

# St Benedict's Episcopal Church

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~ Los Osos, California The Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

Whoever you are and wherever you are in your faith journey, there is a warm welcome for you here at St. Benedict's!

## ~ Prelude ~

"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Arr. by Mark Hayes © 2006 Lorenz Publishing

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Amen.

Joy

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the holiday songs, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season.

As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination.

Show us the creative power of hope.

Teach us the peace that comes from justice.

Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.

Magnify your love within us.

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,

That we may walk in the light of Christ.



All: Almighty 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.



Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861, alt. Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935).

## **Collect of the Day**

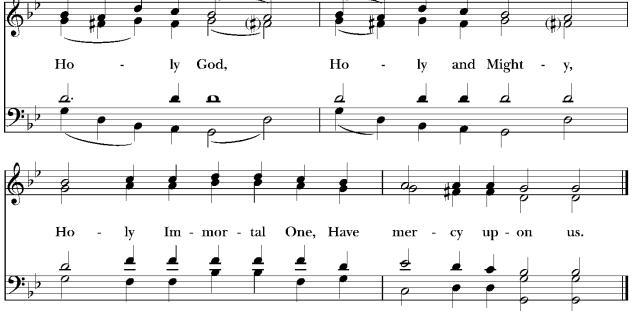
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

All: 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. Amen.





Music: Ver. Hymnal 1982, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

### Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader: A Reading from the book of Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,

and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,

but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

# **Canticle 15: The Song of Mary**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

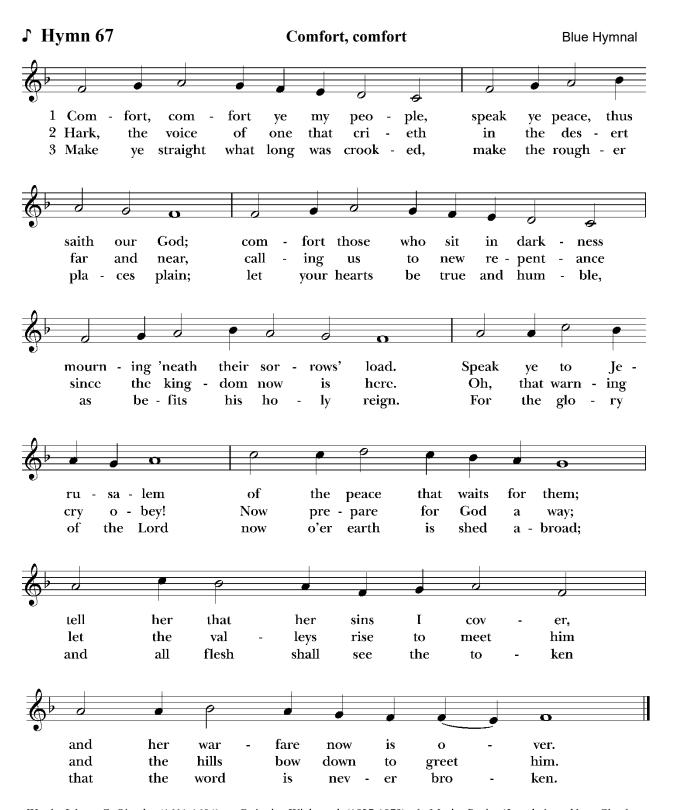
## James 5:7-10

Reader: A Reading from the Letter of James

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God



Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

## **Matthew 11:2-11**

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

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to You, Lord Christ.* 

#### Sermon

The Rev Dr. Caroline Hall

[We pause for a few moments' reflection before affirming our faith.]

### **Nicene Creed**

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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**

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

[Prayers are added from the bidding book.

You are encouraged to add your own prayers of thanksgiving or intercession]

O Lord our God, accept the fervent 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, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

#### **Confession and Absolution**

Let us confess our sins to God.

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*.

#### The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Please greet one another in the chat.

## **Birthday & Anniversary Prayers**

Those wanting a special prayer for a birthday, anniversary, or travel, please share in the chat.

## 50. For a Birthday p 830

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray on your servant(s) \_\_\_\_\_ as he/she/they begin(s) another year. Grant that he/she/they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen his/her/their trust in your goodness all the days of his/her/their life/lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 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; 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 may contribute at our website www.stbenslososos.org at any time.



Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988). Copyright © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft.

**♪ 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

Holy Eucharist BCP B

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

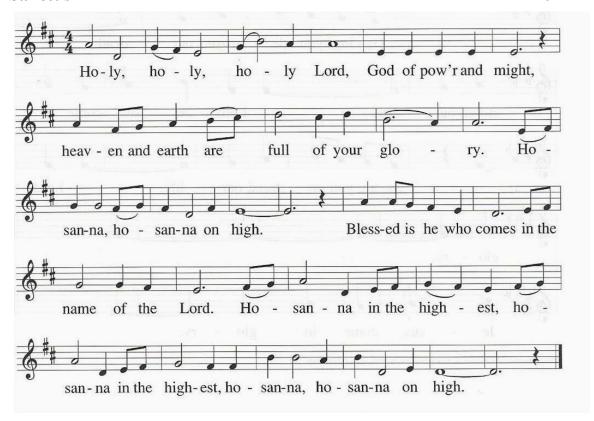
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**♪ Sanctus** Gather 297



The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,

"Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said,

"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,

which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Mary, Blessed Benedict and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

# The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we sing,



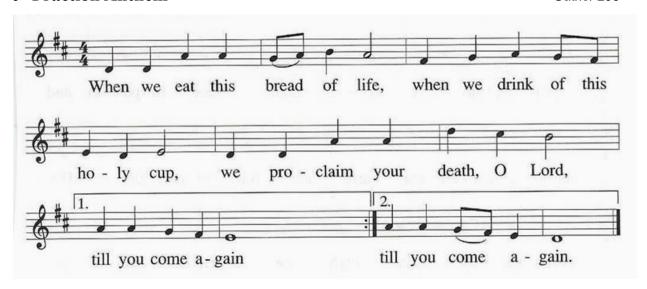
## The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

## **♪** Fraction Anthem

Gather 298



## **Holy Communion**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

This is God's table, and all are welcome here.

