



St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

Tending Mind & Soul in Los Osos, CA

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, **you are welcome here!**

If the customs of the Episcopal Church are unfamiliar to you,
you're invited to simply rest into this sacred time and space,
and let the congregation carry you in worship.

You're presence here today is a blessing!

December 7th, 2025

The Second Sunday of Advent

~ **Prelude** ~

Original Improvisation

Paul Burkle

Welcome

♫ Hymn #56 “O come, O come Emmanuel” (verses 1, 2, 3) Blue Hymnal



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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).

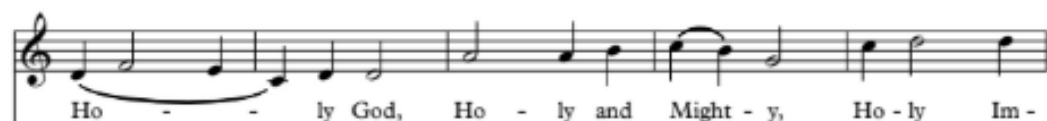
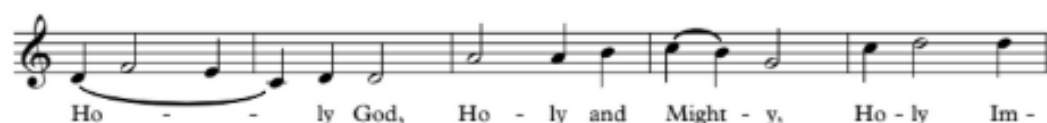
Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

"Holy God"

WLP #844
 Edited by Paul Burkle

WLP



Collect of the Day

Presider: God be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Presider: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: *Amen*

(please be seated for the readings)

Isaiah 2:1-5

Reader: *A Reading from the book of Isaiah*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the
knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

People: ***Thanks be to God***

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

*The Psalm is chanted by all on a single note changing
pitch on the bolded word*

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



- 1 I was glad when they said to **me**, *
"Let us go to the house of the **LORD**."
- 2 Now our feet are **standing** *
within your gates, O Je-**ru**salem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a **city** *
that is at unity with it-**self**;
- 4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the **LORD**, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the **LORD**.

5 For there are the thrones of **judgment**, *
the thrones of the house of **David**.

6 Pray for the peace of Je-rusalem: *
"May they prosper who **love you**.

7 Peace be within your **walls** *
and quietness within your **towers**.

8 For my brethren and companions' **sake**, *
I pray for your pros-**perity**.

Repeat the second half of the chant before vers 9

9 Because of the house of the LORD our **God**, *
I will seek to do you **good**."

Romans 15:4-13

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

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";
and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";
and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";
and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that
you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: Here what the spirit is saying to God's people

People: ***Thanks be to God***

(please stand as you are able as we welcome the Gospel)

♩ Hymn #385 "Many and great, O God, are thy works" Blue Hymnal



1 Man - y and great, O God, are thy works, mak - er of
2 Grant un - to us com - mun - ion with thee, thou star - a -



earth and sky; thy hands have set the hea - vens with stars;
bid - ing one; come un - to us and dwell with us;



thy fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at thy
with thee are found the gifts of life. Bless us with



word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey thy voice.
life that has no — end, e - ter - nal life with thee.

Words: American folk hymn; para. Philip Frazier (1892-1964), alt. Music: *Dakota Indian Chant [Lacquiparle]*, Native American melody.

Matthew 3:1-12

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

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

Presider: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker

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

Affirmation of Faith

(please stand as you are able)

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

*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 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

Form 2 BCP

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;
for our Bishop, Lucinda; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations;
and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those who are living in poverty, those who are sick,
those who are hungry, those who are oppressed, and those who are
incarcerated.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.
Pray that all who are longing for Christ, may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all those who have passed from this life to life
eternal.
Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask you prayers for all those named in our bidding book.

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

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been
honored, and pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own lives
and in our own day.

Silence

Presider: Christ Jesus, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly Kingdom, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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.*

Presider: May the All-Compassionate God have mercy on you, forgive you all our 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

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

The congregation may greet one another in the name of Christ.

Announcements

Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

Those wanting a special prayer for a birthday, anniversary, or any special concern, may come forward. Prayers can be found on the white or yellow card in your pew.

