you praise for you have conquered the darkness of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. We offer you our obedience, we give you our love, and seek to live to your glory. Sovereign, grant that your church may be an instrument for the coming of your reign on earth. We pray for all who are seeking to bring peace and goodwill to the earth. May your kingdom come in us *as in heaven.*

We pray for the rulers of nations and people, especially those meeting this week, that they may be open to your will and govern with grace. We ask your blessing on all divided peoples, especially the people of this nation; on all suffering from war especially the people of Palestine and Israel. We remember all who are striving for freedom, all who are seeking to improve our world, all working to relieve poverty. We look for the day when the kingdoms of this world will be the kingdom of Christ. May your kingdom come in us *as in heaven.*

Sovereign, come and rule in our homes; come rule in our lives and all our relationships; come rule in our dealings; come rule in our hearts. Come Lord, change us and we shall be changed. May your kingdom come in us *as in heaven.*

We remember all who are struggling and cannot cope on their own. Lord give comfort and strength to all who are ill, all who are fearful. We pray for friends and loved ones who are in need at this time, starting with those in the bidding book.

[you are encouraged to add your own intercessions and thanksgivings silently or aloud]

May your kingdom come in us ***as in heaven.***

You, King of Glory, have triumphed over death, you have defeated darkness, you have redeemed us by love. We commend to you all our loved ones and friends who have departed this life. May your kingdom come in us ***as in heaven.***

*Celebrant: To you O Christ, our Sovereign and our God, belongs all power, dominion and authority in heaven and earth. Come, rule in our hearts, help us to forward your reign on earth. We ask this in your holy name, Jesus Christ our Lord, living and reigning with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. 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.**

*Officiant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen*

## **The Peace**

**Celebrant:** The peace of Christ be always with you.

**People:** ***And also with you.***

To maintain safe social distancing, please simply greet others verbally or with a bow or nod.

## **Birthday & Anniversary Prayers**

Those wanting a special prayer for a birthday, anniversary, or any special concerns, may come forward.  
Prayers can be found on the white or yellow card in your pew.

## **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 are invited to make a thank offering, but if you do not contribute financially today please give thanks for God's blessing. You can contribute at our website [www.stbenslososos.org](http://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 : God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. Amen.

## **Announcements**

## **Dismissal**

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

All: *Thanks be to God.*



Ministers of the Service

Officiant:	Lisa Gonzalez
Flowers:	Sarah Chesebro
Altar Guild:	JW Wright
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthews

**This Week at St Ben's**

Monday	Nov 27
3:30p	Liturgy Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday	Nov 28
9:45a	Prayers of the Morning (Zoom)
10:30a	Spiritual Conversation (Zoom)
5:30p	Vespers in-person
Wednesday	Nov 29
11:00a	Laundry Love
4:00p	Laundry Love
Saturday	Dec 2
12:00p	Peoples Kitchen
Sunday	Dec 3
10:30a	Eucharist Service
	Potluck

## 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

**SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION** – This week we will conclude the discussion based on ideas from Joan Chittister's [Awakenings: Prophetic Reflections](#). Beginning next week we will use the devotional [Living Well Through Advent](#) to guide our conversation. 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 Sandy Fisher (661) 805-2882. 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).











## **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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