



## St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

Los Osos, California

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 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.

(please stand as you are able)

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 C

### Song of Hannah

1 Samuel 2:1-8

My heart exults in you, O God; \*  
my triumph song is lifted in you.

My mouth derides my enemies, \*  
for I rejoice in your salvation.

There is none holy like you, \*  
nor any rock to be compared to you, our God.

Do not heap up prideful words or speak in arrogance; \*  
Only God is knowing and weighs all actions.

The bows of the mighty are broken, \*  
but the weak are clothed in strength.

Those once full now labor for bread, \*  
those who hungered now are well fed.

The childless woman has borne sevenfold, \*  
while the mother of many is forlorn.

God destroys and brings to life, casts down and raises up; \*  
gives wealth or takes it away, humbles and dignifies.

God raises the poor from the dust; \*  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap

To make them sit with the rulers \*  
and inherit a place of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are God's \*  
on which the whole earth is founded.

### **Collect of the Day**

Officiant: Christ be with you.

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

Officiant: Let us pray together.

All: *All Compassionate God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

(please be seated for the readings)

### **Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

*Reader: A Reading from the book of Isaiah*

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

People: *Thanks be to God*

### **Psalm 147:13-21**

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.

He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
    who can stand against his cold?  
He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
    he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.  
He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
    his statutes and his judgments to Israel.  
He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
    to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!

### **Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7**

*Reader: A Reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians*

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*Reader: The word of the Lord OR 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)

### **John 1:1-18**

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the

life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Officiant: The Gospel of Christ

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

## **Discussion**

Lisa Gonzalez

(please stand as you are able)

## **Prayers of the People**

Form IV

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, All-merciful 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.

Holy One, 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.

Holy One, 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.

Holy One, 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.

Holy One, 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.

[Prayers from the bidding book are read. The people may add additional prayers silently or aloud.]

Holy One, 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.

Holy One, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Officiant: *Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. 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.***

Officiant: 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**

Officiant: 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 concern, 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, 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.*

### **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.*

Today's Liturgy  
is from the outline in the Book of Common Prayer.  
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## **Ministers of the Service**

Officiant:	Lisa Gonzalez
Flowers:	Pamela Bleisch
Altar Guild:	JW Wright
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthews

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

Tuesday	Jan 2
9:45a	Prayers of the Morning (Zoom)
10:30a	Spiritual Conversation (Zoom)
5:30p	Vespers
Wednesday	Jan 3
4:00p	Community Dinner
Friday	Jan 5
6:00p	Star Party
Sunday	Jan 7
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

**Tuesday Morning Prayers & Spiritual Conversation:** The Tuesday Spiritual Discussion group will conclude the Advent program sponsored by a group called Living Compass. 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@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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