



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ *Tending Mind and Soul* ~

Los Osos, California

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Day

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

~ Prelude ~

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Arr: Philip Keveren

Celebrant: 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.*

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

All: *All Compassionate God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

(please be seated for the readings)

Isaiah 62:6-12

Reader: *A Reading from the Book of Isaiah*

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;

all day and all night

they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD,

take no rest,

and give him no rest

until he establishes Jerusalem

and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The LORD has sworn by his right hand

and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain

to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;
but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,
"See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him."

They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken."

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 97

The LORD is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.

His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.

Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O LORD.

For you are the LORD,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.

The LORD loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

Titus 3:4-7

Reader: A Reading from Titus

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Luke 2:1-20

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

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with

haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Reflection

Lisa Gonzalez

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

Prayers of the People

Jesus, Son of Mary, you have come among us, to be one of us. We welcome you into our homes, we welcome you into our hearts, we welcome you into our lives. Let all who come to your church worship with the shepherds, and adore you with the wise men. We pray for the time when the world may know your love and saving power. Empower your church to show forth your glory. Prince of peace, ***reveal to us your glory.***

The peace of your presence be upon your troubled world, the power of your presence protect us from evil, the light of your presence scatter the darkness from before us. Give peace on earth, peace among the nations and peace in each land. Prince of peace, ***reveal to us your glory.***

Fill us with wonder and awe, fill us with joy and thanksgiving, that our lives may proclaim your grace and your glory. Be known in our homes, in our lives and in all our dealings. Prince of peace, ***reveal to us your glory.***

You could find no room at the inn. We remember before you all who are homeless and can find no place of rest. We pray for street children and children in care, for all who are lonely and feel neglected this Christmas, for those who will spend Christmas in the hospital, for all who are ill or in any kind of difficulty, especially those for whom our prayers have been asked...

[prayers from the bidding book read here....Please share silently or in the chat]

Prince of peace, ***reveal to us your glory.***

We rejoice that you became human that we might share in the Divine; you came down to lift us into your kingdom. We pray for all our loved ones departed and that we may share with them in a vision of your glory. Prince of peace, ***reveal to us your glory.***

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, may we come to worship you with the shepherds, proclaim you with the angels, seek you with the wise men, offer ourselves to you with Joseph and Mary, and rejoice in your love, Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Spirit now and for ever. 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 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.

♪ Hymn #111

Silent Night, Holy Night

Blue Hymnal

(please stand as you are able)

♪ 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

EOW Prayer 2

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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 our thanks and praise.*

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a parent cares for their children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to

reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with Benedict all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

*All: Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

Give us this day 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.*

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the Bread

Holy Communion

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

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

What Wonderful Love is This

Arr. Teresa Wilhelmhi

Prayer

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant: May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

Announcements

♪ Hymn #100

Joy to the World (omit v 3)

Blue Hymnal

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God.

♪ Postlude

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Johann Walther

Ministers of the Service

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Celebrant: | Rev. Jen Crompton |
| Preacher: | Lisa Gonzalez |
| Eucharistic Minister: | Lisa Gonzalez |
| Eucharistic Assistant: | |
| Lector: | Michael Lucas |
| Music: | Ann Lucas |
| Flowers: | Sharon Porter |
| Ushers: | Alice Welchert |
| Altar Guild: | Lisa Gonzalez |
| Tellers: | Steve Cake |
| Technical: | Hannah-Jaye Matthews |
| Coffee Hour Host: | Barbara Schippers |

This Week at St Ben's

| | |
|--------|---------------------------|
| Sunday | Dec 31 |
| 8:00a | Contemplative Service |
| 10:30a | Healing 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

Tuesday Morning Prayers & Spiritual Conversation: There will be no morning prayers or spiritual conversation this week. Both Morning Prayers and the Tuesday morning Spiritual conversation will resume January 2. Tuesdays at 10:30 on [Zoom](#).

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.

Poinsettias have been donated by

David & Sarah Chesebro ... in thanksgiving for our granddaughter Payton

Marianne Higdon ... in thanksgiving for children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren

Liz and Don Maruska ... in memory of Roddey, Caroline & Debbie Reid;

Liz and Don Maruska... in memory of John, Evelyn, and John Jr. Maruska

Helen Schnieders... in memory of Pam Saunders

Helen Schnieders... in thanksgiving for our St Benedict's community

Judith Cadigan

David and Sarah Chesebro - In thanksgiving for our granddaughter Payton

Marianne Higdon - In thanksgiving for children, grandchildren and great grandchildren

Brian and Alan... in honor of their mothers, Patt and Ruth.

Bobbie Shields ... in memory of Donald K. Shields

Kathie West... in memory of The Richards Family

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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