The Offertory



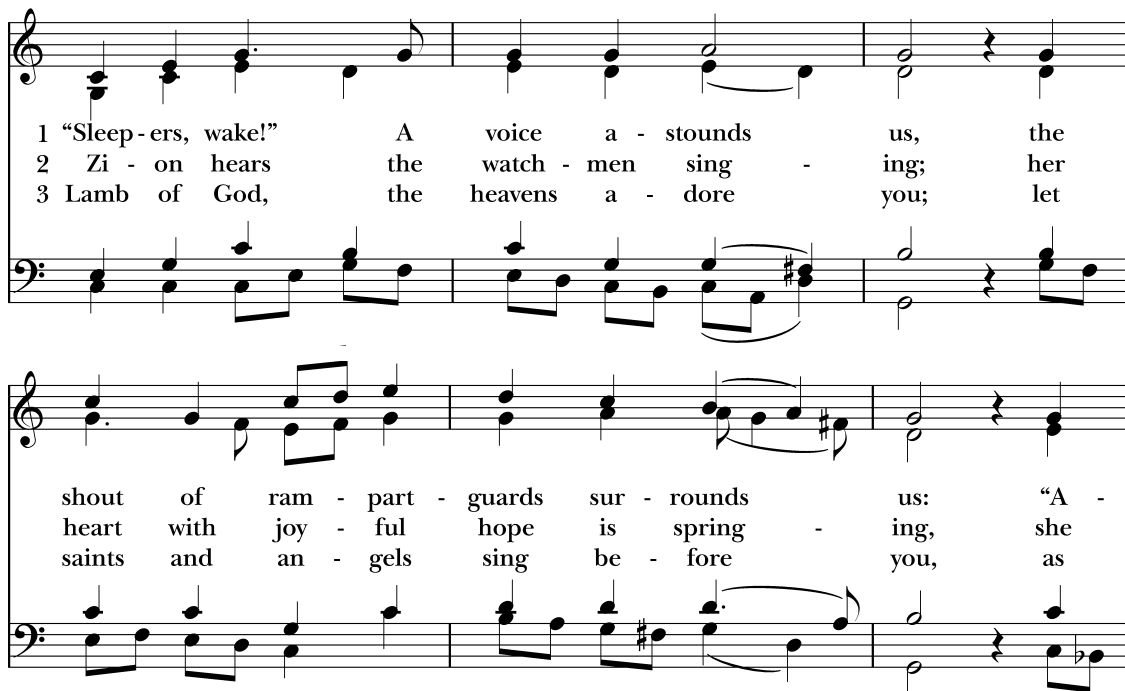
You are invited to make a thank offering, but if you do not contribute financially today please give thanks for God's blessing as the plate is passed. You can contribute at our website www.stbenslososos.org at any time.

♪ Hymn #61

“Sleepers, wake!”

Blue

Hymnal



1 “Sleep - ers, wake!” A voice a - stounds us, the
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her
3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us: “A -
heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she
saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their
wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her
harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -
Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -
ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -

ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.



Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -



sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to



has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share."
 heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
 greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Copyright © 1982, by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Wachet auf*, melody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

(please stand as you are able)

♩ 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 Prayer B

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the Celebrant and the People, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff is for the Celebrant and the People, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics "It is right to give him thanks and praise." The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and accidentals (sharps and flats) indicating the melody.

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

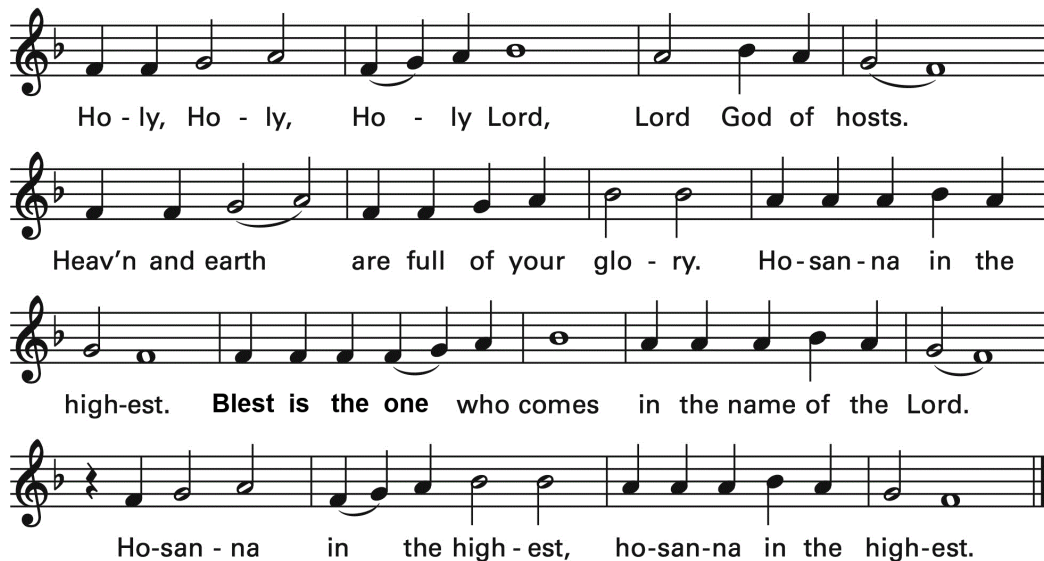
Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, the Maker of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame of fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

