



# 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!**

**January 4th, 2026**

**The Second Sunday of Christmas**

**~ Prelude ~**

*Original Improvisation*

Paul Burkle

**Welcome**

The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker

# ♪ Hymn #93    “Angels from the realms of glory” (vs. 1 - 3 only)

Blue Hymnal

The musical score consists of four staves of music in common time, with a key signature of one flat. The top two staves are soprano voices, and the bottom two are bass voices. The music is divided into three sections: the first section contains the first three stanzas of the hymn, the second section contains the fourth stanza, and the third section is a refrain.

**Stanza 1:**

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

**Stanza 2:**

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;  
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;  
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

**Refrain:**

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
yon - der shines the in - fant Light:  
ye have seen his na - tal star: come and wor - ship,  
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

Presider: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: ***Glory to God for ever and ever.***

Presider: 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 #435

# “At the name of Jesus” (vs. 1, 4 only)

Blue Hymnal



1 At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,  
2 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a Name  
3 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,  
4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,  
\*5 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due  
\*6 Chris-tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



1 ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;  
2 from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he came,  
3 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,  
4 name with awe and won - der and with bat - ed breath;  
5 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;  
6 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;



1 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord  
2 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,  
3 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;  
4 he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,  
5 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;  
6 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



1 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.  
2 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;  
3 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.  
4 ev - er to be wor - shiped, trust - ed, and a - dored.  
5 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.  
6 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877), alt. Music: *King's Weston*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

## Collect of the Day

Presider: God be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Presider: O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

People: ***Amen***

(please be seated for the readings)

## Jeremiah 31:7-14

Reader: *A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah*

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and  
those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."  
For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.  
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

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

## ♪ Psalm 84:1-8

S415

*Chanted by all on a single note moving to the next note for the bolded word*

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of **hosts!** \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living **God.**
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her **young;** \*  
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my **God.**

- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your **house**! \*  
they will always be **praising you**.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is **in you**! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' **way**.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of  
**springs**, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of **water**.
- 6 They will climb from height to **height**, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in **Zion**.
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my **prayer**; \*  
hearken, O God of **Jacob**.
- 8 Behold our defender, O **God**; \*  
and look upon the face of your **A-nointed**.

## **Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a**

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader: *Hear 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 #82 “Of the Father’s love begotten” (vs 1, 2 only)

Blue Hymnal



*This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩*

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt. Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).

## Luke 2:41-52

Presider: *The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According to Luke*  
People: ***Glory to You, Lord Christ.***

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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

In peace, we pray to you, Creator God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who  
are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and those in  
need.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Lucinda our Bishop; and  
for all bishops and all other ministers;  
***For all who serve God in the Church.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation

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

Hear us, O God;  
***For your mercy is great.***

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in  
your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Holy One, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
***Who put their trust in you.***

Presider:      Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
***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](http://www.stbenslososos.org) at any time.*



♪ Hymn #493

“O for a thousand tongues”

Blue Hymnal

(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

EOW

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first staff shows the Celebrant singing "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff shows the People singing "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff shows the Celebrant singing "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff shows the People singing "It is right to give him thanks and praise."

Presider: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,  
source of life abundant.  
From before time you made ready the creation.

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

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

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

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

## ♪ Sanctus

S125

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

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

S148

*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 Presider breaks the Bread

## ♪ Fraction Anthem

S154

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

## Holy Communion

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*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. As your group is called forward, please spread out to widen the circle and increase safe social distancing.*

## ♪ Communion Music

*Original Improvisation*

Paul Burkle

♪ Hymn #324

“Let all mortal flesh”

Blue Hymnal



1 Let all mortal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and  
 2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on  
 3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard  
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -  
 earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man  
 on the way, as the Light of Light de -  
 sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the



mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
 ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood  
 scand - eth from the realms of end - less day,  
 Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scand - eth,  
 he will give to all the faith - ful  
 that the powers of hell may va - nish  
 “Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu ia!



our full hom - age to de - mand.  
 his own self for heaven - ly food.  
 as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!”

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885). Music: *Picardy*, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

Silence

(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 #100

“Joy to the world”

Blue Hymnal

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 3 far as the curse is found, far  
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
  
 heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

## 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

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## Ministers of the Service

Presider:	Rev. Linzi Stahlecker
Preacher:	Rev. Linzi Stahlecker
Altar Guild:	Pat Stoneman
Eucharistic Minister:	Maureen Titus
Chalice:	Michael Lucas
Lectors:	Bob Pelfrey, Jane Wu
Flowers:	Elaine Beckham
Usher:	Michael Lucas
Usher:	Ed Valentine
Online Host:	Don Maruska
Intercessor:	Lisa Gonzalez
Music:	Paul Burkel
Tellers:	Diana Hammerlund, Steve Cake
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthews

## This Week at St. Ben's

Monday	Jan 5
8:30 a	Morning Prayers (Zoom)
Tuesday	Jan 6
8:30 a	Morning Prayers (Zoom)
9:45 a	Prayers for the Morning (Zoom)
10:30 a	Spiritual Conversation (Zoom)
Wednesday	Jan 7
8:30 a	Morning Prayers (Zoom)
Thursday	Jan 8
8:30 a	Morning Prayers (Zoom)
6:00 p	Choir Practice
Friday	Jan 9
8:30 a	Morning Prayers (Zoom)
6:00 p	Star Party
Saturday	Jan 10
3:00 p	Recital - Ann Lucas & Hilary Clark

## Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge with gratitude the yak tityu tityu yak tilhini (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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