



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

Los Osos, California

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 8:00 am

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

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

People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for 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 20

Glory to God

Gloria in excelsis

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Holy God, heavenly One,
almighty God and Creator,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Savior Jesus Christ, only Son of God,
Holy God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Creator:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Savior,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Creator. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Officiant: God be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Officiant: 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.

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.

[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.

All: *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 add your own prayers silently or aloud]

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

Officiant: *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

Officiant: 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 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.*

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*

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.

(source: Celtic)

Announcements

Dismissal

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

All: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!*

Today's Liturgy is from the outline in the Book of Common Prayer.
Used with permission

Ministers of the Service

Officiant:	Lisa Gonzalez
Altar Guild:	JW Wright
Flowers:	Elaine Beckham
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthews

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 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 and requests for pastoral care may be sent to pastoralcare@stbenslososos.org.

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 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
2220 Snowy Egret Lane
Los Osos, CA 93402
805-528-0654
office@stbenslososos.org
www.stbenslososos.org

