

St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul in Los Osos ~

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025 10:30 am

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

~ Prelude ~

Original Improvisation
Paul Burkle

A Penitential Order

Celebrant: Blessed be the God of our salvation.

People: Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

Celebrant reads from scripture.

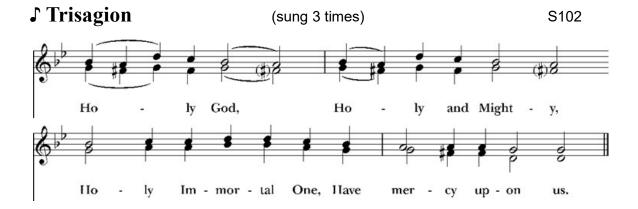
Confession and Absolution

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*



Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Gracious God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true

bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now

and for ever.

People: Amen

Joshua 5:9-12

Reader: A Reading from the book of Joshua

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

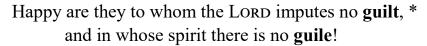
Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32 S414

Chant on a single note, changing note with the bolded word.

Happy are they whose transgressions are for-given, * and whose sin is put away!



While I held my tongue, my bones withered a-way, * because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and **night**; * my moisture was dried up as in the heat of **summer**.

Then I acknowledged my sin to **you**, * and did not conceal my **guilt**.

I said," I will confess my transgressions to the **LORD**." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my **sin**.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of **trouble**; * when the great waters overflow, they shall not **reach them**.

You are my hiding-place;

you preserve me from **trouble**; * you surround me with shouts of de-**liverance**.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should **go**; * I will guide you with my **eye**.

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no under-standing; * who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

Great are the tribulations of the **wicked**; * but mercy embraces those who trust in the **LORD**.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the **LORD**; * shout for joy, all who are true of **heart**.



2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Reader: A Reading from Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

People: Thanks be to God.



Words: African-American spiritual. Music: Balm in Gilead, Afro-American spiritual; acc. David Hurd (b. 1950).

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."'

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

[We pause for a few moments' reflection.]

Affirmation of Faith

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:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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. who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

Holy God, when we wander from the way, call us back;

when we stray from the truth, redirect us;

when we do not live life to the full, inspire and refresh us.

May we and your whole church follow him who is the way, the truth and the life.

We pray for all who have wandered away from the faith, for all who have lost touch with you and your love.

We remember all who are pilgrims and seekers.

Loving God, we turn to you.

Enfold us in your peace.

We pray for all who have been separated from loved ones, through war or circumstance, for those who have left home and become lost.

We remember those who live on the streets of our towns and cities.

We pray for all who live in poverty and debt.

Loving God, we turn to you.

Enfold us in your peace.

We pray for places where your glory is marred or scarred:

for all who have nowhere permanent to live,

for all who do not have enough to eat or someone to care for them.

We remember all who are lonely, all who are distressed.

Loving God, we turn to you.

Enfold us in your peace.

We ask your blessing upon all who are ill at home or in hospital. We remember especially

[here prayers are added from the bidding book and you are invited to add your own prayers silently or aloud]

We pray for all who have died and have entered the fullness of your joy, where sorrow and pain are no more.

Loving God, we turn to you.

Enfold us in your peace.

Silence

Celebrant: All-compassionate God, we trust in your love, we rejoice in your mercy, we know you will accept us and forgive us our sins. Hear our prayers and enfold us in your peace.

Amen.

Adapted from Glimpses of Glory by David Adams

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Please greet others in the chat.

Announcements

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*.

The Offertory

You can contribute at our website www.stbenslososos.org at any time.





J Doxology:

[Traditional hymn tune]

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

It is the custom of St. Benedict's to use the Eucharistic Prayer from Iona Abbey on the fifth Sunday of the month.

Holy Eucharist Iona

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: 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:



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.

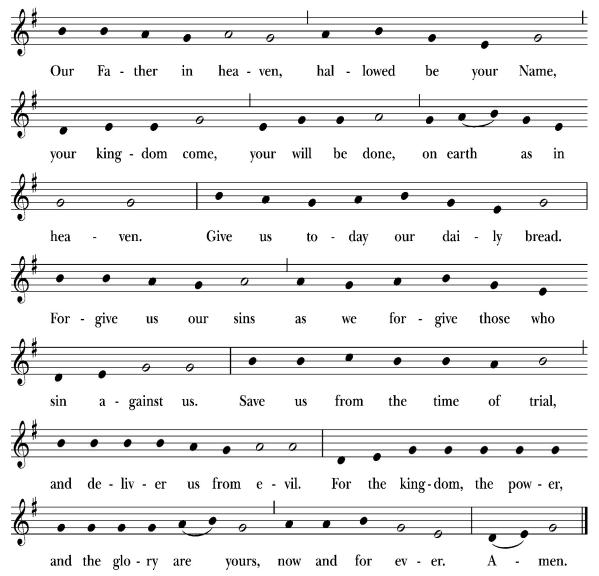
Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.

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.

