

Worship

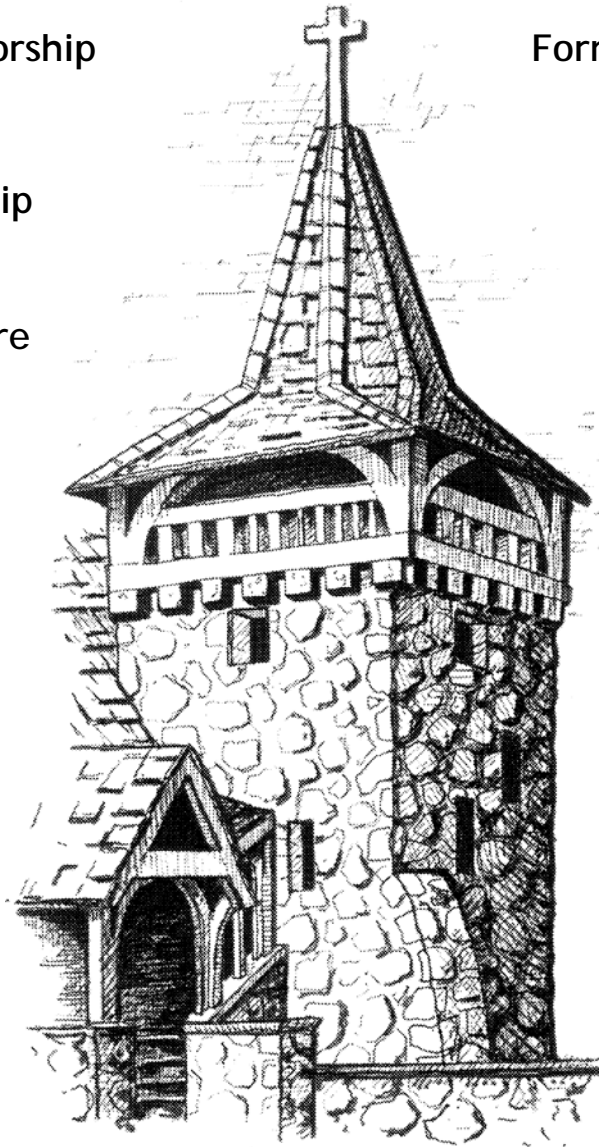
Formation

Fellowship

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Pastoral Care

Presence



## The Church of the Ascension

Episcopal

Your Village Church since 1885

*Our Vision: We serve Christ today,  
for those who will come to know and serve Christ tomorrow.*

# The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

TEN - FIFTEEN IN THE MORNING

## The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

*Prayer Book page numbers refer to the red Book of Common Prayer. Complete music for the hymns and service music are found in the blue Hymnal or the green supplement, "Wonder, Love and Praise."*

Prelude: Berceuse

Louis Vierne

*The Great Bell "Bethlehem" sounds, calling the community to prayer. The people stand at the sound of the small bell and sing*

**The Processional Hymn No. 494**

DIADEMATA

### The Word of God

**Prayer Book page # 355**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says* Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant may say*

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.**

*The following hymn is sung, all standing* (Music is found in the separate seasonal music bulletin.)

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### The Collect of the Day

**Prayer Book page # 233**

*The Celebrant says to the people* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### The Lessons

**Prayer Book page # 357**

*The people sit. Two Lessons, as appointed, are read. After each Reading, the Reader may say*

*The Word of the Lord. People* **Thanks be to God.**

**A Reading from the Book of Genesis (50:15-21)**

**The Gradual Psalm 103:8-13** *Benedic, anima mea*

**Prayer Book page # 733**

*The congregation is invited to sing the psalm with the choir in Anglican chant.*

8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \* slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, \* nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \* nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \* so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, \* so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, \* so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

**A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (14:1-12)**

*The People stand and sing*

**The Sequence Hymn No. 393**

MAOZ ZUR

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (18:21-35)**

**People Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*After the Gospel, the Reader says* The Gospel of the Lord. *People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

*The Reverend Canon Ed Sniecienski*

**The Nicene Creed**

**Prayer Book page # 358**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe 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 was made man.**

**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 believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe 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.**

## The Prayers of the People

*The Deacon and People pray responsively*

Let us pray to God who rejoices with us, weeps with us, and stands with us in remembrance with the response, **Hear our prayer.**

Help us to look beyond ourselves so to see the face of Christ in all persons. We pray for those in this community celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week , especially... We pray for all the peoples of the world and those who live in fear and without hope, especially.... May we seek to understand those with whom we differ, sharing through our presence the healing message of God's reign. God of love,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Grant to your church and those called to lead it, especially Michael , our Presiding Bishop, John, our bishop; Michael and Ed, our clergy; and all who serve you, the inspiration to seek reconciliation in a troubled world. For the larger church, we pray for.... God of mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Give to the leaders of all peoples and nations the courage to seek peace and wisdom in response to violence. May we find in Christ's outstretched arms freedom from the need to seek revenge and retribution. God of forgiveness,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Grant us courage to care for those who are sick or in need, especially... We pray for those who suffer because of war and natural disaster, and who are in need of the basics of life, especially..... May we be Christ's heart and hands in a broken world. God of compassion,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We remember with love those who have died, especially... and ask that you comfort all who mourn. May Christ, who has gone before us to glory, be our hope and our strength and lead each of us to your eternal presence. God of comfort,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins;

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People:*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*The Celebrant concludes with an absolution.*

## The Peace

# The Holy Communion

Prayer Book page # 361

*The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture. During the Offertory, the following will be sung:*

Exultate Jubilate

*setting:* Gordon Young

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the Altar. The people stand while the offerings are presented and sing the following*

