

Worship

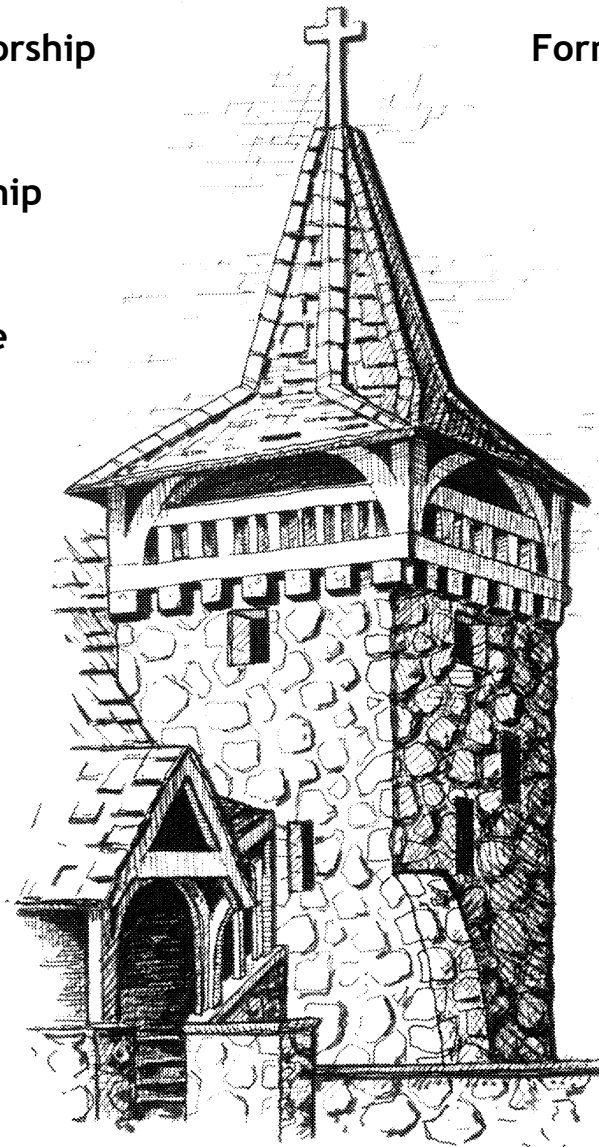
Formation

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 Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026
10:15 IN THE MORNING

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

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 1982, or for hymns 721 – 906 in the green hymnal supplement – Wonder, Love & Praise.

Voluntary: Prelude on “Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days” Jan Nieland (1903-1963)

A bell sounds and the Ministers of the Liturgy process into the church in silence.

The Penitential Order and Liturgy of the Word Prayer Book page # 351

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

The Decalogue Prayer Book page #350

The Decalogue is said, the people kneeling or standing.

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

The people sing this response **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

The Celebrant may read the following sentence.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant then says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The service continues with the Trisagion.

(Music is found in the Hymnal at "S-100")

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book page # 218

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

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, 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 Genesis (12:1-4a)

The Gradual Psalm 121 *Levavi oculos*

Prayer Book page # 779

The congregation will sing the psalm using simplified Anglican chant (Meachen

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the **hills**; * from where is my help to **come**?
- 2 My help comes from the **LORD**, * the maker of heaven and **earth**.
- 3 He will not let your foot be **moved** * and he who watches over you will not fall **asleep**.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over **Israel** * shall neither slumber nor **sleep**;
- 5 The **LORD** himself watches over **you**; * the **LORD** is your shade at your right **hand**,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by **day**, * nor the moon by **night**.
- 7 The **LORD** shall preserve you from all **evil**; * it is he who shall keep you **safe**.
- 8 The **LORD** shall watch over your going out and your coming **in**, * from this time forth for ever-**more**.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (4:1-5, 13-17)

The People stand and sing

The Sequence Hymn, No 489

TALLIS' ORDINAL

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (3:1-17)

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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

The Sermon

The Rev'd Robin Kassabian

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 Prayers of the People are led by the deacon.

Deacon Brothers and Sisters, as we are all called to new life in Christ, may we in this Lenten journey also pray for the Church, the nation, and for all God's creation, saying: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For the Church, for our bishops, priests, deacons, and all lay people, that our Lenten journey of these forty days may clear away much that is needless and obstructing, so that we may open our eyes to the bright glory of the cross, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For our parish, that ministries that we offer may be strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit, especially our worship, formation, fellowship, pastoral care, outreach, and presence, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For the divided and restless nations of the world, that those who hold power over others may be challenged and transformed by the demands of peace and justice, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For all those who serve in the armed forces of our country, that they may serve in safety and with honor, especially _____, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For us all to have a reverence for the earth as your own creation that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries, especially _____, that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, that they all may know your redeeming love, especially _____, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For all who have died whom we commend to your loving arms and mercy, and that they may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom, especially _____, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

The Celebrant concludes with the following Collect

Gracious and loving God, remember us and all those whom we hold in our hearts. In our Lenten journey, teach us to do the work of our baptism and so daily to raise to you the needs of the world. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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
“Chorale and Variation”

Ovid 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 placed upon the Altar and sing the following

The Offertory Hymn No 440

LIEBSTER JESU

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. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. 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-130”)

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-153")

~~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-161")

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us 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. 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 glass chalice, which will have a small amount of consecrated wine poured into it from the common cruet. 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. 401

LEONI

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. 473

CRUCIFER

The Celebrant may pronounce a seasonal solemn benediction.

The people are dismissed with these or similar words Let us bless the Lord.

The people respond **Thanks be to God.**

The Voluntary: Variations on ST. FLAVIAN (“Forty Days”)

Richard Lind

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

The Angelus

Ÿ. An angel of the LORD spoke to Mary, *Ŕ.* 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.

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

Greetings, gracious Mary;

Ÿ. And the Word was made flesh. *Ŕ.* And dwelt among us.

Greetings, gracious Mary;

Ÿ. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God. *Ŕ.* 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 for fellowship during coffee hour in the parish hall following both services.

Announcements for the Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 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, March 4th at Villa Catrina, 251 North Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia. Please RSVP to Ray Smith at ray@madre.net or Ray's cell phone # 626-233-1035. All are welcome.

THE MEN'S GROUP MONTHLY LUNCHEON will meet at noon, Wednesday, March 4th at Nano Cafe, 322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre - 626-325-3334. Please RSVP to Father Michael.

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

LESSONS NEXT SUNDAY: Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

CELEBRATING THE SAINTS FOR THE COMING WEEK (taken from Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2024):

3/2 – Chad (*Bishop of Litchfield, 672*) **3/3 – John and Charles Wesley** (*Priests, 1791 & 1788*) **3/7 – Perpetua and her companions** (*Martyrs at Carthage, 202*)

LEADERSHIP: Rector: The Very 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;

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