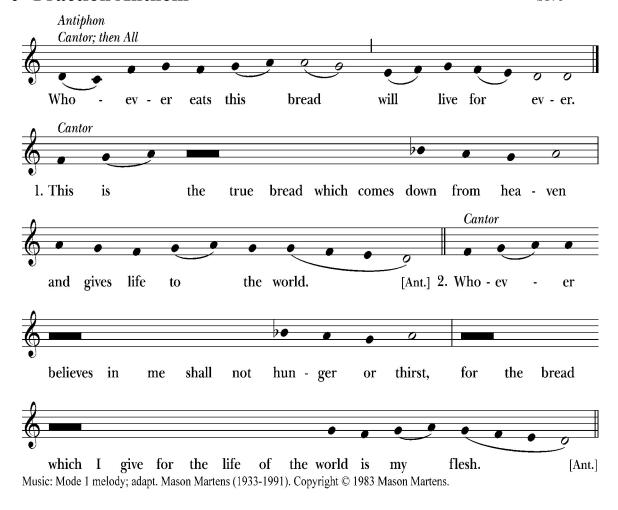
All: Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, All-Compassionate God, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,



Music: McNeil Robinson II (b. 1943). Copyright © 1984 From: Music For the Lord's Supper. Theodore Presser Company. Used by permission.

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the Bread



Holy Communion

The celebrant continues:

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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

Original Improvisation
Paul Burkle



Silence

Sending of the Eucharistic Visitor If no visitation is to be made, prayer is not said.

When the Eucharist is brought to people at any place outside our walls, we say the following to send our Lay Eucharistic Visitors or other Ministry team members out with care and blessings.

Celebrant: In the name of this parish family, I send you forth, bearing these holy gifts, to
______. Together, we share in the body and blood of Christ. And we who are many are one Body because we share one Bread and one Cup.

All: We who are many are one Body, because we share one Bread and one Cup. Amen.

Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with 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 forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen

Solemn Prayer over the Assembly

Celebrant: Let us bow down before God.

Celebrant: Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who bow before you; and grant that those

whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit

worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt. Music: Leoni, Hebrew melody; harm. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1875, alt.

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.** (no Alleluias during Lent)

♪ 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

Holy Week at St. Ben's

| April 13 | Palm Sunday |
|----------|-------------|
| | |

April 17 Agape Meal

Maundy Thursday

April 18 Good Friday

April 19 Easter Vigil

April 20 Easter Sunday

Ministers of the Service

Rev. Linzi Stahlecker Celebrant: Preacher: Rev. Linzi Stahlecker **Eucharistic Minister:** Diana Hammerlund Altar Guild: Sarah Chesebro Lector: Roz Malone Usher: Jim Malone Usher: Connie Weldon Intercessor: Sandy Fisher Music: Paul Burkle Teller: Sandy Fisher

Teller: Diana Hammerlund
Technical: Hannah Matthews
Coffee Hour Host: Maureen Tltus

This Week at St Ben's

Monday Mar 31

8:30a Morning Prayers (Zoom)

3:30p Liturgy Committee

Tuesday Apr 1

8:30a Morning Prayers

9:45a Prayers of the Morning (Zoom) 10:30a Spiritual Conversation (Zoom)

Wednesday Apr 2

8:30a Morning Prayers (Zoom)

Thursday Apr 3

8:30a Morning Prayers (Zoom)

6:00p Choir Practice

Friday Apr 4

8:30a Morning Prayers (Zoom)

Saturday Apr 5

12:00p Peoples Kitchen

Sunday Apr 6

10:30a Eucharist Service

Announcements

Lenten Morning Prayer Rev. Linzi will offer Morning Prayer each weekday morning (Monday - Friday) through Lent at 8:30am. Bring your BCP and Bible or follow along with "*Venite*" either via their website or their downloadable app. The zoom link is on the calendar listing on the website.

International Transgender Day of Visibility is Monday, March 31. During Morning Prayer on 3/31 we will have special prayers in observance of this day. St. Benedict's strives to be a fully inclusive, fully affirming faith community, with a welcome that knows no boundaries.

Stations of the Cross are now installed in the sanctuary. The church will be open every Tuesday in the Lenten season from 2-5 pm for personal prayer and devotions. [Please know that the church won't be heated, so dress for comfort.]

Tuesday Morning Spiritual Conversation During Lent the Spiritual Conversation group will be reading from *Living Well Through Lent* by Living Compass. The pamphlet is available for free as a PDF file or contact Roz Malone. You do not have to do the reading to participate, all are welcome. Join on Zoom.

St. Benedict's will be serving at **People's Kitchen** next Saturday, April 5. If you'd like to sign up to help, please reach out to <u>Connie Weldon</u>.

Coffee Hour hospitality is such an important ministry of the church, it creates a warm welcome for all, and a time and space for community-building. If you'd like to know more about what's involved hosting Coffee Hour, please reach out to Barbara Hirahara, who can fill you in on what's involved many hands make light work!

Personal Prayer A member of the Healing Prayer team is always available after the liturgy for personal prayer. Please look for them in the pew closest to the altar after worship.

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, economic condition, gender, sexual orientation, 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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