

St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul in Los Osos ~

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024 10:30 am

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.

Please silence your phones.

~ Prelude ~

Original Improvisation

Paul Burkle

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy, and living One.

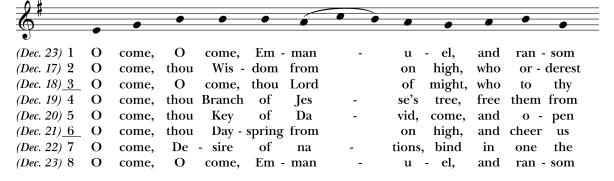
People: You come to your people and set them free.

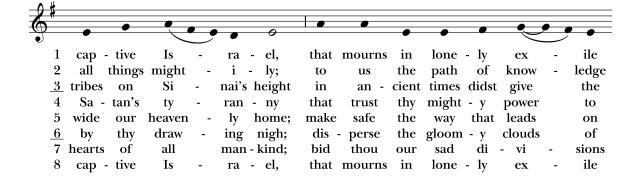
Celebrant: Let us pray.

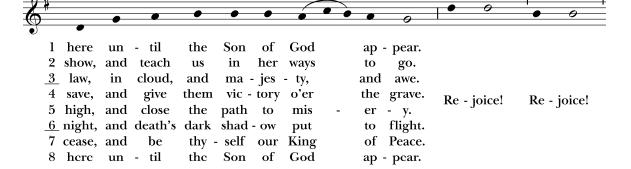
All: All-compassionate and most merciful God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



\$\(\text{J}\) Hymn #56 "O Come, O come Emmanuel" (v.1, 4, 5) Blue Hymnal









The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People: Amen

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Reader: A Reading from the book of Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;

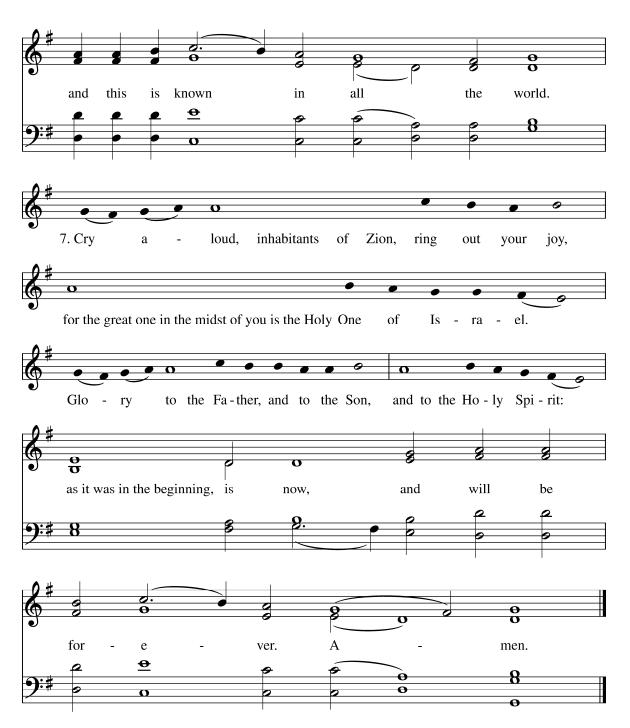
for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 9 **WLP 882** Cantor AllO it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a - fraid. 1. Sure - ly, 2. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure de-fense, and he will be my Sa-vior. 3. Therefore you shall draw wa - ter with re-joic-ing from the springs of sal - va tion. 0 O 4. And on that day you shall say, give thanks to the Lord and Name; 5. Make call up - on his his deeds known a - mong the peo-ples; see that they remember that his Name ex - alt - ed. is O 6. Sing the praises of the Lord, who has done great things,



Music: Tone 7, polyphony alternatim after Leonhard Schroeter (c.1532-1601); arr. Fred Goff (b. 1952). Copyright © 1984 All Saints' Company.

Philippians 4:4-7

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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

People: Thanks be to God.



Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

Luke 3:7-18

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

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

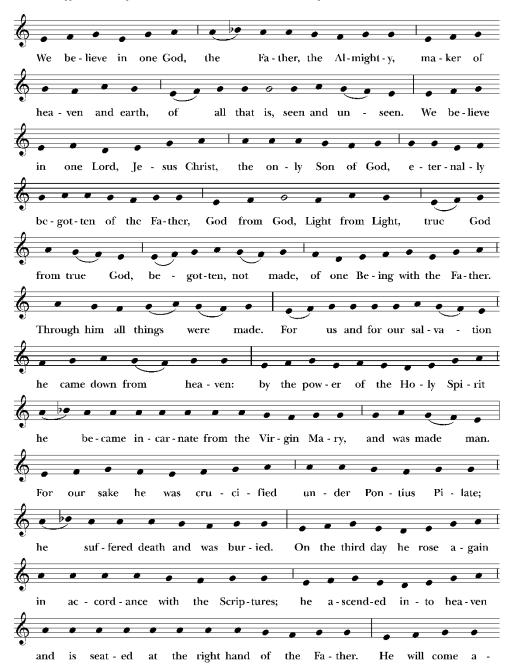
Sermon

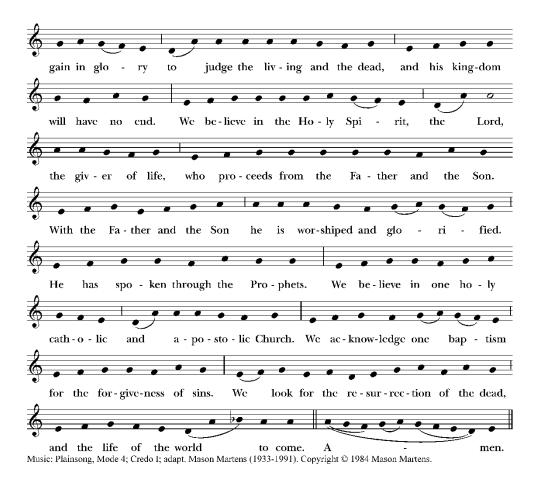
The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker

[We pause for a few moments' reflection.]

Affirmation of Faith

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





Prayers of the People

BCP Form I

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to our God, saying "God, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy*.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy*.

For our Bishop Lucinda and our priest Rev. Linzi, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy*.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy*.

For this community of Los Osos, for every community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy*.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to our God. *God*, *have mercy*.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy*.

For those who are aged and infirm, for those who are widowed and orphans, and for those who are sick and suffering, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy*.

For tl	hose	mention	ed in	our	biddi	ing	book:	
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[here prayers are added from the bidding book and you are invited to add your own prayers silently or in the chat]

Let us pray to our God. God, have mercy.

For those who are poor and those who are oppressed, for those who are unemployed and those who are destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy*.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy*.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy*.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to our God. *God, have mercy*.

In the communion of Benedict and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. *To you, O Lord our God.*

Celebrant: Holy One, accept these prayers of your people; in

the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O

lover of souls, and to you we give glory, now and for ever. **Amen**.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: God of all mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other,

in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,

the evil we have done,

and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

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*.

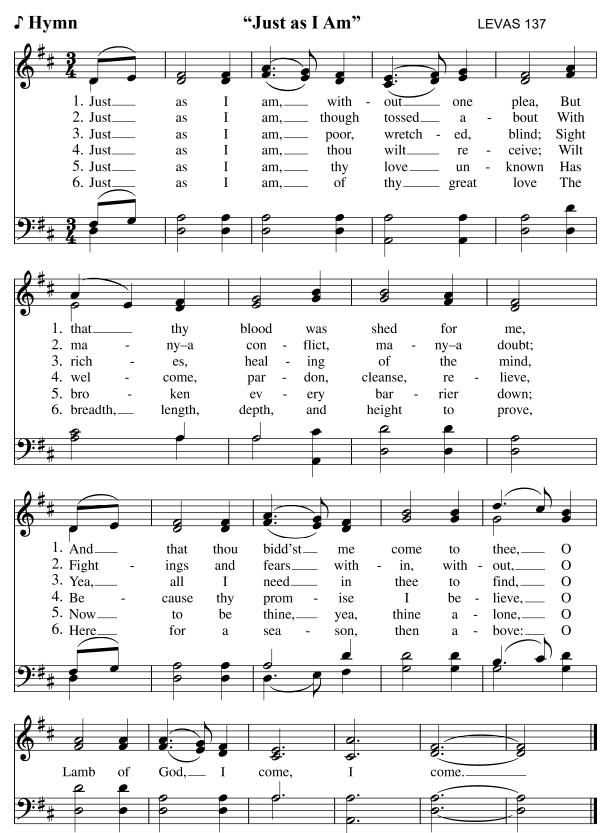
53. For Travelers p 831

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.





