



## St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul in Los Osos ~

### Ascension Day

May 29th, 2025

Our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic condition, or physical or mental ability—  
your presence here today is a blessing!

### About Our Service

Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are warmly welcome at St. Benedict's! If you are unfamiliar with the ritual customs of the Episcopal Church, simply rest into the liturgy and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship.

## Welcome

Officiant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: *Glory to God for ever and ever.*

## Collect of the Day

Officiant: Christ be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

People: *Amen*

## Acts 1:1-11

Reader: *A Reading from the book of Acts*

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses

in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

People: ***Thanks be to God***

## **Psalm 47**

Clap your hands, all you peoples; \*  
shout to God with a cry of joy.

For the LORD Most High is to be feared; \*  
he is the great King over all the earth.

He subdues the peoples under us, \*  
and the nations under our feet.

He chooses our inheritance for us, \*  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

God has gone up with a shout, \*  
the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.

Sing praises to God, sing praises; \*  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is King of all the earth; \*  
sing praises with all your skill.

God reigns over the nations; \*  
God sits upon his holy throne.

The nobles of the peoples have gathered together \*  
with the people of the God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, \*  
and he is highly exalted.

## **Ephesians 1:15-23**

Reader: *A Reading from the letter to the Ephesians*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for

us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

People: *Thanks be to God*

### **Luke 24:44-53**

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

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ

People: *Praise to You, Lord Christ.*

### **A time of shared reflection**

introduced by The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker

### **Prayers of the People**

Mighty God, as we come before your glory,  
fill us with your Spirit,  
renew our vision,  
restore our faith,  
refresh your church.

Holy One, we pray that the whole church may be attentive to you  
and show you the gifts of the Spirit.

We pray especially for ministers and peoples who are losing vision,  
for all who have lost faith and are without hope.

Christ, in your glory, change us

***and we shall be changed.***

We pray for the leaders of the nations,  
that they may serve with integrity and justice,  
that they may be aware that their gifts and their power come from you.

We pray for world unity and peace, and for the time when the  
nations of the world come to know true justice.

Christ, in your glory, change us

***and we shall be changed.***

Loving God, grant that in our homes and in our community spaces we may be attentive to you,  
make us sensitive to each other and to our needs;  
as you give us gifts, may we freely share them with others.

Source of All That Is, teach us to be gracious and generous.

Christ, in your glory, change us

***and we shall be changed.***

Holy One, may the glory of your presence transform our lives,  
awaken us to your presence in and through all things.

We pray that we may discover your Spirit at work in our own lives,  
and in the lives of others.

We bring before you all who are down and distressed,  
all who are feeling weak and discouraged, for your uplifting, O God.

We pray for friends and loved ones who are struggling at this time, and for all  
who are ill, or weary.

Christ, in your glory, change us

***and we shall be changed.***

We give you thanks that when we face death we have hope;  
renew us by your Spirit, and restore us, we pray, in your love.  
We pray for all who have passed through death and rejoice  
in life eternal.

Christ, in your glory, change us  
*and we shall be changed.*

*Silence*

Celebrant: Almighty God, who through your great love raised your Son into glory,  
receive our prayers offered before you; help us to know and trust that  
we are not alone; to know and trust we dwell in you and you in us,  
to know and trust that the ascended Christ is with us always,  
and that your Spirit indeed comes to guide and strengthen us.  
Loving God, as we come before you, grant us a glimpse of your glory;  
we ask all this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who with you and  
the Holy Spirit are one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Adapted from Glimpses of Glory by David Adams and Anne Kelsey

## **The Peace**

Officiant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

The congregation may greet one another in the name of Christ.

## **Holy Eucharist**

Iona

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,

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:

Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory.

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 the host of heaven, with all the saints before and beside us, with siblings east and west, north and south, 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:

## **Sanctus**

All: *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:

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 it 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.***

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**

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

***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.*

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

The celebrant breaks the Bread

Silence

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

## **Holy Communion**

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

*If God is calling you, you are welcome to receive communion when the celebrant invites your section forward. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.*

A time of silence follows, beginning and ending with the sound of the bell

## **Prayer**

*Almighty and everliving God,*

*we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food*

*of the most precious Body and Blood*

*of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;*

*and for assuring us in these holy mysteries*

*that we are living members of the Body of your Son,*

*and heirs of your eternal kingdom.*

*And now, Father, send us out*

*to do the work you have given us to do,*

*to love and serve you*



*as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.*

*To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*be honor and glory, now and for ever.*

*Amen.*

## **Blessing**

## **Dismissal**

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

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

## 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

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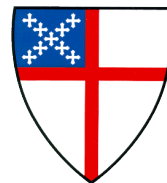
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