## The Offertory Hymn No. 380 (verse 3)

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A

Prayer Book page # 361

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings (Music is found in the Hymnal at "S-120")*

The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts. *People* **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.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (*Here a proper preface is sung.*) 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:

*Celebrant and People* (*Music is found in the separate seasonal music bulletin.*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people remain standing, or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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 he 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: (*Music is found in the Hymnal at "S-135"*)

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy,

and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

*(Music is found in the Hymnal at “S-119”)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

Prayer Book page # 364

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung*

*(Music is found in the Hymnal at “S-152”)*

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; *Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]*

*The following Fraction Anthem will be sung (Music is found in the separate seasonal music bulletin.)*

*Cantor:* Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, And whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

*People:* **Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, And whoever believes in me shall never thirst.**

*Cantor:* Send out your light and truth that they may lead me to your holy hill;

*People:* **Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, And whoever believes in me shall never thirst.**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. *And may add:* Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome to come forward and receive of this sacrament of Christ’s Presence or receive a blessing. If you wish to receive a blessing or not receive from the Cup, please indicate by crossing your arms before you. Gluten-free hosts are available – please inform the priest distributing communion if you would prefer to receive in this kind. Ascension has returned to receiving Communion in both kinds. Our parishioners have choices. One option is to continue to receive in one kind. A second option is to receive from the common cup. A third option will be for individuals and households to receive in a small chalice, which will have a small amount of consecrated wine poured into it from the common cruet. Folks may choose to bring from home a glass or cup that holds special significance or to use a small glass which we have available. Please note – the practice of Intinction (where a parishioner dips the bread in the wine) is not permitted under diocesan guidelines.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.] The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

*For those viewing on Facebook Live, here is the prayer for spiritual Communion –*

**Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: “This is my body; this is my blood — given for you.” Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.**

**(From ELCA Bishop Ray Erwin)**

*After Communion, the people stand and sing*

**Hymn No. 576**

MANDATUM

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Prayer Book page # 365**

**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.**

*The people then stand and sing*

**The Final Hymn No. 690**

CWM RHONDDA

*The Celebrant may bless the people. The People are dismissed with these or similar words.*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. *People* **Thanks be to God.**

The Voluntary: Trumpet Tune

David German

*Once the procession has retired from the church, the People are invited to remain for the Voluntary or kneel in meditation. Following the Voluntary, the Angelus will be rung.*

**The Angelus**

*℣.* An angel of the LORD spoke to Mary, *℞.* And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Greetings, gracious Mary; the LORD is with you: you are a favored woman, and favored is your son, Jesus.\* Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the time of our death.

*℣.* See the handmaid of the LORD. *℞.* May it be done to me according to your word.

Greetings, gracious Mary; ....

*℣.* And the Word was made flesh. *℞.* And dwelt among us.

Greetings, gracious Mary; .....

*℣.* Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God. *℞.* That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

O LORD, you made known to us the incarnation of your Son, the Christ, by the message of an angel: pour your grace into our hearts, that we may be brought by his passion and cross to the glory of resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



*Please join us in the parish hall for coffee hour following both services.*

*The Sanctuary Candle is given this week by Beverly Clifton in memory of Beverly Blackford's birthday.*

# Announcements for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## September 17, 2023

**ASCENSION WELCOMES CHILDREN** – There are toys in the back of the church and in the side chapel for small children in need of distraction, a rocking chair for those in need of consolation. And sometimes parents and kids need to feel free to step outside and take a breather! All children are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing.

**IF YOU ARE VISITING US TODAY**, we welcome you in the Name of Christ and invite all persons to share in the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood. Holy Baptism is the way we acknowledge our fellowship and communion in Christ's Church. If you are interested in being baptized or talking about your baptism, please speak to the Rector – Canon Bamberger.

**THE TUESDAY NIGHT DINNER GROUP** will be meet this Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at Lucky Baldwin's Pub in Kersting Court here in Sierra Madre. Please RSVP to Ray Smith at [ray@madre.net](mailto:ray@madre.net) or Ray's cell phone # 626-233-1035. All are welcome.

**BETWEEN THE MASSES** - The adult discussion group has resumed meeting in person in the Parish Hall. The group usually meets during the hour between the 8:00 am service and the 10:15 am service.

**WEEKLY SERVICES: HOLY EUCHARIST:** Sunday, 8:00 & 10:15a.m.; Thursday, 8:15a.m.

**LESSONS NEXT SUNDAY:** Jonah 3:10-4:11 Psalm 145:1-8 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

**CELEBRATING THE SAINTS FOR THE COMING WEEK** (taken from Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2022.):  
**9/18 – Edward Bouverie Pusey** (*Priest, 1882*) **9/19 – Theodore of Tarsus** (*Archbishop of Canterbury, 690*); **9/20 – John Coleridge Patteson & his Companions** (*Bishop of Melanesia, Martyrs, 1871*); **9/21 – St. Matthew the Apostle** **9/22 - Philander Chase** (*Bishop of Ohio and Illinois, 1852*) **9/23 – Thecla of Iconium** (*Proto-martyr among women, c.70*)

**LEADERSHIP:** *Rector:* The Very Reverend Canon Michael A. Bamberger, M. Div.;

*Assisting the Rector:* The Reverend Canon Deacon Ed Sniecinski

*Parish Administrator:* Ms. Kim Lumino; *Director of Music and Organist:* Mr. Robert Williamson;  
*Administrative Coordinator:* Mrs. Jean Rowe; *Altar Guild Director:* Mrs. Lynne Holl; *Senior Warden:* Mr. Gordon Tomaske; *Junior Warden:* Mr. Cameron Cox; *Treasurer:* Mr. Eric Mulfinger;

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