



St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

**Tending Mind & Soul
in Los Osos, CA**

September 6th, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

~ Prelude ~

Original Improvisation

Paul Burkle

Welcome

The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker

A Penitential Order for Creation

Presider: Because we view our lives in Christ through the forgiveness we receive from God, I invite us to begin with the Penitential Order.

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and all Creation.

Silence may be kept.

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: **We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos.
We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.
We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.**

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: **We have sought only our own security.
We have exploited simply for our own ends.
We have distorted our knowledge.
We have abused our power.**

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: **Now the land is barren.
And the waters are poisoned.
And the air is polluted.**

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: **Now the forests are dying.
And the creatures are disappearing.
And humans are despairing.**

All: **We have forgotten who we are.
We ask forgiveness.
We ask for the gift of remembering.
We ask for the strength to change.
Help us to remember who we are.**

Presider: Almighty 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.

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

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

Presider: Let us pray.

**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.***

Presider: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Presider: Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Presider: God be with you.

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

Presider: Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the powerful who oppress and dominate Creation, so you never forsake your creatures who live in harmony with nature's order; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

please be seated for the readings

Exodus 12:1-14

Reader: A Reading from the book of Exodus

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD.

For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

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

Psalm 149

The Psalm is chanted by all on a single note, moving to the next note with the word in bold



1 Hallelujah!

Sing to the Lord a **new song**; *
sing his praise in the congregation of the **faithful**.

2 Let Israel rejoice in his **Maker**; *
let the children of Zion be joyful in their **King**.

3 Let them praise his Name in the **dance**; *
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and **harp**.

4 For the Lord takes pleasure in his **people** *
and adorns the poor with **victory**.

5 Let the faithful rejoice in **triumph**; *
let them be joyful on their **beds**.

6 Let the praises of God be in their **throat** *
and a two-edged sword in their **hand**;

7 To wreak vengeance on the **nations** *
and punishment on the **peoples**;

8 To bind their kings in **chains** *
and their nobles with links of **iron**;

repeat the second half of the chant for the last verse

9 To inflict on them the judgment **de-creed**; *
this is glory for all his faithful people.
Halle-lujah!

**Reading from “Our Relationship with Creation”,
Br. Keith Nelson, SSJE**

Br. Keith Nelson was raised Baptist, studied at Kenyon College and Harvard Divinity School, and practiced Buddhist meditation before life professing as an Episcopal monastic with the Society of St. John the Evangelist in 2019.

When we violate, abuse, exploit, or even simply ignore non-human creatures, we are rejecting a core dimension of our humanity and of God’s calling for us. We are crucifying the earth. We are interrupting, speaking over, or bickering with God’s gentle language of love, in which each creature is like a syllable of the living Word. Each creature is an instance of Divine Gift, God’s gift to Godself, the love language of the Trinity. We believe God became a Creature in Jesus Christ and redeemed Creation from the inside out so that we creatures can participate directly in this infinite pattern of God’s giving-and-receiving.

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

♩ Hymn #711 “Seek ye first the kingdom of God” (Verse 1 only)

Blue Hymnal

1
 2

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,

and its right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be
 seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain
 2

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Matthew 18:15-20

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

*People: **Glory to You, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Presider: The Gospel of Christ.

*People **Praise to You, Lord Christ.***

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Caro Hall

A moment of silence to contemplate the sermon

Profession of Faith

from Gurukul Lutheran Theological College
and Research Institute (a seminary in South India), adapted by Keld B. Hansen.

All: **We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.
We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one,
the poor one, the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world
and who suffers with it.
And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.
We believe in everlasting life in God.
And we believe in the hope that one day
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.**

Prayers of the People

We pray for this worshipping community and for all communities of faith.
Help and guide all who seek to follow you, that they may grow in their
attentiveness, and learn to sense and see your presence in the world we
share.

May this church be a listening church, a forgiving church, and a loving
church.

Lord, in your mercy
hear us and help us.

We pray for all who hold positions of authority and leadership in this world, that they might strive for justice and peace in all places and amongst all people, and that, in their decision-making and in their actions, they will care for the world you have created.

We pray for all who have lost sight of spiritual values,
all who are caught up in materialism, focused only on profit,
all who can measure only by possessions or accumulation of wealth.

We pray for all those who are hungry, all who are forced to live in poverty,
all who struggle to stay in housing.

Lord, in your mercy
hear us and help us.

We pray that the places where we live, work, serve, and worship reflect your acceptance, hospitality, and love.

Forgive our quarrelling and our jealousy.

Teach us tolerance and compassion.

We give thanks for all who have tolerated us and given us their love.

We pray that this community may be a caring and friendly community for all.

Lord, in your mercy
hear us and help us.

We pray for all who are caught up in cycles of self-abuse and self-loathing.

We pray for all who are subjected to violence or the abuse of others.

We remember all who are tempted to give up hope.

We pray for all those in need, and we remember before you 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]

Lord, in your mercy
hear us and help us.

We give thanks for all who have walked the way of your commandments, fulfilled your laws, and done your will as best as they were able during their lives lived among us.

Following their example, may we come to share with them in your everlasting glory.

Lord, in your mercy
hear us and help us.

