

Worship

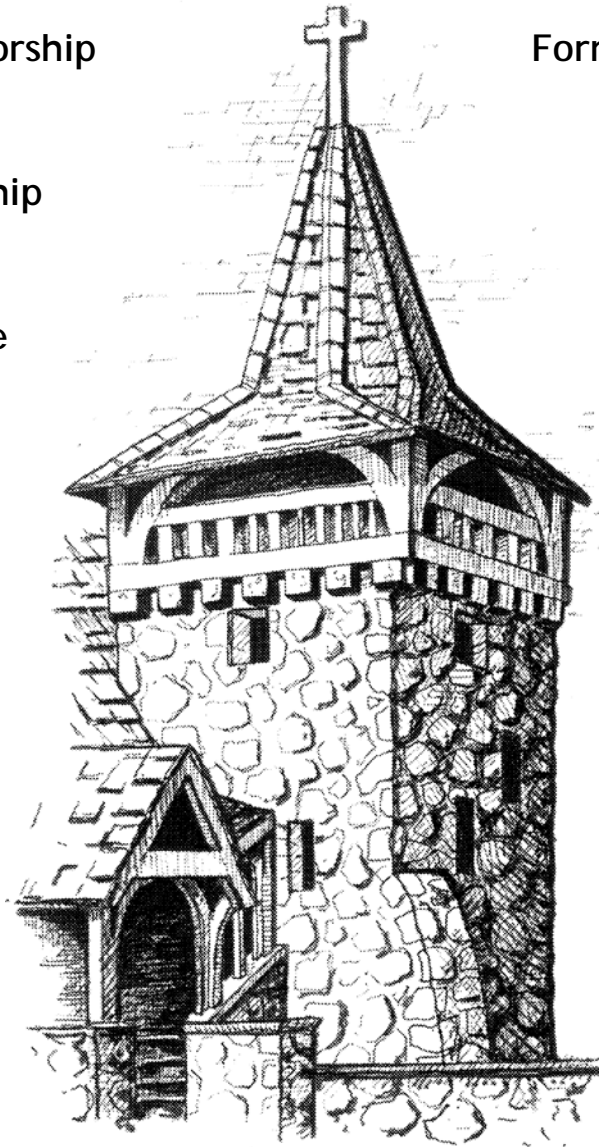
Formation

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 Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023

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: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Charles Callahan

*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 Kyrie.*

*(Music is found in the Hymnal at "S-87")*

**Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

**Christe eleison. Christe eleison. Christe eleison.**

**Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

## **The Collect of the Day**

**Prayer Book page # 219**

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

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 First Book of Samuel (16:1-13)***

***The Gradual Psalm 23 Dominus regit me***

**Prayer Book page # 612**

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

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; \* I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \* and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul \* and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

### ***A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians (5:8-14)***

*The People stand and sing*

**The Sequence Hymn, No 490**

HOUSTON

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

***The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (9:1-41)***

*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**

*Mr. J.D. Neal*

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* Embraced by God's word, guided by God's light and sustained by the true bread which gives life to the world, let us as the body of Christ intercede for all those in need, saying: Have mercy, O Lord.

For the Church, that our Lenten hunger may be for justice, and our thirst for deeds of justice, we pray:

**Have mercy, O Lord.**

For the community of nations, that the worth of every life may compel us on the way to solidarity and peace, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For all who struggle to survive, including those who are unemployable or homeless because of war or hunger, because of the greed or prejudice of others, or because of disabilities, that all may be nourished by your spirit and given proper provision through places of rest and kindness, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For this parish and for all of our ministries, to reflect God's continuous handiwork in our community and in the world, especially for our outreach ministries, 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.**

For all those who serve in the armed forces, that they may be led to right decisions through our leaders that wish to defend freedom, especially \_\_\_\_\_, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For all who need Comfort and healing; who suffer in body, mind, or Spirit, that they all may know your full provision and indissoluble love, especially \_\_\_\_\_, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

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

*The Celebrant adds a concluding 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*

### Amazing Grace

setting: Jay Althouse

*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*

Refrain  
Congregation

(Organ) All things come of Thee, O Lord,  
and of Thine own have we giv - en Thee.

CHOIR:  
Present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy  
and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual  
worship.

Congregation  
repeat Refrain

(Organ)

## 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-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-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-158”)*

**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: Have mercy on us.**

*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 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. 664**

RESIGNATION

*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. 149**

OLD 124<sup>TH</sup>

**Choral Response** God Be in My Head

*setting:* Sir Walter Davies

*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: Nun Danket Alle Gott

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

*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.*

\*\*\*\*\*

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

# Announcements for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

**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 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 meet at 6p.m. this WEDNESDAY, March 21<sup>st</sup> at Nano Cafe, 322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre - 626-325-3334. Please RSVP to Ray Smith at [ray@madre.net](mailto:ray@madre.net) or Ray's cell phone # 626-233-1035. All are welcome.

**ST. ANNE'S ALTAR GUILD IS COLLECTING FOR EASTER FLOWERS:** 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 April 2<sup>nd</sup> for donations to be noted in the Easter 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 April 2<sup>nd</sup> for donations to be noted in the Easter bulletin.

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

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

**Wednesdays in Lent – Compline via Zoom, 7p.m.**

**LESSONS NEXT SUNDAY:** Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

**CELEBRATING THE SAINTS FOR THE COMING WEEK** (taken from Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2022):

**3/21 — Thomas Ken** (*Bishop, 1711*) **3/21 — Thomas Cranmer** (*Archbishop and Martyr, 1556*) **3/22 – James De Koven** (*Priest, 1879*) **3/23 – Gregory the Illuminator** (*Bishop and missionary to Armenia, c. 332*) **3/24 – Oscar Romero** (*Archbishop of San Salvador and Martyr, 1980*) **3/25 – The Annunciation**

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

*Assisting the Rector:* The Reverend Canon Deacon Ed Sniecinski

*Director of Music and Organist:* Mr. Robert Williamson; *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. Cameron Cox; *Treasurer:* Mr. Eric Mulfinger; *Diocesan Discerner:* JD Neal

## 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](http://www.ascension-sierramadre.com)