

Worship

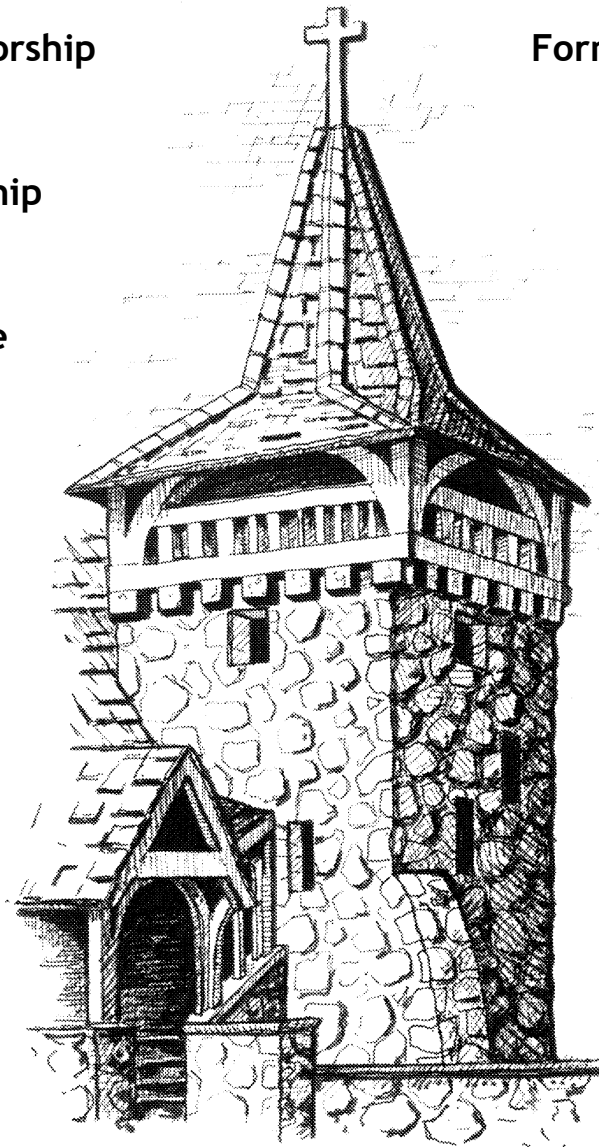
Formation

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 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1, 2024

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

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

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, 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 Jeremiah (33:14-16)

The Gradual Psalm 25:1-9 Ad te, Domine levavi

BCP page 614

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; * let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, * and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, * for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; * therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right * and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness * to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (3:9-13)

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (21:25-26)

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 Very Rev'd Canon Michael Bamberger

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 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. 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

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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 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.

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 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. 61**

WACHET AUF

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:

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



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

Announcements for the First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

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, December 3rd 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.

BETWEEN THE MASSES - The adult discussion group usually meets during the hour between the 8:00 am service and the 10:15 am service in the Parish Hall.

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 Tuesday, December 17th 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 Tuesday, December 17th for donations to be noted in the Christmas bulletin.

ADVENT BIRTHDAYS: 12/4 Jonathan Prentice, 12/5 Walker Williams, 12/9 Connie Keith, 12/10 Jessica Allen, 12/13 Ted Calleton, 12/14 Elizabeth Wilson, 12/16 Elizabeth Levie, 12/17 Christopher Adde, John Buchanan, 12/21 Ed Sniecienski **ADVENT ANNIVERSARIES:** 12/20 Roger & Debra Keith, 12/21 Matt and Lyndsay Bamberger

LESSONS NEXT WEEK: Baruch 5:1-9 Canticle 4 (The Song of Zechariah) Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

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

12/2 – Channing Moore Williams (*Missionary Bishop in China and Japan, 1910*) **12/3 – Francis Xavier** (*Missionary to the Far East, 1552*) **12/4 – John of Damascus** (*Priest, c. 760*) **12/5 – Clement of Alexandria** (*Priest, c. 210*) **12/6 – Nicholas** (*Bishop of Myra, c. 342*) **12/7 – Ambrose** (*Bishop of Milan, 397*)

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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