



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.

Your presence here today is a blessing!

December 14th, 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent

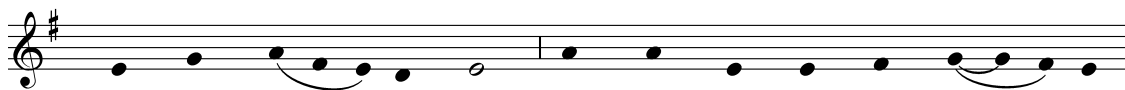
~ Prelude ~

Original Improvisation

Paul Burkle

Welcome

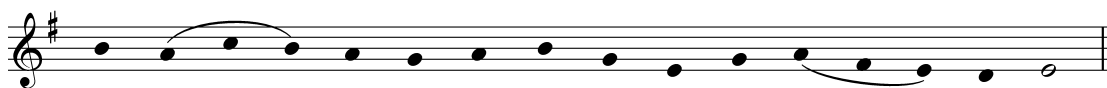
♫ Hymn #56 “O come, O come Emmanuel” (verses 1, 4, 5) Blue Hymnal



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).

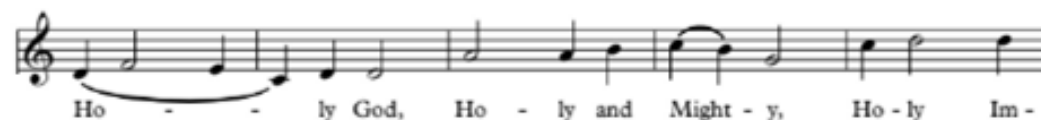
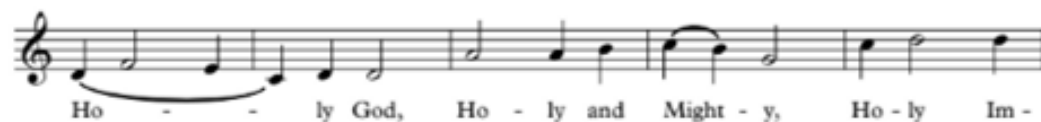
Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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: 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.*

People: Amen

(please be seated for the readings)

Isaiah 2:1-5

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.

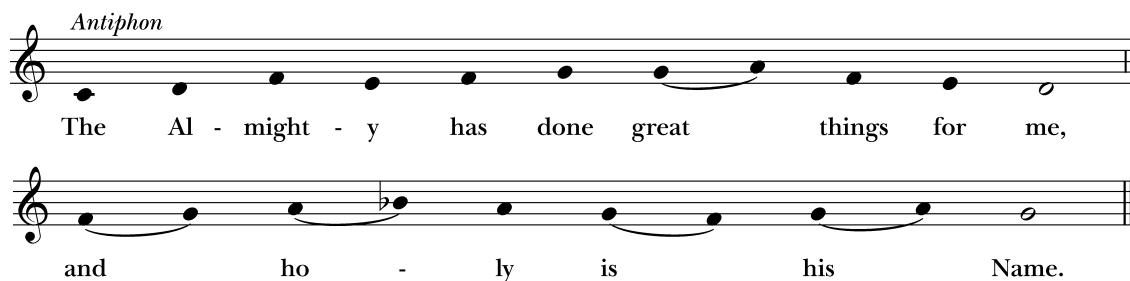
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

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

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

Canticle 15 Hymnal S242 - The Song of Mary *Magnificat*



The choir will sing Antiphon once and then all will repeat. The verses will be sung by the choir alone.

- 1 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.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
- 4 He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
- 5 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
- 7 He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Antiphon is sung again by all.

James 5:7-10

Reader: A Reading from the book 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: 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 #633

“Word of God come down on Earth” Blue Hymnal



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
 3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, speak and heal our
 4 Word that speaks your Fa - ther's love, one with him be -



heaven de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heaven to die,
 mor - tal blind - ness; deaf we are: our heal - er be;
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
 cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
 loose our tongues to tell your kind - ness. Be our Word in
 God the Spi - rit, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
 world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
 pi - ty spo - ken; heal the world, by our sin bro - ken.
 all truth lead us, Word of life, with one Bread feed us.

Words: James Quinn (b. 1919). Copyright © 1969 James Quinn, SJ, printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division of Cassell Ltd. Music: *Mt. St. Alban NCA*, Richard Wayne Dirksen (b. 1921). Copyright © 1984 Richard W. Dirksen.