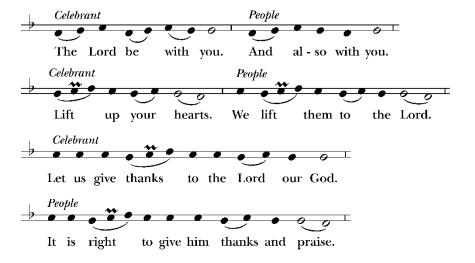
Words: Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871). Music: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868).

♪ 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

Holy Eucharist

EOW₂



Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Celebrant

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

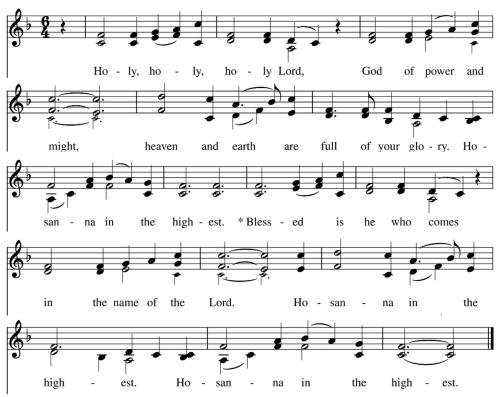
From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a parent cares for their children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing: **Sanctus** WLP 858



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

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

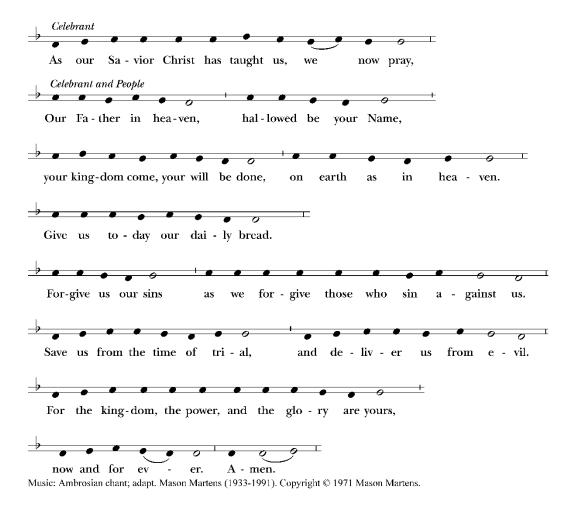
Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Benedict and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

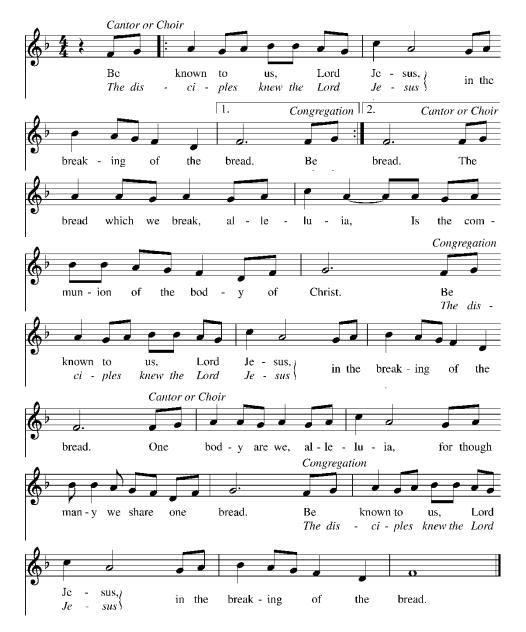
All: Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer



The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the Bread



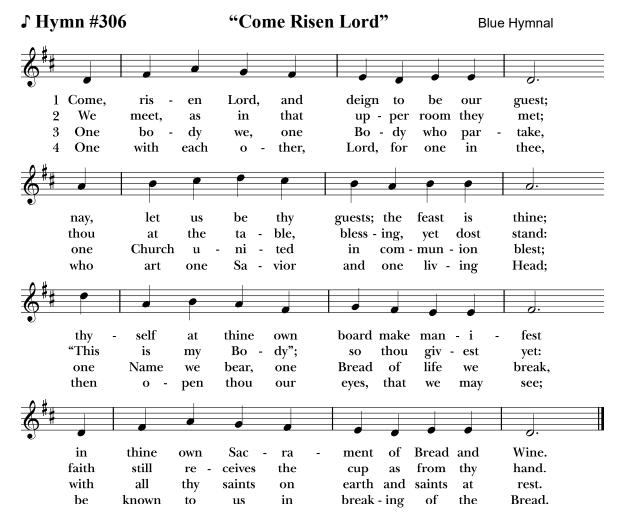
Holy Communion

Celebrant: 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



Words: George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Sursum Corda*, Alfred Morton Smith (1879-1971). Copyright © 1941, Mrs. Alfred M. Smith.

