



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul in Los Osos ~

Christmas Day

December 25, 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.*

♩ Hymn #83

“O Come All Ye Faithful” (v.1-3, 6)

Blue Hymnal

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The *English Hymnal*, 1906.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: *Amen*

Isaiah 52:7-10

Reader: A Reading from the book of Isaiah

How beautiful upon the mountains
 are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
 who brings good news,
 who announces salvation,
 who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
 together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see
 the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
 you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

S415

The words of the Psalm are sung by the congregation to the first reciting note, moving to the next note for the word in bold.

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



© 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

Hebrews 1:1-4

Reader: A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

♩ Hymn #102 “Once in Royal David’s City” (v. 1,2,4,6) Blue Hymnal



Choir 1. Once in roy - al Da - vid’s cit - y stood a
 Choir 2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is
 Choir 3. Je - sus is our child - hood’s pat - tern, day by
 All 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his



low - ly cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her
 God - and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
 day like us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and
 own re - deem - ing love, for that child so dear and



ba - by in a man - ger for his bed. Mar - y was that
 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the poor, op -
 help - less, tears and smiles like us he knew; and he feels for
 gen - tle is our Lord in heav’n a - bove; and he leads his



moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 pressed, and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.

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John 1:1-14

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

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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.

We be-lieve in one God, the Fa-ther, the Al-might-y, ma-ker of
hea-ven and earth, of all that is, seen and un - seen. We be-lieve
in one Lord, Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, e - ter - nal - ly
be - got - ten of the Fa - ther, God from God, Light from Light, true God
from true God, be - got - ten, not made, of one Be - ing with the Fa - ther.
Through him all things were made. For us and for our sal - va - tion
he came down from hea - ven: by the pow - er of the Ho - ly Spi - rit
he be - came in - car - nate from the Vir - gin Ma - ry, and was made man.
For our sake he was cru - ci - fied un - der Pon - tius Pi - late;
he suf - fered death and was bur - ied. On the third day he rose a - gain
in ac - cord - ance with the Scrip - tures; he a - scend - ed in - to hea - ven
and is seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther. He will come a -

gain in glo - ry to judge the liv - ing and the dead, and his king-dom
will have no end. We be - lieve in the Ho - ly Spi - rit, the Lord,
the giv - er of life, who pro - ceeds from the Fa - ther and the Son.
With the Fa - ther and the Son he is wor - shipped and glo - ri - fied.
He has spo - ken through the Pro - phets. We be - lieve in one ho - ly
cath - o - lic and a - po - sto - lic Church. We ac - know - ledge one bap - tism
for the for - give - ness of sins. We look for the re - sur - rec - tion of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. A - men.

Music: Plainsong, Mode 4; Credo I; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1984 Mason Martens.

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 those mentioned in our bidding book: _____

[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.**

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.



♪ Hymn

“Ding Dong Merrily on High”



1,4. Ding dong! mer - ri - ly on high in
 Ding dong! ver - i - ly the sky is
 2. E'en so here be - low, be - low, let
 And i - o, i - o, i - o, by
 3. Pray you, du - ti - ful - ly prime your
 May you beau - ti - ful - ly rime your



1,4. heav'n the bells are ring - ing:
 riv'n with An - gel sing - ing.
 2. stee - ple bells be swung - en,
 priest and peo - ple sung - en.
 3. Mat - in chime, ye ring - ers;
 Eve - time Song, ye sing - ers:



1-4. Glo - - -



1-4. - - ri - a, Ho - san - na in ex - cel - sis!

Text: George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1848–1934.
 Music: melody fr. *Orchésographie*, 1588, by Thoinot Arbeau, 1519–1595.

♪ 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, Alleluia*

Sanctus

WLP 858

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Celebrant
As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and People
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er. A - men.

Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1971 Mason Martens.

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the Bread

♪ Fraction Anthem

WLP 875

Cantor or Choir

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the
 The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

1. *Congregation* | 2. *Cantor or Choir*

break - ing of the bread. Be bread. The
 bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia, Is the com -
Congregation
 mun - ion of the bod - y of Christ. Be
 The dis -

known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the
 ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

Cantor or Choir

bread. One bod - y are we, al - le - lu - ia, for though
Congregation
 man - y we share one bread. Be known to us, Lord
 The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord

Je - sus, }
 Je - sus } in the break - ing of 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

♩ Hymn #115

“What Child is This”

Blue Hymnal

Unison or harmony



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,



Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -



an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to
bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: *Greensleeves*, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

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*

(please stand as you are able)

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

♩ Hymn #99

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

Blue Hymnal

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

| | | | | |
|---|-------|--------------|--------|----------|
| 1 | While | shep - herds | kept | their |
| 2 | The | shep - herds | feared | and |
| 3 | Down | in | a | low - ly |

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain

hold, through - out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967). Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Arrangement, Copyright © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer.

Dismissal

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

All: *Thanks be to God.*

♪ Postlude

Original Improvisation

Paul Burkle

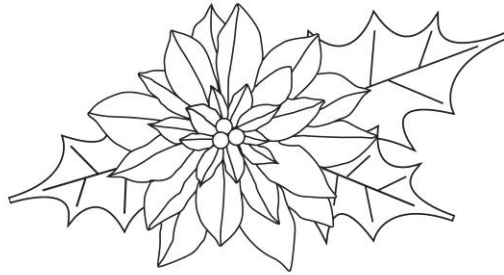
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Ministers of the Service

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Celebrant: | Rev. Linzi Stahlecker |
| Preacher: | Rev. Linzi Stahlecker |
| Altar Guild: | Sarah Chesbro |
| Eucharistic Minister: | Michael Lucas |
| Eucharistic Assistant: | Lisa Gonzalez |
| Lector: | Bryson McKelvey |
| Flowers: | Sharon Porter |
| Ushers: | Lisa Gonzalez |
| Music: | Paul Burkle |
| Technical: | Hannah Matthews |
| Coffee Hour Host: | |

This Week at St Ben's

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| Thursday | Dec 26 |
| 6:00p | Choir Practice |
| Sunday | Dec 29 |
| 10:30a | Eucharist Service |



Poinsettia Flowers

In Memory Of:

Wendy Parry

Donald Shields

Michael & Elizabeth Gonzalez

Vickie Gonzalez

Jim McShane

Dorothy & Harry Richards

Wil & Roberta Tufford

Dick Kersh

Susan Brady

Karin Leonard Cake

In Honor Of:

Brian & Alan's Mothers

In Thanksgiving For:

Jo Oliver

St. Benedict's Church

Rev. Linzi Stahlecker

Announcements

Please mark your calendars for the 2025 All-Parish meeting!

We hope everyone will join us for our once-yearly opportunity to hear updates from all corners of our parish and to hear all the plans for the upcoming year. We'll talk budget, and we'll talk hopes and dreams for St. Ben's - so bring your wonderings and your questions. We'll thank everyone whose efforts carried us so well through 2024 and we'll name the folks who'll be stepping into new leadership roles in 2025.

Everyone is invited! Especially if you've been away from St. Ben's for a while, or if you're new to the parish, please join us!

When: Sunday, January 26 at 12:30pm

Where: St. Benedict's Sanctuary

What: potluck, community time, and Blessing our Future!

Personal Prayer: If you'd like prayer support during the week, contact Sandy Fisher (661) 805-2882. 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.

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 tihini (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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