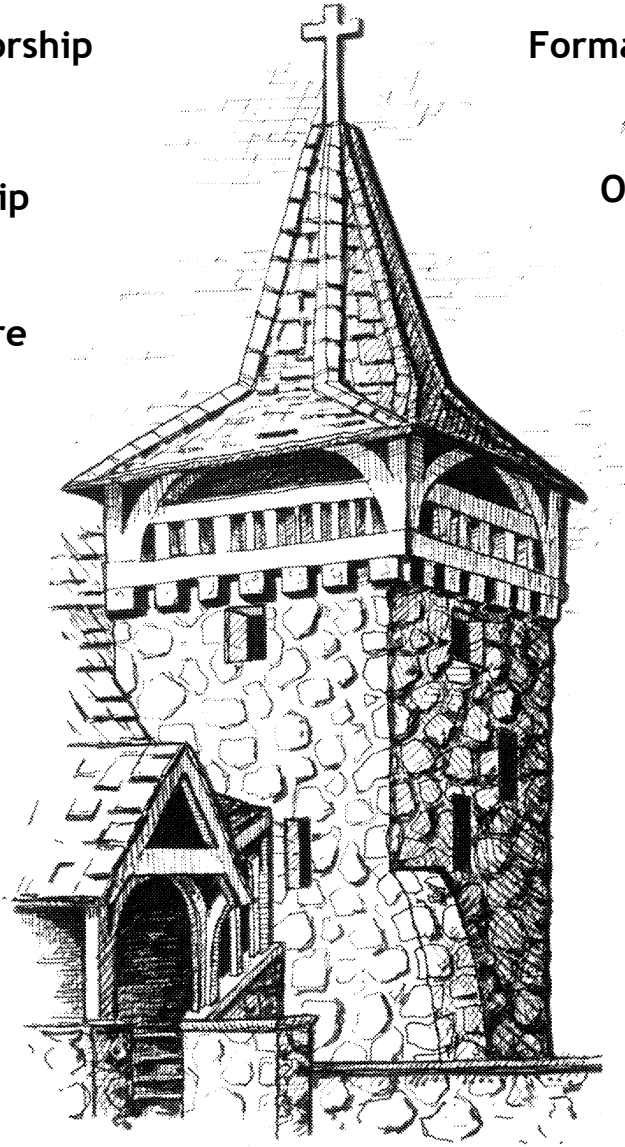
Worship **Formation**

Fellowship **Outreach**

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 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

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 in the green hymnal supplement – Wonder, Love and Praise.

Prelude: Variations on *Allein Gott in der Hőh' Sei ehr'* ("Glory Be to God on High") by Nicolaus Vetter (1666-1734). Vetter was a pupil of and successor to Johann Pachelbel in Erfurt.

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. 541 ORA LABORA

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 WLP # 900)***
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heav'nly 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 # 234**

The Celebrant says to the people The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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 the Prophet Jonah (3:10-4:11)

The Gradual Psalm 145:1-8 *Exaltabo te, Deus* **Prayer Book page # 801**

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

1 I will exalt you, O God my **King**, * and bless your Name for ever and **ever**.
2 Every day will I **bless you** * and praise your Name for ever and **ever**.
3 Great is the LORD and greatly to be **praised**; * there is no end to his **greatness**.
4 One generation shall praise your works to a-**nother** * and shall declare your **power**.
5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your **majesty** * and all your marvelous **works**.
6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous **acts**, * and I will tell of your **greatness**.
7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great **goodness**; *
they shall sing of your righteous **deeds**.
8 The LORD is gracious and full of com-**passion**, * slow to anger and of great **kindness**.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (1:21-30)

The People stand and sing
The Sequence Hymn No. 778 (W, L, & P) NYLAND

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (20:1-6)

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 Rev'd 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

The deacon begins.
Let us pray for the Church of Christ, and for God's reign over all the world.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord 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 the needy.
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 Antonio our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in God's Church.
For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray especially for _____.
The People may add their own petitions
Silence
Hear us, Lord; ***For your mercy is great.***
We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We thank you for those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week. *The People may add their own thanksgivings*
Silence
We will exalt you, O God our King; ***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***
We pray for all who have died _____, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
The People may add their own petitions
Silence
Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen***.

We pray to you 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

Prayer Book page # 360

The Holy Communion **Prayer Book page # 361**

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

Lobt Gott, irh Christen, allzugleich ("Praise God, you Christians, all Together") by Dietrich Buxtehude

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. 685 TOPLADDY

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 Hymnal at "S-125") (***
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 Hymnal at "S-164")***
Jesus, Lamb of God: Have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: Have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace, give us your peace.

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.. 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. 666 MARYTON

After Communion, the Celebrant says **Prayer Book page # 365**
Let us pray.
Celebrant and People
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. 527 TON-Y-BOTEL.

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: Toccata in F Major by Johann Kaspar Kerll (1627-1693) teacher of Johann Pachelbel.

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.

++

The Altar Flowers this week are given by Beverly Clifton in memory of Beverly Blackford.
And by Fr. Michael and Debbie Bamberger in thanksgiving for Matthew's birthday.

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

Announcements for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

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 wish to discuss your faith journey, please speak to the Rector, Canon Bamberger.

ASCENSION WELCOMES CHILDREN – There are toys in the "Prayground" towards the back of the church and in the side chapel for small children in need of distraction, and 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.

THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER GROUP will gather together at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 23rd at The Only Place in Town - 110 W. Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre - 626-355-3502.. Please RSVP to Ray Smith at ray@madre.net or Ray's cell phone # 626-233-1035. All are welcome.

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

LESSONS NEXT SUNDAY: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-8 Philippians 2:1-3 Matthew 21:23-32

CELEBRATING THE SAINTS FOR THE COMING WEEK (taken from Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2024.):
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)* **9/24 - Anna Ellison Butler Alexander** *(Deaconess and teacher, 1947)* **9/25 – Sergius** *(Abbot of Holy Trinity- Moscow, 1392)* **9/26 – Lancelot Andrewes** *(Bishop of Winchester, 1626*)

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

Assisting the Rector: The Reverend Robin Kassabian, M. Div.
The Reverend Robert J. Gaestel, M.Div.
The Reverend Canon Deacon Ed Sniecienski

Parish Administrator: Ms. Kim Lumino; *Director of Music:* Dr. Stephen Marshall; *Administrative Coordinator:* Mrs. Jean Rowe; *Altar Guild Director:* Mrs. Lynne Holl; *Senior Warden:* Mr. Walker Williams; *Junior Warden:* Ms. Marie Prentice; *Treasurer:* Mr. Dan Hanson;

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

25 East Laurel Avenue, Sierra Madre, California 91024-1915
Telephone: (626) 355-1133 (626) 355-8919
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 - 2:00
www.ascension-sierramadre.com