



## St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

Los Osos, California

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 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; it is offered either from the common cup or individual cups. 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)

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

**People:** *You come to your people and set them free.*

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

See the back page with Advent Prayers

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.*

## Canticle J

## A Song of Judith

Judith 16:13-16

I will sing a new song to my God,

\* for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.

Let the whole creation serve you,

\* for you spoke and all things came into being.

You sent your breath and it formed them,

\* no one is able to resist your voice.

Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths,

\* rocks melt like wax at your presence.

But to those who fear you,

\* you continue to show mercy.

No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you,

\* but whoever fears the Lord shall stand in your sight for ever.

## Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Christ be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

All: ***God of the keen blade, which cuts the roots of arrogant power: you raise voices of promise in the dry lands of our desire, children of faith from the stones of the earth; make us ready to receive the Spirit and the fire of love, wild and fierce and free; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.***

(please be seated for the readings)

## Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader: *A Reading from the Book of Isaiah*

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”  
And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

*People: Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

## 2 Peter 3:8-15a

*Reader: A Reading from the Epistle of Peter*

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

*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)

## Mark 1:1-8

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

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather

belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ*

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

## **Discussion**

Brian Spolarich

[We pause for a few moments' reflection]

(please stand as you are able)

## **Prayers of the People**

*In joy at the nearness of the Christ, let us offer our prayers to God, saying: Christ, have mercy.*

May the power of God's holy presence clear a path through the rubble of broken lives and hearts to make our world and all of us a new creation. For this let us pray to our Savior. **Christ, have mercy.**

May our gracious God be always for us a shepherd to console and comfort us, to nourish all our deep hungers, and to make us live in peace forever. For this let us pray to our Savior. **Christ, have mercy.**

May we come to find in the desert of our lives the gift of forgiveness and the waters of a new Jordan that bring cleansing refreshment. For this let us pray to our Savior. **Christ, have mercy.**

May the God of John the Baptist and our God continue to raise up holy prophets in our midst who will tell the good news of saving rescue for all people. For this let us pray to our Savior. **Christ, have mercy.**

May the God who is our comfort hear the cries of all in need. We pray for those for whom our prayers have been asked, and for those who are in our hearts...

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

For this let us pray to our Savior. **Christ, have mercy.**

May the God who is our future in the gift of Jesus Christ hold us always in the embrace of faithful love and bring us to new heavens and a new earth. For this let us pray to our Savior. **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant: *Recall to us our baptism, O Lord, and hear our cries for ourselves and for the whole world, for we pray in the name of the one who came, Jesus Christ our Lord.*  
**Amen.**

Source: Intercessions for the Christian People, © 1990 The Liturgical Press, Order of St. Benedict

## **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 us, forgive us all 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 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*

Silence

## **Blessing**

Officiant: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen*

## **Announcements**

## **Dismissal**

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

*All: Thanks be to God.*

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## **Ministers of the Service**

Officiant:	Brian Spolarich
Flowers:	Sarah Chesebro
Altar Guild:	JW Wright
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthews

## **This Week at St Ben's**

Monday	Dec 11
3:30p	Liturgy Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday	Dec 12
9:45a	Prayers of the Morning (Zoom)
10:30a	Spiritual Conversation (Zoom)
5:30p	Vespers in-person
Saturday	Dec 16
9:00a	Men's Breakfast at Celia's Cafe
Sunday	Dec 17
8:00a	Contemplative Service
10:30a	Eucharist Service
12:30 p	Parish Council

## 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.

**PRAYER PLACE POP UP at the Abundance Shop** Join your Trailblazer Discovery Team, Sandy Fisher, Cathy Gildea, Barbara Hirahara, and Rev Jen, at our Prayer Place Pop-up at the St. Ben's Abundance Shop Saturday December 16 from 11-4. Stop by for a blessing-to-go or a cup of coffee to stay. We will offer prayer, a question of the day based on the season of Advent, or just an opportunity to share anything that might be on your heart. Please stop by and invite others you know to do the same.

**Personal Prayer:** If you'd like prayer support during the week, contact Helen Schnieders (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).

**Tuesday Morning Prayers & Spiritual Conversation:** The Tuesday Spiritual Discussion group will be using an Advent program sponsored by a group called Living Compass. The four-week program includes Sunday and weekday meditations for the Advent season. The program booklets are available as pdf electronic copies for free or a print copy available for \$1.00 plus postage. A limited number of print copies are available in the back of the church. Order your booklets at <https://www.livingcompass.org/advent-lent>. You do not have to read the book to participate. Tuesdays at 10:30 on [Zoom](#).

## 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.



### St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

PO Box 6877

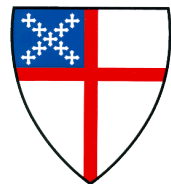
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## Second Sunday of Advent - PEACE

Last Sunday we lit the first candle—the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

*[Two candles are lit.]*

All:

*Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning,  
We thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen*



Peace