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.

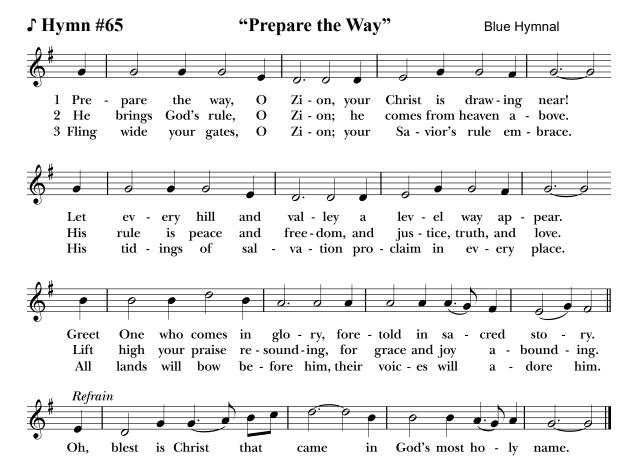
Celebrant: In the name of this parish family, I send you forth, bearing these holy gifts, to ______. Together, we share in the body and blood of Christ. And we who are many are one Body because we share one Bread and one Cup.

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

Blessing



Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Original Improvisation
Paul Burkle

Eucharist Liturgy Adapted from Enriching Our Worship
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Ministers of the Service

Celebrant: Rev. Linzi Stahlecker Preacher: Rev. Linzi Stahlecker

Altar Guild: Letty Cotta

Eucharistic Minister:

Eucharistic Assistant:

Lector:

Flowers:

Diana Hammerlund

Michael Lucas

John Horsley

Pamela Bleisch

Ushers: Michael Lucas & Barbara Schippers

Intercessor: Louisa Beeler
Music: Paul Burkle
Online Host: Connie Weldon

Tellers: Diana Hammerlund & Steve Cake

Technical: Hannah Matthews

Coffee Hour Host:

This Week at St Ben's

Tuesday Dec 17

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

Wednesday Dec 18
11:00a / 4:00p Laundry Love
3:00p Earthcare Meeting
7:00p Blue Christmas Service

Thursday Dec 19

6:00p Choir Practice

Saturday Dec 21

9:00a Men's Breakfast

Sunday Dec 22

10:30a Eucharist Service

Announcements

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. BEN'S

Blue Christmas is a contemplative service offering respite from the high-energy of the season and acknowldging the Christmas can be a complicated season for so many of us. Wednesday Dec. 18th at 7 pm.

Christmas Eve Join us for a candlelit service with carols and traditional Eucharist follwed by hot drinks and cookies. Tuesday Dec. 24th at 7 pm.

Christmas Day Welcome Christmas morning with Holy Communion and carols followed by a light brunch. Wednesday Dec. 25th at 10:30 am.

The Flower Guild is welcoming any and all donations to help underwrite the cost of our flowers for our Christmas Services. Each poinsettia is \$10, and donations of any amount can be made to support these and the altar arrangements. If you would like to make your donation in Memory or in Thanksgiving for someone (or something) please share your dedication with Hannah so that all dedications received can be printed in the Christmas bulletins. Envelopes will be available on Sunday, or you can reach out to Hannah in the office at any time to arrange your donation with her. Thank you!

Tuesday Morning Prayers & Spiritual Conversation: During Advent, the Spiritual Conversation group will be using the <u>Living Well Through Advent: Practicing Peace with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind from Living Compass.</u> This seasonal resource consists of short daily readings to inspire reflection as we prepare ourselves to honor the birth of Jesus. You do not have to read the book to participate. Join on <u>Zoom</u>.

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

Announcements: Please email Rev. Linzi with any community announcements you'd like shared on a Sunday morning; the announcements will be compiled and shared by a single voice each week.

An all-gender restroom is located through the white door at the left of the sanctuary. All other restrooms are located by exiting out the doors and going down the outdoor wooden walkway towards the red door and then down the hallway to the left. Please ask an usher for assistance if needed.

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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