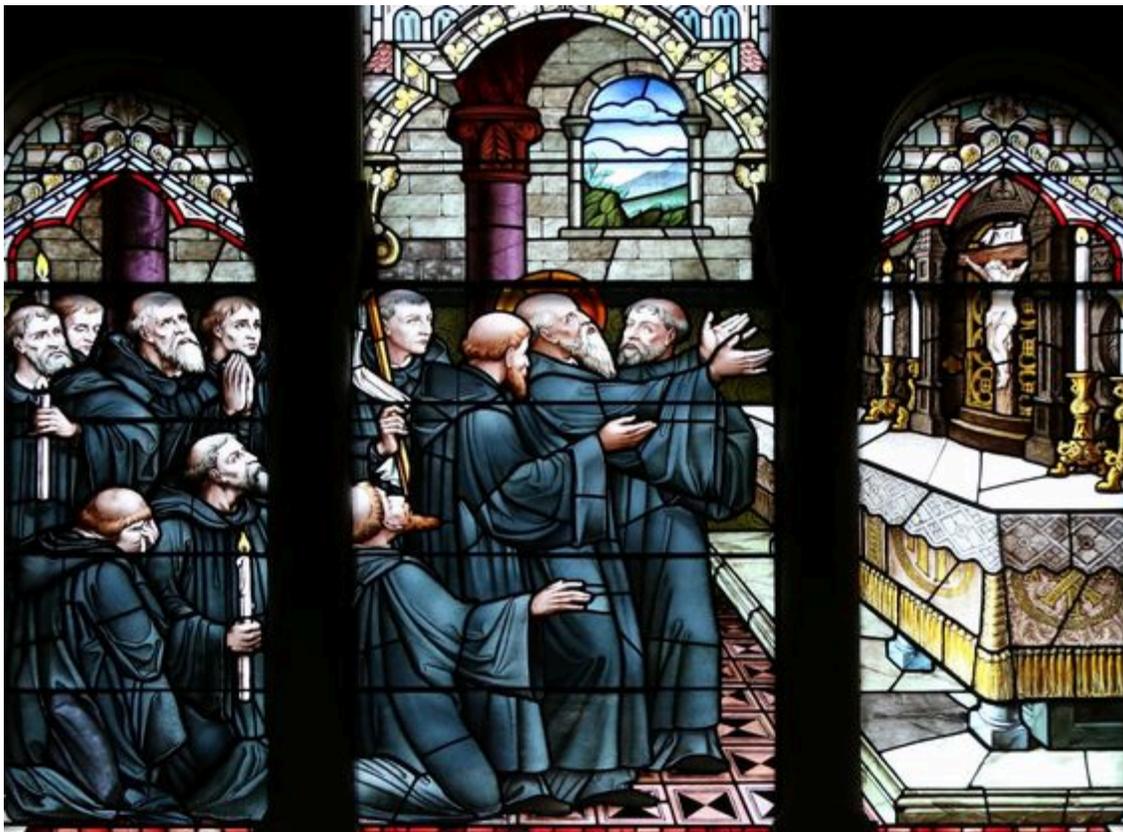


Trinity Episcopal Church

44 East Market Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

“Feeding All in Body, Mind, and Soul”
A Community of God’s People
All are Welcome



***The Lessons appointed for use on
The Feast of Holy Father,
Saint Benedict of Nursia
Abbot and Patriarch of Western Monasticism
Wednesday, July 11, 2018***

Collect

Eternal God, you endowed your holy servant Benedict with gifts of discernment and power to be a true and faithful guide in the way of Christian perfection. Instill in our hearts the virtues of stability and concord, that our prayers may be fixed on you and our judgements may be formed according to your great commandment of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

Proverbs 2:1-9

My child, if you accept my words
and treasure up my commandments within you,

making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;

if you indeed cry out for insight,
and raise your voice for understanding;

if you seek it like silver,
and search for it as for hidden treasures—

then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,

guarding the paths of justice
and preserving the way of his faithful ones.

Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path;

Psalm 119:129–136

Your decrees are wonderful; *
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

When your word goes forth it gives light; *
it gives understanding to the simple.

I open my mouth and pant; *
I long for your commandments.

Turn to me in mercy, *
as you always do to those who love your Name.

Steady my footsteps in your word; *
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Rescue me from those who oppress me, *
and I will keep your commandments.

Let your countenance shine upon your servant *
and teach me your statutes.

My eyes shed streams of tears, *
because people do not keep your law.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke

Luke 14: 27-33

Jesus said to the crowd, "Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Prayer over the Gifts

Gracious Lord, by the *Rule* of your blessed servant Benedict you have taught numberless Christians to rejoice in the holy work of prayer. Let our devotion be joined with these gifts that we may exalt your Name together and taste the abundance of your goodness. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Prayer after Communion

Grant us, O Lord our God, after the example of your holy servant Benedict, to practice with joy the labor of obedience, that we may never cease from the work of prayer nor ever relent in our service to one another. We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Benedict of Nursia 480-547

Today we honor **Benedict**, an abbot in sixth-century Italy and the author of an influential **Rule** for communities of monks and nuns.

In his youth Benedict **abandoned society** and for many years dwelt all alone in a cave in order to learn complete obedience to the will of Christ. Word of his holy life spread throughout Italy, and **soon he was surrounded** by several thousand disciples, whom he formed into a single community. He eventually moved to **Monte Cassino**, where he gathered a second community of monks. There he died around the year 547.

Shortly before his death Benedict drew up a **Rule** for the continuing nurture of his community. This Rule teaches monks two chief duties — obedience to their abbot and the work of prayer. **Obedience** is not meant to be an end in itself; it is supposed to foster **stability** in spiritual growth, so that each monk might look beyond his own needs and support his brothers in attaining the common goal of perfect **conformity** to Christ. This communal discipline finds its chief expression through the daily offices, which Benedict called “**the work of God.**” Seven times a day the whole community gathers to pray the Psalms, hear Scripture, and offer intercession for the needs of the Church and the world. As with the precept of obedience, “the work of God” is meant to be a work of love in Jesus Christ.

Several centuries after Benedict’s death, his **Rule** was adopted by other monastic communities throughout Europe and became the foundation for the **Order of St. Benedict**, which flourishes in the Roman Catholic and Anglican communions to this day.

Courtesy of
For All the Saints
Prayers and Readings for Saints' Days
According to the Calendar of the Book of Alternative Services
of the Anglican Church of Canada
compiled by Stephen Reynolds