Missa Oecumenica
Arranged by Richard Proulx



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, Lord God of hosts.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high-est. **Blest is the one** who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

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Music: Russian Orthodox Tone 1; arr. by Richard Proulx, 1937–2010, © 1999, 2012, Richard Proulx.
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The Presider 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, Jesus 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 Jesus 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O God,

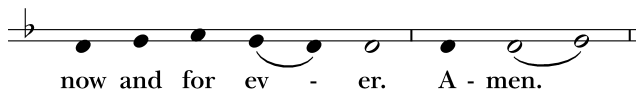
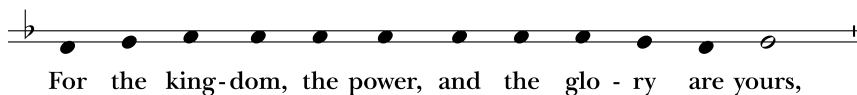
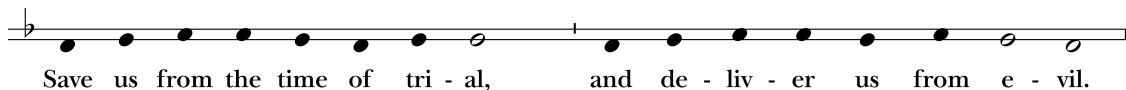
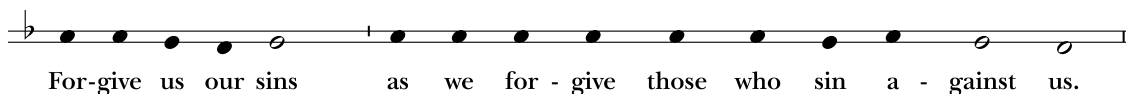
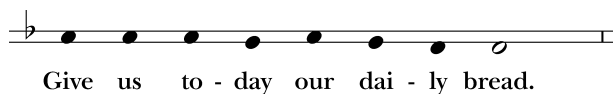
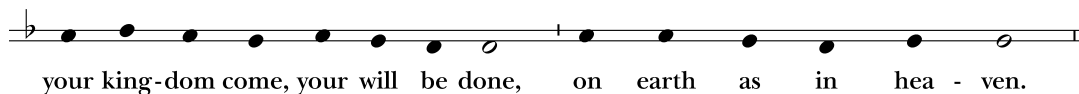
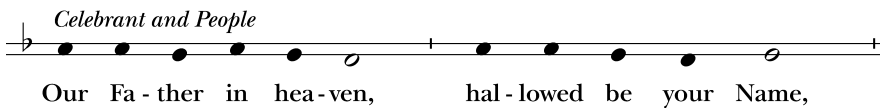
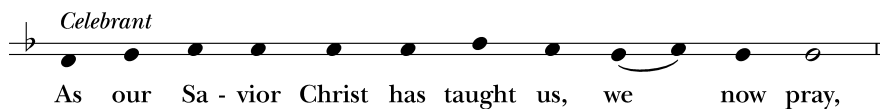
***All: We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;***

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Dear One; 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, gather all things into the circle of Christ's love, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with blessed Mary and blessed Benedict and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

The Lord's Prayer



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

The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the Bread

Fraction

S161

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

Presider: 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.

Holy Communion

If God is calling you, you are welcome to receive communion when the Presider invites your section forward. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.

♪ Communion Music

Original Improvisation

Paul Burkle

♪ Choir Anthem

“We Wait for Thee”

by Victor C. Johnson

Silence

Sending of the Eucharistic Visitor

prayer is not said.

If no visitation is to be made,

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.

Presider: 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.***

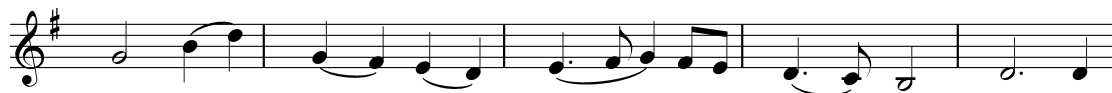
Prayer

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.**

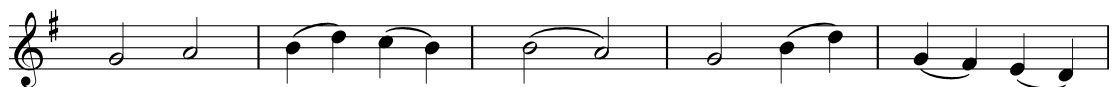
Blessing

♩ Hymn #57 “Lo, he comes, with clouds descending”

Blue Hymnal



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

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

Dismissal

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

All: *Thanks be to God.*

♪ Postlude

Original Improvisation

Paul Burkle