



St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

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

September 27th, 2026 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

~ Prelude ~

Original Improvisation

Paul Burkle

Welcome

The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker

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.***

♪ Hymn #455

“O love of God”

Blue Hymnal



1 O Love of God, how strong and true, e - ter - nal
 2 O wide - em - brac - ing, won - drous Love, we read thee
 3 We read thee best in him who came to bear for
 4 We read thy power to bless and save e'en in the



and yet ev - er new; un - com - pre - hend - ed and un -
 in the sky a - bove; we read thee in the earth be -
 us the cross of shame, sent by the Fa - ther from on
 dark - ness of the grave; still more in re - sur - rec - tion



bought, be - yond all know - ledge and all thought.
 low, in seas that swell and streams that flow.
 high, our life to live, our death to die.
 light we read the full - ness of thy might.

The Creation Collect of the Day

Presider: God be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Presider: O God, you show your glory throughout your Creation, calling it very good: Grant us the fullness of your blessing, that we, stewarding your garden, may become partakers in your joy; 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 17:1-7

Reader: A Reading from the book of Exodus

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

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

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

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

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



- 1 Hear my teaching, O my **people**; *
incline your ears to the words of my **mouth**.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a **parable**; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient **times**.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have **told us**, *
we will not hide from their **children**.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the **Lord**, *
and the wonderful works he has **done**.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their **forefathers**, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of **Zoan**.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass **through**; *
he made the waters stand up like **walls**.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by **day**, *
and all the night through with a glow of **fire**.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the **wilderness** *
and gave them drink as from the great **deep**.

repeat the second half of the chant for the last verse

- 16 He brought streams out of the **cliff**, *
and the waters gushed out like **rivers**.

A Reading from *The Art of the Commonplace*, Wendell Berry

What is good for the world will be good for us. That requires that we make the effort to know the world and to learn what is good for it.

We must learn to cooperate in its processes, and to yield to its limits. But even more important, we must learn to acknowledge that the creation is full of mystery; we will never entirely understand it. We must abandon arrogance and stand in awe. We must recover the sense of the majesty of creation, and the ability to be worshipful in its presence. For I do not doubt that it is only on the condition of humility and reverence before the world that our species will be able to remain in it.

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

♪ Gospel Acclamation

Please stand (as able) to welcome the Gospel.

The Choir sings the Alleluia once, it is then repeated by all.



The Cantor sings the verse, then all repeat the Alleluia.

Verse: Show me your ways, O Lord; lead me in your truth and teach me.
(Psalm 25:3:4)

Matthew 21:23-32

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?”

And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Presider: The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker

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

Christ Jesus, as you have called us to know you, you have called us to love you. Sustain us by your love and make us worthy of our calling.

We pray for the church as it works in stressed and dangerous places,
for the work of the church among those marginalized by society.

Christ Jesus, by your love,
lead us and transform us.

We pray for the nations of the world, that they may become the kingdom of our God.

We pray that leaders of people and rulers of nations may govern with humility, that they may not be driven by selfish ambition, that they may seek truly to serve and to meet the needs of the people they represent.

We pray for all who are exploited,
for all who are treated as though they're enslaved,
for all who yearn, daily, for freedom and justice.

Christ Jesus, by your love,
lead us and transform us.

We give thanks for all who have given themselves for us in love,
for the sacrifice of family, friends, and community members.
We pray that we may be generous towards all.
As we have richly received, may we richly give.

Teach us to be accepting and hospitable.

We pray for all who are suffering today, all who are struggling, all who are
in need.

We pray 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]

Christ Jesus, by your love,
lead us and transform us.

We give thanks for all who have revealed the working of God in their lives
and are now in glory.
We give thanks for saints and martyrs,
for all who have enriched the world by their willingness to sacrifice.
We pray that we may rejoice with them in your kingdom.

Christ Jesus, by your love,
lead us and transform us.

Presider: Christ Jesus, as you came down to lift us up,
help us to show compassion and sympathy to others.
Give to your church a sense of service and humility.
May we be obedient to you,
seeking to do your will at all times,
in your most precious and holy Name we pray. *Amen.*

Confession

**Holy and merciful God,
we confess that we have failed to honor you
by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.
We have walked heavily on your earth,
overused and wasted its resources,
taken for granted its beauty and abundance,
and treated its inhabitants unjustly,
holding future generations hostage to our greed.
Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.
Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as
you desire and intend,
with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Absolution

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through the grace of 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 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 #60

“How Great Thou Art”

LEVAS



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er
2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



1. all the worlds* thy hands have made,___ I see the stars I hear the roll - ing*
2. birds sing sweet - ly in the trees,___ When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
3. die, I scarce can take it in,___ That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
4. home, what joy shall fill my heart!___ Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



1. thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played. ___
2. gran - deur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze. ___
3. bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin. ___
4. ra - tion, And there pro - claim, my God how great thou art. ___



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior, God, to Thee:___ How great Thou



art,___ how great Thou art!___ Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior, God, to



Thee:___ How great Thou art,___ how great Thou art!___

♪ 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 is arranged in four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is for the Celebrant and the second for the People. The third staff is for the Celebrant and the fourth for the People. The lyrics are written below the 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.

