

Worship

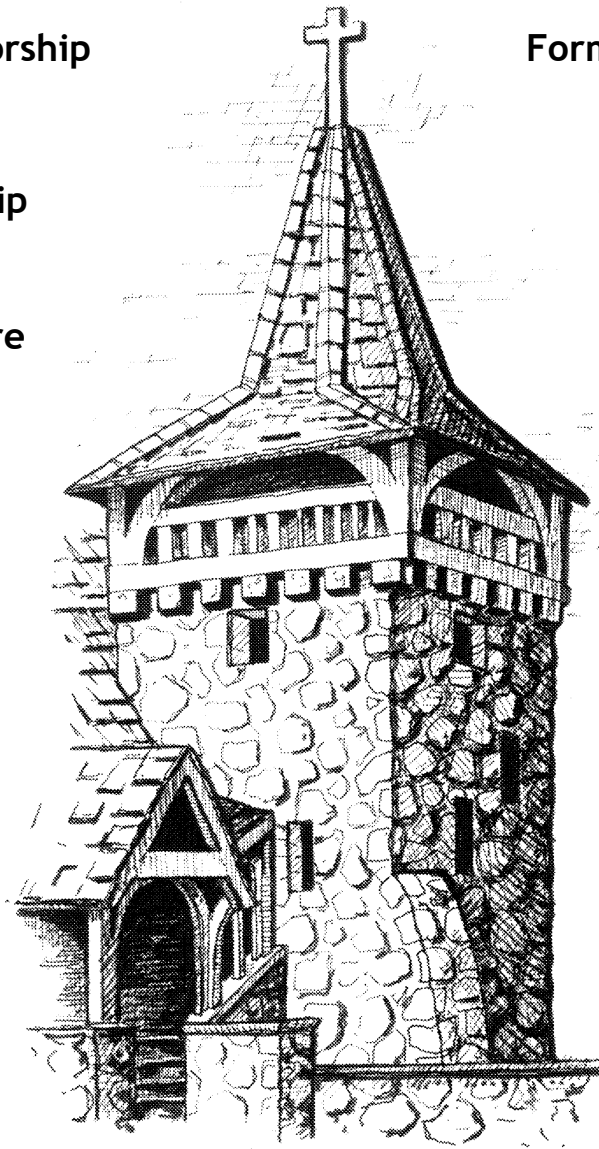
Formation

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 Second Sunday after Christmas

January 5, 2025

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.

Voluntary:

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

The Processional Hymn No.93

REGENT SQUARE

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, "Gloria", is sung, all standing (Music is found in the Hymnal at # 96)

**Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.**

Refrain **Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?

What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?

Refrain

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

Refrain

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;

Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book page # 214

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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 Jeremiah (31:7-14)

The Gradual Psalm 84:1-8 *Quam dilecta*

BCP page 707

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

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of **hosts!** *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living **God.**
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her **young;** *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my **God.**
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your **house!** * they will always be praising **you.**
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in **you!** * whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' **way.**
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of **springs,** *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of **water.**
- 6 They will climb from height to **height,** * and the God of gods will reveal himself in **Zion.**
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my **prayer;** * hearken, O God of **Jacob.**
- 8 Behold our defender, O **God;** * and look upon the face of you're a-**nointed.**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians (1:3-6,15-19a)

The People stand and sing **The Sequence Hymn, No 107**

IN DULCI JUBILO

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2:41-52)

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

Prayer Book page # 383

The person appointed to read begins

As we celebrate with joy the birth of the timeless Son of God and the manifestation of God's love for the world, let us offer our prayers and thanksgivings to the holy and undivided Trinity, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

Leader

For John our bishop, and Michael, Robin, and Ed our clergy, and for all who minister in the name of Christ.
Lord, have mercy.

For all believers throughout the world who put their trust in the incarnate Word.

Lord, have mercy.

For the young people in this parish, that they may continue to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the people of this parish and serve the common good.

Lord, have mercy.

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, especially Joe our President, and for justice and peace at home and throughout the world.

Lord, have mercy.

For the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and oppressed, and for those in prison.

Lord, have mercy.

For those commended to our prayers, especially..., and for our deliverance from all affliction, strife and need.

Lord, have mercy.

For all military personnel, for those serving in Syria, and the Middle East, and especially those we know and love: _____ and for all who are suffering from the violence of war.

Lord, have mercy.

We give thanks for our many blessings, especially _____; and for those parishioners celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially...; and for our families, companions, and all those we love.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have found their rest in Christ, especially _____, and for all the dead.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. (*Silence may be kept.*)

Deacon 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 or a suitable Collect.

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 sung.

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 placed upon the Altar and sing the following

The Offertory Hymn No. 497

WIE SCHON LEUCHTET

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 everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People (Music is found in the Hymnal at "S-135")

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 beloved 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.

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. 324

PICARDY

After Communion, the Celebrant says

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. 128

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

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

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. *People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Voluntary:

Once the procession has retired from the church, the People are invited to remain for the Voluntary. 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.

Announcements for the Second Sunday after Christmas Day January 5, 2025

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 TUESDAY NIGHT DINNER GROUP will gather together at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7th at Lucky Baldwin's Pub in Kersting Court here in Sierra Madre. Please RSVP to Ray Smith at ray@madre.net or Ray's cell phone # 626-233-1035. All are welcome.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available at the back of the church for those who have pledged and indicated they want envelopes.

LESSONS NEXT SUNDAY: Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

CELEBRATING THE SAINTS FOR THE COMING WEEK (taken from Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2022
1/4 – **Elizabeth Seton** (*Founder of the Sisters of Charity – 1821*) 1/6 – **The Feast of the Epiphany** 1/8 – **Harriet Bedell** (*Deaconess and missionary, 1969*) 1/9 – **Julia Chester Emery** (*Missionary, 1922*) 1/10 – **William Laud** (*Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645*)

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

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

Parish Administrator: Ms. Kim Lumino; Interim Parish Musician: Ms. Jobi McGuffie; 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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