

Worship

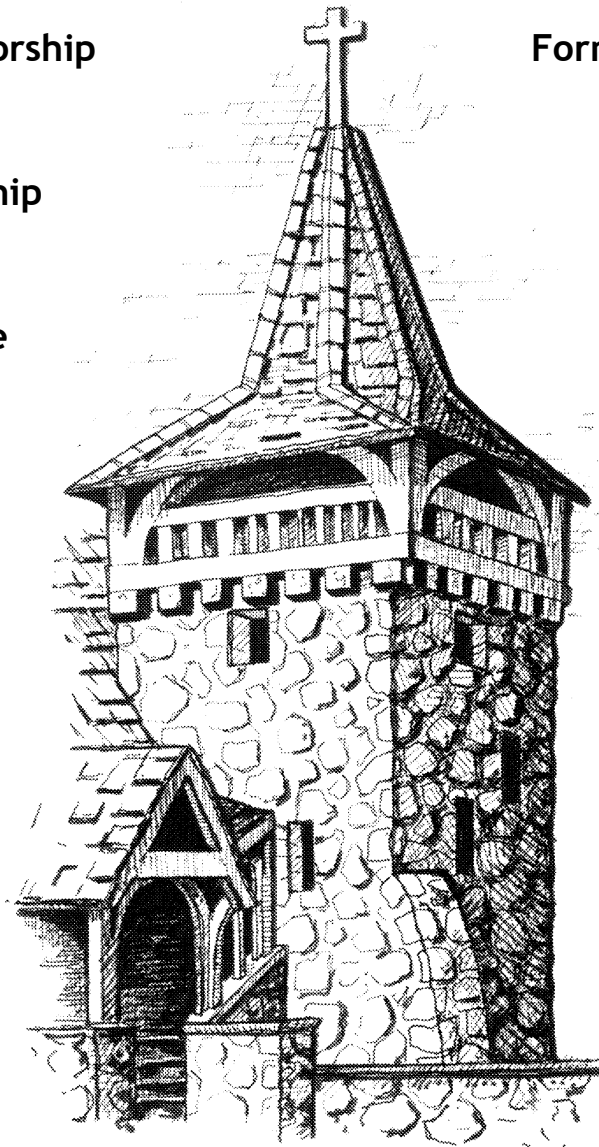
Formation

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

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 or the green Hymnal Supplement "Wonder Love and Praise".

The Voluntary

The Great Bell "Bethlehem" sounds, calling the community to prayer. The people stand at the sound of a small bell and the Great Litany is sung in procession.

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,
Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,
Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, One God,

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us.

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred
and malice; and from all evil intent,

Savior deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart and
contempt for your word and your laws,

Savior deliver us.

From sins of body and mind; from deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,
From famine and disaster; from violence, murder, and dying unprepared,

Savior deliver us.

Savior deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy; in the hour of our death and at the
day of judgment,

Savior deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and
obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

Savior deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; by the
preaching of your reign,

Savior deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; by your precious death
and burial,

Savior deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by your sending
of the Holy Spirit,

Savior deliver us.

Hear our prayers, O Christ our God.

Hear us, O Christ.

Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it
that unity which is your will.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world, and to make disciples of
all the nations.

Hear us, O Christ.

Enlighten your bishops, priests and deacons (especially _____) with
knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives they may
proclaim your word.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give your people grace to witness to your word and bring forth the fruit of
your Spirit.

Hear us, O Christ.

Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived.

Hear us, O Christ.

Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the fainthearted; raise up the
fallen; and finally beat down Satan under our feet.

Hear us, O Christ.

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give your wisdom and strength to Joe, the President of the United States, and Gavin, the Governor of this state, that in all things they may do your will, for your glory and the common good.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give to the Congress of the United States, the members of the President's Cabinet, those who serve in our state legislature, and all others in authority the grace to walk always in the ways of truth.

Hear us, O Christ.

Bless the justices of the Supreme Court and all those who administer the law, that they may act with integrity and do justice for all your people.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and for the good of all.

Hear us, O Christ.

Bless and keep all your people,

Hear us, O Christ.

Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved (especially _____) and the oppressed.

Hear us, O Christ.

Keep in safety those who travel (especially _____) and all who are in peril.

Hear us, O Christ.

Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit (especially _____) and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

Hear us, O Christ.

Guard and protect all children who are in danger.

Hear us, O Christ.

Shower your compassion on prisoners, hostages and refugees, and all who are in trouble.

Hear us, O Christ.

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

Hear us, O Christ.

Hear us as we remember those who have died (especially _____) and grant us with them a share in your eternal glory.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your word.

Hear us, O Christ.

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

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

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

(Music is found in the Hymnal at "S-102")

The Word of God

Prayer Book page # 355

The Collect of the Day

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

Celebrant Let us pray. *The Celebrant then prays the collect.*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through 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 Book of the Prophet Jeremiah (33:14-16)

The Gradual Psalm 25:1-9

Ad te, Domine, levavi

Prayer Book page # 614

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

- 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 ever-**lasting**.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my trans-**gressions**; *
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 e 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)

The People stand and sing

The Sequence Hymn No. 54

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (21:25-36)

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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

The Homily

The Very Rev'd Canon Michael Bamberger

Then, all standing, the people respond to the proclamation of the Word by saying

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 HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture. During the Offertory, the following will be sung:

O Come, O Come Immanuel

arr. Natalie Sleeth

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 offerings are presented and sing the following

The Offertory Hymn No. 68

LLANGLOFFAN

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B

Prayer Book page # 367

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 sent your 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 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 stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father, (Music is found in the Hymnal at "S-136")

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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. Then may be sung (Music is in the Hymnal at “S-152”) Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

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 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 the Post-Communion Hymn No. 640 ABERYSTWYTH

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 # 61 WACHET AUF

The Celebrant may bless the People.

The People are dismissed with the words found on page 366, and the People respond **Thanks be to God.**

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 this service.

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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