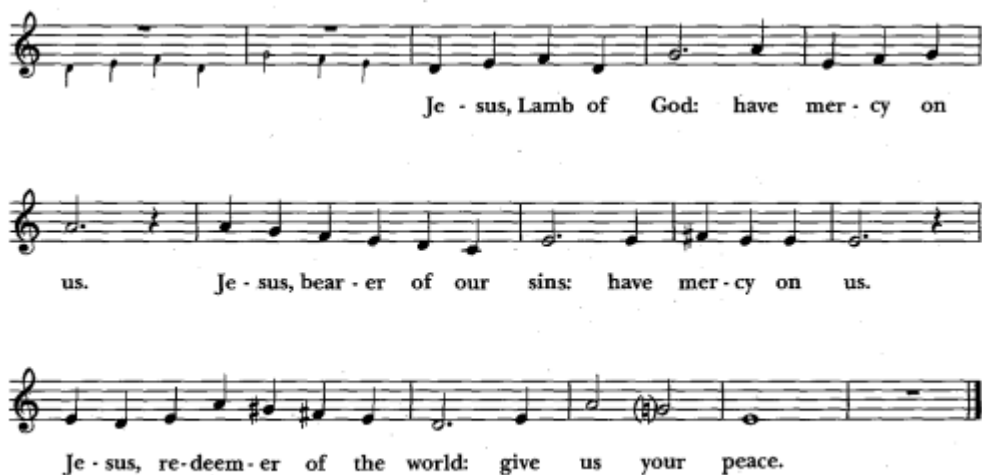
All: **Holy One, our only Home,
hallowed be your name.
May your day dawn,
your will be done,
here as in heaven.
Feed us today,
and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power,
and the mercy are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the Bread

♪ Fraction Anthem

S 166



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on

us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: give us your peace.

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 #339

“Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness”

Blue Hymnal



1 Deck thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness, leave the
 2 Sun, who all my life dost bright - en; Light, who
 3 Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray thee, let me



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's
 dost my soul en - light - en; Joy, the best that an - y
 glad - ly here o - bey thee; nev - er to my hurt in -



splen - dor, there with joy thy prais - es ren - der
 know - eth; Fount, whence all my be - ing flow - eth;
 vit - ed, be thy love with love re - quit - ed;



un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed hath this
 at thy feet I cry, my Ma - ker, let me
 from this ban - quet let me mea - sure, Lord, how



won-drous ban-quet found - ed— high o'er all the heavens he
 be a fit par - ta - ker of this bless - ed food from
 vast and deep its trea - sure; through the gifts thou here dost



reign - eth, yet to dwell with thee he deign - eth.
 hea - ven, for our good, thy glo - ry, giv - en.
 give me, as thy guest in heaven re - ceive me.

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



1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voice,
 2 O may this boun- teous God through all our life be near us!
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa- ther now be giv- en,
 who won- drous things hath done, in whom his world re- joic- es;
 With ev- er- joy- ful hearts and bless- ed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high- est hea- ven,
 who from our mo- ther's arms hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per- plexed,
 e- ter- nal, Tri- une God, whom earth and heaven a- dore;
 with count- less gifts of love, and still is ours to- day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ev- er- more.

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. Linzi Stahlecker
Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Sharon Dalrymple
Altar Guild:	Diana Hammerlund
Eucharistic Minister:	Alan Kiste
Chalice:	The Rev. Deacon Sharon Dalrymple
Lectors:	Roz Malone, Joseph Morris
Flowers:	Pamela Bleisch
Usher:	Maureen Titus
Usher:	Michael Lucas
Music:	Paul Burkle
Intercessor:	Sandy Fisher
Tellers:	Sandy Fisher, Alice Welchert
Online Host:	Connie Weldon
Technical:	Hannah-Jaye Matthews
Coffee Hour Host:	Barbara Hirahara

This Week at St. Ben's

Monday

8:30 a

Tuesday

8:30 a

9:45 a

10:30 a

11:30 a

5:30 p

Wednesday

8:30 a

11:00a

4:00p

5:30 p

Thursday

8:30 a

6:00 p

Friday

8:30 a

Saturday

12:00p

3:00p

Sep 28

Morning Prayer (Zoom)

Sep 29

Morning Prayer (Zoom)

Prayers for the Morning (Zoom)

Spiritual Conversation (Zoom)

Bible Study

Centering Prayer (in-person only)

Sep 30

Morning Prayer (Zoom)

Laundry Love

Laundry Love

Engaging Questions Workshop

Oct 1

Morning Prayer (Zoom)

Choir Practice

Oct 2

Morning Prayer (Zoom)

Oct 3

People's Kitchen

Blessing of the Animals @ Abundance Shop

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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