Matthew 11:2-11

Presider: 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.”

Presider: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Brother Dennis Gibbs

[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 #59 “Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding” Blue Hymnal

Descant

2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
5 Hon- or, glo- ry, might, and bless- ing to the Fa- ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex- pect- ed, comes with par- don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo- ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon- or, glo- ry, might, and bless- ing to the Fa- ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis- pel- ling, shines up- on the morn- ing skies.
5 with the ev- er- last- ing Spi- rit while un- end- ing a- ges run.

1 “Cast a- way the works of dark- ness, O ye child- ren of the day.”
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis- pel- ling, shines up- on the morn- ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor- row, one and all to be for- given;
4 may he with his mer- cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev- er- last- ing Spi- rit while un- end- ing a- ges run.

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

(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 is arranged in four staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). 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 notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and accidentals.

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,

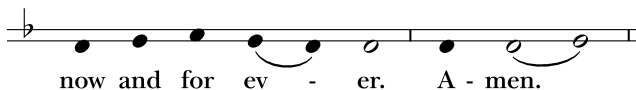
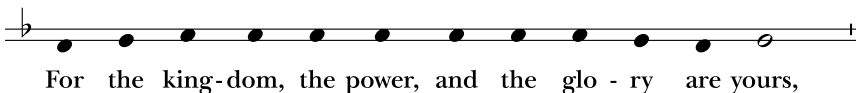
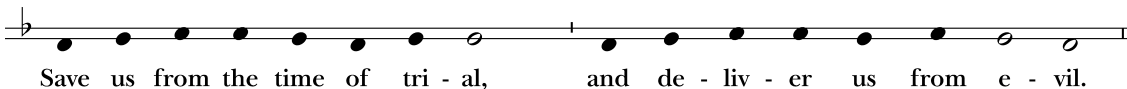
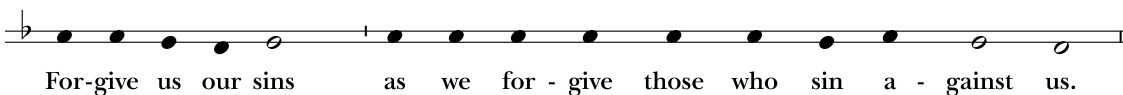
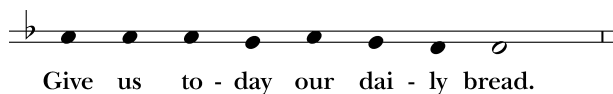
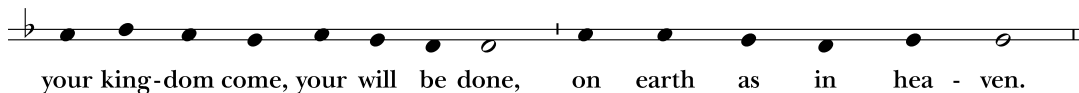
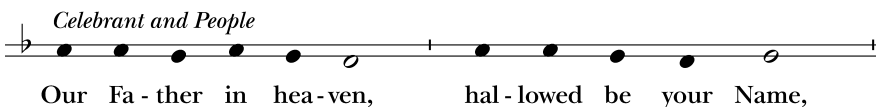
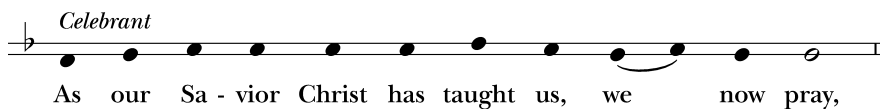
*All: We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;*

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

♫ Hymn #312

“Strengthen for Service ”

Blue Hymnal

1 Strength - en for ser - vice, Lord, the hands that ho - ly
 2 Lord, may the tongues which “Ho - ly” sang, keep free from
 3 The feet that tread thy hal - lowed courts from light do

things have tak - en; let ears that now have
 all de - ceiv - ing; the eyes which saw thy
 thou not ban - ish; the bo - dies by thy

heard thy songs to clam - or nev - er wak - en.
 love be bright, thy bless - ed hope per - ceiv - ing.
 Bo - dy fed with thy new life re - ple - nish.

Words: Syriac Liturgy of Malabar; tr. Charles William Humphreys (1840-1921); alt. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936). By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Malabar*, David McKinley Williams (1887-1978). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

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.

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 #65

“Prepare the way, O Zion”

Blue Hymnal



- 1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

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 Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, 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