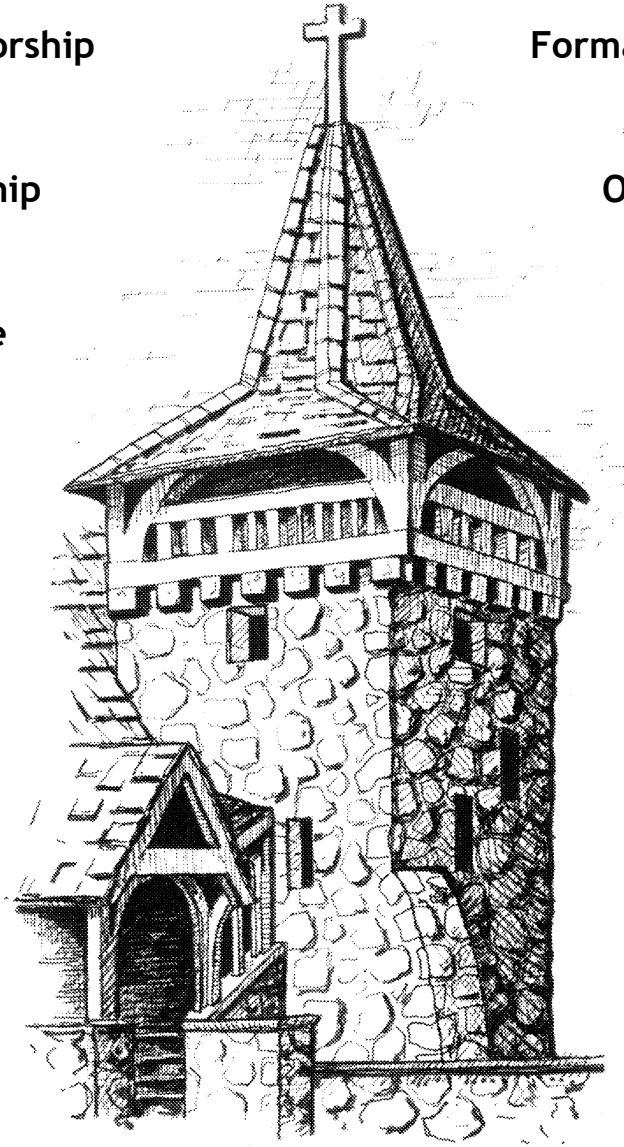
Worship **Formation**

Fellowship **Outreach**

Pastoral Care **Presence**



The Episcopal

Church of the Ascension

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

EIGHT IN THE MORNING

The Holy Eucharist: Rite One

BCP page numbers refer to the red Book of Common Prayer. Music for the hymn is found in the blue Hymnal 1982.
The Great Bell "Bethlehem" sounds, calling the community to prayer. The people stand at the sound of the small bell.

The Word of God

The Opening Acclamation, Collect for Purity, and Summary of the Law **BCP page 323**

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

The Gloria **BCP page 324**

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day **BCP page 180**

The Celebrant says to the people The Lord be with you.
People: **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.
Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons **BCP 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 Prophet Jonah (3:10-4:11)

The Gradual Psalm 145:1-8 *Exaltabote, Deus* **BCP page 801**

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 another * 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 compassion, * slow to anger and of great kindness.

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

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (20:1-16)

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

After the Gospel, the Reader says The Gospel of the Lord. *People* **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Homily *The Rev'd Canon Ed Sncienski*

The Nicene Creed **BCP page 326**

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 **BCP page 328**

The Deacon or other person appointed says
Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.
Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean the Presiding Bishop; for Antonio, the bishop of Los Angeles; and Michael, Robin, Bob, and Ed our clergy, that they may both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.
And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.
We pray for those parishioners celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially, _____
We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially our President, our Governor, the Congress and Legislature, and the Courts that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.
Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. We remember and pray for other blessings, we now name silently or aloud.
And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. We pray for _____ and for any other needs or concerns we name silently or aloud.
For the larger church, we pray for ____. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for ____. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer on this Sunday we pray for _____.
And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, _____, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the ever Blessed Virgin Mary, the patriarchs, matriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.
Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. ***Amen.***

The Confession of Sin **BCP page 328**

Celebrant or Deacon Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.
Silence may be kept.
Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

**for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution and the Comfortable Words.

The Peace

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture.

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.

The Great Thanksgiving **BCP page 333**

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. *People* **It is meet and right so to do.**
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. *(Here a proper preface is inserted.)* Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,
Celebrant and People
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
The people kneel or stand. Then the Celebrant continues
All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.
For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion,

may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood. And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. ***AMEN.***
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant
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 **BCP page 337**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. Then may be said
Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The following Fraction Anthem may be said
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **have mercy on us.**
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **have mercy on us.**
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **grant us thy peace.**

The People may join in saying this prayer

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

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 and lives for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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*.]

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 or deacon 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.

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 Celebrant says **BCP page 339**

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *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. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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.

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

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