

St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~ Los Osos, California The Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024 10:30 am You are warmly welcome at St. Benedict's for who you are

and where you are on your faith journey!

About Our Service

If you'd like to request prayers for someone to have their names read out during the worship services on Sunday, please share in the chat write them in the bidding book on the stand by the usher's station as you come into church.

During Communion

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. We use wine per the Canons of the Episcopal Church. We have gluten-free wafers available. Please let the office know if you would prefer a gluten-free wafer and if you will receive the cup by sight, and they will inform the celebrant. Taking Communion with just one element (Bread) is considered complete.

~ Prelude ~

Original Improvisation

Paul Burkle

During our opening hymn, we are sprinkled with water as a reminder of our baptism.



Music: Early American, adapt. Richard Fabian (b. 1942).

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Creator, Word, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.



Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847). Music: *Lauda anima*, John Goss (1800-1880); desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971). Descant by permission of Novello and Company, Limited.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

All: Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Acts 8:26-40

Reader: A Reading from the book of Acts

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24-30

My praise is of him in the great assembly; * I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: * "May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, * and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; * he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; * all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn * the saving deeds that he has done.

1 John 4:7-21

Reader: A Reading from John's First letter

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

People: Thanks be to God.



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John 15:1-8

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

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Sermon

All:

The Rev. Karen Siegfriedt

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

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

We trust in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

> We trust in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We trust in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Creator of all, we pray for your church, that it may be a caring, loving, and accepting church. We pray for the outreach of your church, that it may seek out the needy, the outcasts, and the rejected: that love may be revealed in action. Lord, as you abide in us, *may we abide in you*.

We come with sorrow for all who have been denied freedom or peace. We pray for places where communities have been destroyed, where families have been divided or separated, for children who have lost contact with their parents. We remember all who seek to heal that which divides. Lord, as you abide in us, *may we abide in you.*

We give thanks for places where people can exercise their talents, where people are free to think and to act without hinderance. We pray for all who are enriching our world with their gifts. We pray for our families and friends. Lord, as you abide in us, *may we abide in you*.

We think of all whose lives have been marred by their past: for lives destroyed by bad memories, hatred, guilt or resentment; for all who are weary of life, who are tired of serving others. In the power of the risen Lord, we ask for renewal, refreshment, and restoration. Lord, as you abide in us, **may we abide in you.**

Lord of life and love, we praise you for all who have borne fruit in your service, for all who have forwarded your peace, for all who have shared their love and goodness. We pray for all our loved ones departed. Lord, as you abide in us, *may we abide in you*.

We remember especially those for whom prayers are requested in our bidding book.

[here prayers are added from the bidding book and you are invited to share your silently or in the chat]

For this let us pray Lord, as you abide in us, *may we abide in you*.

Celebrant: God of love, may we abide in your presence and so abide in your love; as we freely receive your love, let us freely share with others all that you have given to us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

Adapted from Traces of Glory by David Adam 1999

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Please greet one another in the chat.

Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

Those wanting a special prayer for a birthday, anniversary, or travel, 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.





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J 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

Celebrant:

The table of bread and wine is now made ready.

It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him.

It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself.

It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.

So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more;

you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time;

you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; Come.

It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Celebrant: May Christ be with you,

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts,

Iona

All: We lift them up to God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God,

All: It is right to give both thanks and praise.

Celebrant: We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ. Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, we sing to you. With the angels of light who envelop us, with Michael and the host of heaven, with all the saints before and beside us, with Columba and Brigid, Patrick and Margaret, Blessed Mary and Blessed Benedict, with siblings east and west, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of your unending greatness:





Music: American folk melody; arr. Marcia Pruner, harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983).

Celebrant Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread. On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, This is my body, given to you. In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming Kingdom of God.

All: Loving God,

through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, So that we may know your touch in all bread, all matter. We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.

Celebrant: Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing and making us whole. And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.

All: Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, All-Compassionate God, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

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

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

from A New Zealand Prayer Book

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the Bread

♪ Fraction Anthem

WLP 874 (principal canon)



Holy Communion

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

♪ Communion Music

Original Improvisation Paul Burkle



Words: Sts. 1-3, Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), alt.; st. 4, Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Rockingham*, melody from *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, ca. 1780; adapt. Edward Miller (1731-1807); harm. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816).

Prayer

God of abundance,you have fed uswith the bread of life and cup of salvation;you have united us with Christ and one another;and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.Now send us forthin the power of your Spirit,that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the worldand continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.

Blessing

Celebrant: God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. Amen. (source: Celtic)

Announcements





Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933). Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

♪ Postlude

Original Improvisation Paul Burkle

Eucharist Liturgy Adapted from The Iona Abbey Worship Book © 2001 The Iona Community Used with permission Music reproduced and broadcast under OneLicense #A706314

Ministers of the Service

Celebrant:	The Rev. Karen Siegfriedt
Eucharistic Minister:	Sarah Chesebro
Eucharistic Assistant:	Helen Schnieders
Lector:	Helen Schnieders
Music:	Paul Burkle
Flowers:	Elaine Beckham
Ushers:	Lisa Gonzalez and Maureen Titus
Altar Guild:	Sarah Chesebro
Online Host:	Elaine Beckham
Tellers:	Bryson McKelvey & Alice Welchert
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthews
Coffee Hour Host:	Kathy West

This Week at St Ben's

Monday	April 29
3:30p	Liturgy Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday	April 30
9:45a	Prayers of the Morning (Zoom)
10:30a	Spiritual Conversation (Zoom)
Wednesday	May 1
4:00p	Community Dinner
Sunday	May 5
10:30a	Eucharist Service
12:00p	Potluck Lunch

Announcements

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 <u>prayers@stbenslososos.org</u> and requests for pastoral care may be sent to <u>pastoralcare@stbenslososos.org</u>.

Tuesday Morning Prayers & Spiritual Conversation: The Tuesday morning Spiritual conversation will be discussing ideas from the book *How to Live: What the Rule of St. Benedict Teaches Us About Happiness, Meaning and Community* by Judith Valente. 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 tiłhini (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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