If God is calling you, you are welcome and invited to receive communion.

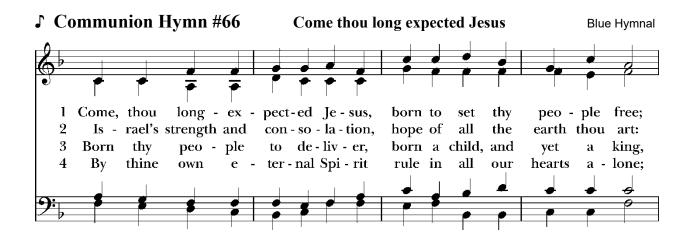
Please contact the church office to arrange to receive communion in your home.

### **♪** Communion Music

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent'

Arr: Lloyd Larson

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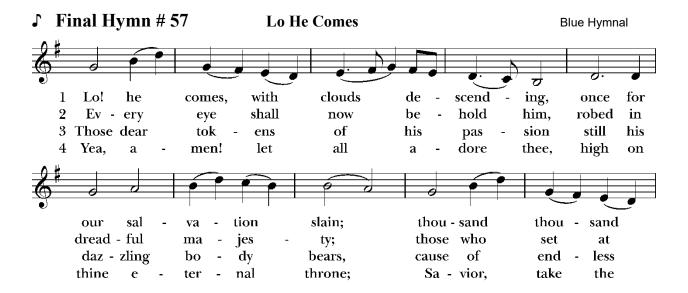
Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: Stuttgart, melody from Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesange, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

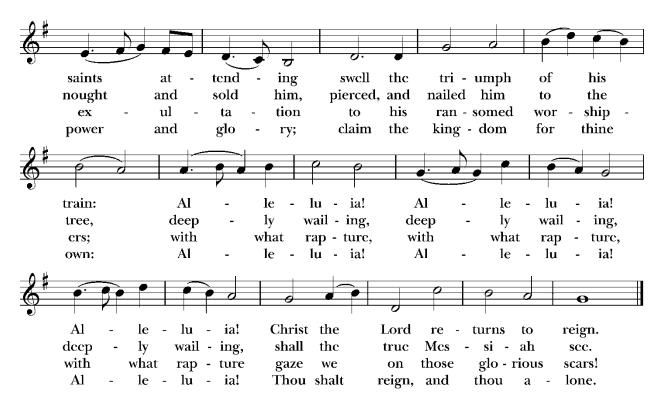
## **Prayer**

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Blessing**

### Announcements





Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

## **Dismissal**

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

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

## J Postlude

"My Dancing Day"

Traditional

Today's Eucharist Liturgy is

Eucharistic Prayer B from the Book of Common Prayer

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### **Ministers of the Service**

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall

Eucharistic Minister: Lisa Gonzalez
Lector: Bryson McKelvey

Ushers: Ron Thompson & Connie Weldon

Altar Guild: Sarah Chesebro
Flowers: Laura Thompson
Intercessor: Helen Schnieders

Tellers: Diana Hammerlund and Dianne Long

Online Hosts: Elaine Beckham Piano: Marian Kaser

Technical: Hannah-Jaye Matthews

## This Week at St Ben's

### Tuesday Dec 13

9:45a Prayers for the Morning (Zoom)

10:15a Spiritual Conversation (Zoom)

5:30p Vespers followed by Supper (In-person)

6:30p Parish Council (Zoom)

### Thursday Dec 15

5:30p Choir Rehearsal

### Friday Dec 16

9:00a Gentle Yoga

5:30p Messy Church

### Saturday Dec 17

9:00a Men's Breakfast

11:00a—4:00p Advent Prayer Pop-up

### Sunday Dec 18

8:00a Contemplative Communion

10:30a Eucharist

3:00p Celebration of Carols

## **Announcements**

**WELCOME TO CANON MARTHA** who is worshiping with us today and meeting with the Transition Committee

**SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION** - this week the conversation continues on the ideas in Tibetan Buddhist Pema Chodron's book, <u>Welcoming the Unwelcome</u>. You are welcome even if you have not read the book.

**PRAYER PLACE POP UP at the Abundance Shop Saturdays in Advent,** Join your Trailblazer Discovery Team, Sandy Fisher, Cathy Gildea, Barbara Hirahara, and Deacon Jen, at our Prayer Place Pop-up at the St. Ben's Abundance Shop during the season of Advent! Starting December 3 through 17th from 11-4, stop by for a blessing-to-go or a cup of coffee to stay. We will offer prayer, a question of the day based on the season of Advent, or just an opportunity to share anything that might be on your heart. Please stop by and invite others you know to do the same.

**CELEBRATION OF CAROLS:** The St. Benedict's Singers, directed by Scott Glysson and accompanied by Paul Woodring will once again provide a wonderful carol concert on December 18 at 3pm. Invite your friends and neighbors!

**POINSETTIAS:** If you would like to contribute and dedicate a poinsettia this Christmas there are envelopes at the back of the church. The deadline is December 18.

**PERSONAL PRAYER** – If you'd like prayer support during the week, contact Helen Schnieders 818-324-2646. If no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned. Prayer requests may also be emailed at any time to <a href="mailto:prayers@stbenslososos.org">prayers@stbenslososos.org</a>.

**PARISH COUNCIL:** We are looking for three people to serve on the Parish Council starting February 1. Is this a ministry that God is calling you to?

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