Presider: Holy One, awaken us to your glory.
Open our eyes to your presence.
Open our ears to your call.
Open our hearts to your love,
that we may proclaim that you are among us:
through Jesus Christ our Savior. *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 for travel, may come forward.
Prayers can be found on the card in your pew.*

The Offertory

You are invited to make a thank offering. If you cannot contribute financially today please give thanks for God's blessing as the plate is passed. You can also contribute by scanning the QR Code or at our website www.stbenslososos.org



♫ Hymn #705

“As those of old their first fruits brought”

Blue Hymnal

Unison or harmony

1 As those of old their first fruits brought of vine - yard, flock, and
*2 A world in need now sum - mons us to la - bor, love, and
3 With grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we bring our best to

field to God, the giv - er of all good, the
give; to make our life an of - fer - ing to
thee to serve thy cause and share thy love with

source of bount-eous yield; so we to - day our
God that all may live; the Church of Christ is
all hu - man - i - ty. O thou who gav - est

first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land, of
call - ing us to make the dream come true: a
us thys - elf in Je - sus Christ thy Son, help

farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind, and heart, and hand.
world re-deemed by Christ - like love; all life in Christ made new.
us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

♪ Doxology:

[Hymn tune #400]

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 Prayer 2

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 simple, using quarter and half notes, with some beams connecting them. There are also some decorative flourishes above certain notes.

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.

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 mother cares for her 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

S129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

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.

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

by Martha Blacklock, Mother Thunder
Mission, "Honoring God in Creation,"

Presider: As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray.

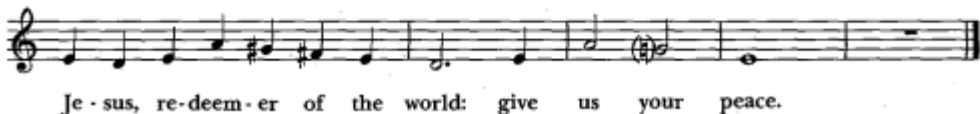
All: **Holy One, our only Home,
hallowed be your name.
May your day dawn,
your will be done,
here as in heaven.
Feed us today,
and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power,
and the mercy are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the Bread

♪ Fraction Anthem

S 166



Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

Presider: This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.

People: All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.

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.

♪ Communion Music

Original Improvisation

Paul Burkle

♫ Hymn #586

“Jesus, thou divine Companion”

Blue Hymnal



1 Je - sus, thou di - vine Com - pan - ion, by thy low - ly
2 Where the man - y toil to - geth - er, there art thou a -
3 Ev - ery task, how - ev - er sim - ple, sets the soul that



hu - man birth thou hast come to join the work - ers,
mong thine own; where the sol - i - tar - y la - bor,
does it free; ev - ery deed of hu - man kind - ness



bur - den - bear - ers of the earth. Thou, the car - pen - ter of
thou art there with them a - lone; thou, the peace that pass - eth
done in love is done to thee. Je - sus, thou di - vine Com -



Naz - areth, toil - ing for thy dai - ly food, by thy pa - tience
know-ledge, dwell - est in the dai - ly strife; thou, the Bread of
pan - ion, help us all to work our best; bless us in our



and thy cour - age, thou hast taught us toil is good.
heaven, art bro - ken in the sac - ra - ment of life.
dai - ly la - bor, lead us to our Sab - bath rest.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933), alt. Music: *Pleading Savior*, melody from *The Christian Lyre*, 1830; harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

Silence

(please stand as you are able)

Prayer

Post communion prayer 4 from "Prayers of Intercession for
Creation Time 2012," prepared by Sister Catherine Brennan SSL and
Sister Ann Concannon SSL for Churches Together in Britain and
Ireland (CTBI)

All: **Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,
that the gifts of your Spirit may work
in us and renew the face of the earth.
May we be one with you
so that our work is yours
and your work is ours.
Lead us to transform our lives
to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Hymn #412

“Earth and all stars” verses 1-3 only

Blue Hymnal



1 Earth and all stars, loud rush - ing plan - ets, sing to the
 2 Hail, wind, and rain, loud blow - ing snow - storms, sing to the
 3 Trum - pet and pipes, loud clash - ing cym - bals, sing to the



1 Lord _____ a new song! O vic - to - ry,
 2 Lord _____ a new song! Flow - ers and trees,
 3 Lord _____ a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre,



1 loud shout - ing ar - my, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!
 2 loud rus - tling dry leaves, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!
 3 loud hum - ming cel - los, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!



Refrain

He hath done mar - vel - ous things.



I, too, will praise him with a new song!

Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth into all Creation, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Original Improvisation*

Paul Burkle

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Ministers of the Service

Presider:	The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker
Preacher:	The Rev. Dr. Caro Hall
Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Sharon Dalrymple
Altar Guild:	Sarah Chesebro
Eucharistic Minister:	Alan Kiste
Chalice:	Helen Schnieders
Lectors:	Maureen Titus, Don Maruska
Flowers:	Sharon Porter
Usher:	Ed Valentine
Usher:	Ron Thompson
Music:	Paul Burkle
Intercessor:	Lisa Gonzalez
Tellers:	Alice Welchert, Karen Lewis
Online Host:	Don Maruska
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthews
Coffee Hour Host:	Potluck

This Week at St. Ben's

Sunday	Sep 6
3:00 p	Free Concert with Ann Lucas
Monday	Sep 7
8:30 a	Morning Prayer (Zoom)
Tuesday	Sep 8
8:30 a	Morning Prayer (Zoom)
9:45 a	Prayers for the Morning (Zoom)
10:30 a	Spiritual Conversation (Zoom)
5:30 p	Centering Prayer (in-person only)
Wednesday	Sep 9
8:30 a	Morning Prayer (Zoom)
5:30 p	Celebration of New Ministry
Thursday	Sep 10
8:30 a	Morning Prayer (Zoom)
11:30 a	Bible Study
6:00 p	Choir Practice
Friday	Sep 11
8:30 a	Morning Prayer (Zoom)

Land Acknowledgment

St. Benedict's acknowledges 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 the people of this parish 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 invites spiritual growth through joyful sacramental worship, loving service, creative expression, thoughtful inquiry, and commitment to social justice.

Our Inclusivity Statement

St. Benedict's strives to welcome all, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic condition, or physical or mental ability.



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