

Worship

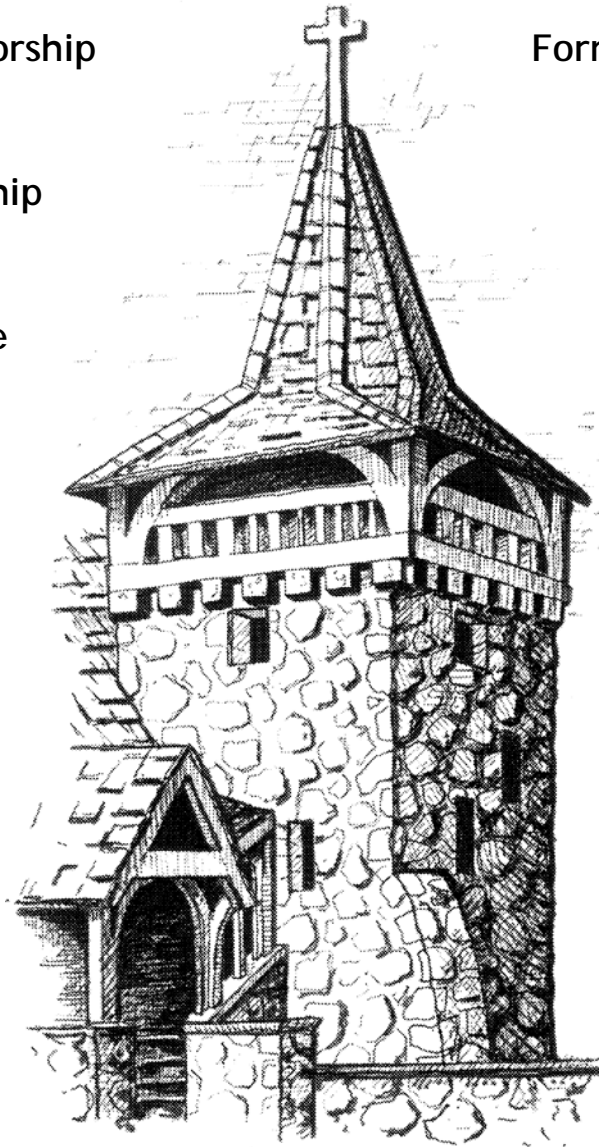
Formation

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 OF ADVENT

December 5, 2021

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 Great Litany

BCP page 148

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, *Have mercy upon us.*

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *Have mercy upon us.*

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful, *Have mercy upon us.*

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, *Have mercy upon us.*

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us for ever. *Spare us, good Lord.*

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us. ***Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.***

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, ***Have mercy upon us.***

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, ***Have mercy upon us.***

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, ***Grant us thy peace.***

O Christ, hear us. ***O Christ, hear us.***

Lord, have mercy upon us. ***Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.***

## The Collect of the Day

BCP page 159

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

*People:* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 Book of the Prophet Baruch (5:1-9)*

*The Cantic - The Song of Zechariah Benedictus Dominus Deus*

BCP page 92

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, \* for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us \* in the house of his servant David,  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \* which have been since the world began:  
That we should be saved from our enemies, \* and from the hand of all that hate us;  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \* and to remember his holy covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, \* that he would give us,  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \* might serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him, \* all the days of our life.  
And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, \*  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \* for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God, \* whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

### *A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (1:3-11)*

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

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (3:1-6)*

*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 Joshua McGuffie*

## 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 Peace

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture. Representatives of the congregation would in non-pandemic times bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the Altar. The people stand while the altar is prepared.*

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. Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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.

*Please follow the directions of the ushers to approach the Communion Station. The Bread is given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

**All are welcome to receive of this sacrament of Christ's Presence or receive a blessing. If you wish to receive a blessing, 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.**

*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. 75**

ASCENSION

*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: Vom Himmel Hoch: Maestoso

Johann Pachelbel

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



*The Sanctuary Candle is given by Beth and Ross Kellock in thanksgiving for their families and by Lisa Wagner in memory of Howard Wagner.*

*Please join us outside for coffee hour following both services.*

# Announcements for the Second Sunday of Advent

## December 5, 2021

**ADVENT BIRTHDAYS:** 11/29 Scott Callihan 11/30 Susan Clifton, Caitlin Wolfe, Ayanna Gomez 12/4 Jonathan Prentice 12/7 Troy Worley 12/9 Connie Keith 12/10 Jessica Allen, 12/13 Ted Calleton, Carol Rasmussen 12/14 Elizabeth Wilson 12/16 Elizabeth Levie 12/17 Christopher Adde, John Buchanan, 12/20 Justin Thorn, 12/21 Ed Sniecienski

**ADVENT ANNIVERSARIES:** 12/20 Roger & Debra Keith 12/21 Matt and Lyndsay Bamberger

**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.

**ST. ANNE'S ALTAR GUILD IS COLLECTING FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND GREENS:** Envelopes are available at the back of the church and in the parish hall. Checks should be made out to the Church of the Ascension and turned in by December 19th for donations to be noted in the Christmas bulletin.

**SIMILARLY, OUR MUSIC MINISTRY IS ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Envelopes are available at the back of the church and in the parish hall. Checks should be made out to The Church of the Ascension (with the notation "Music Fund") and turned in by December 19th for donations to be noted in the Christmas bulletin.

**THE TUESDAY NIGHT DINNER GROUP** will be gathering at 6:00 p.m. on December 7<sup>th</sup> at The Only Place in Town - 110 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre - 626-325-3502. Please RSVP to Ray Smith at [ray@madre.net](mailto:ray@madre.net) or Ray's cell phone # 626-233-1035. All are welcome.

**WEEKLY SERVICES: HOLY EUCHARIST:** Sundays, 8:00 & 10:15a.m.; Thursdays at 8:15am

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

**LESSONS NEXT WEEK:** Zephaniah 40:1-11 Canticle 9 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18

**CELEBRATING THE SAINTS FOR THE COMING WEEK** (taken from Holy Women, Holy Men):

**12/6 – Nicholas** (*Bishop of Myra, c. 342*) **12/7 – Ambrose** (*Bishop of Milan, 397*) **12/10 – Karl Barth** (*Pastor and theologian, 1968*)

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

*Assisting the Rector:* The Reverend Canon Deacon Ed Sniecienski  
The Reverend Pastor Joshua McGuffie, M.Div.

*Director of Music and Organist:* Dr. Debora Huffman; *Minister to Young Persons:* Ms. Jobi McGuffie;  
*Parish Administrator:* Ms. Kim Lumino; *Administrative Coordinator:* Mrs. Jean Rowe; *Altar Guild Director:* Mrs. Lynne Holl; *Senior Warden:* Mr. Gordon Tomaske; *Junior Warden:* Mr. Ray Smith; *Treasurer:* Mr. Dan Hanson;

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