

Worship

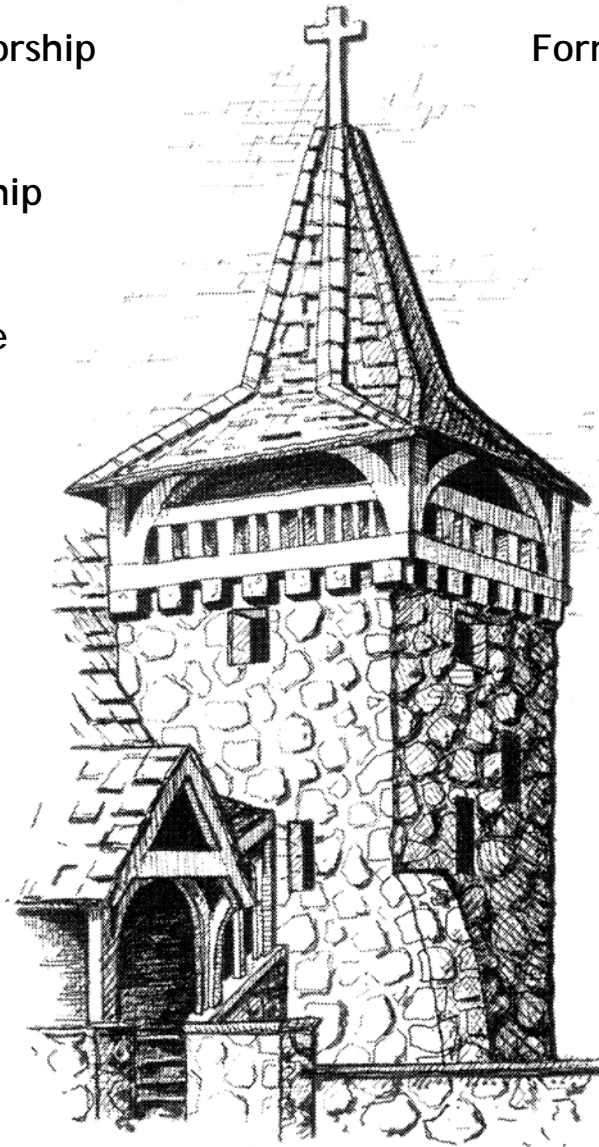
Formation

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 Seventh Sunday of Easter - Ascension Sunday

May 21, 2023

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

Voluntary: Prelude

Henry Coleman

The Great Bell "Bethlehem" sounds, calling the community to prayer. The people stand at the sound of the small bell and sing

The Processional Hymn No. 450

MARION

The Word of God

Prayer Book page # 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Alleluia. Christ is risen. *People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The hymn is sung, all standing **The Gloria in Excelsis Deo** (*Music is found in the Hymnal at "S-278"*)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book page # 225

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

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **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 Acts of the Apostles (1:1-11)

The Gradual Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

Exsurgat Deus

Prayer Book page # 676

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

- 1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; * let those who hate him flee before him.
- 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; *
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; * let them also be merry and joyful.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens; *
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!
- 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, * God in his holy habitation!
- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; *
but the rebels shall live in dry places.
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people, * when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, *
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- 10 Your people found their home in it; *
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; * sing praises to the Lord.
- 34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; * he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
- 35 Ascribe power to God; * his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.
- 36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! *
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians (4:12-14; 5:6-11)

The People stand and sing

The Sequence Hymn, No. 215

IN BABILONE

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (24:44-53)

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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

The Sermon

The Rev'd Canon Ed Sniecienski

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 today by our deacon.

Deacon: Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear us when we pray in the name of your Ascended Son.

Therefore in confidence and trust we pray for the Church:

Father, enliven the Church for its mission

People: **That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.**

Deacon: Breathe fresh life into your people.

People: **Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.**

Deacon: We pray for the world, especially...

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

People: **That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.**

Deacon: Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

People: **Teach us to care creatively for its resources.**

Deacon: We pray for this community...

And for all celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, especially...

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others:

People: **That all may act with integrity and courage.**

Deacon: Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.

People: **May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.**

Deacon: We pray for those in need:

For those who are unemployed or underemployed, especially...

For those who are serving in the armed forces, especially...

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in mind, body or spirit:

For those who are imprisoned, especially...

For those who are ill, especially...

For those who are dying, especially...

People: **May they know the power of your healing love.**

Deacon: We remember those who have died and those who mourn, especially...

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone.

People: **Father, into your hands we commend them.**

Deacon: Give comfort to those who mourn.

People: **Bring them peace in their time of loss.**

Deacon: We praise you for the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

People: **May their example inspire and encourage us.**

Deacon: We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins.

People: **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Ascended Lord, you have not left us, but gone before us into the heavenly glory. Raise these our prayers to heaven, and present them to God in union with your eternal sacrifice, that we may know your divine love in this life and may be one with you in your Godhead in the life to come. **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 choir will sing this Anthem.

Sing Unto God

setting: Gordon 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 on 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)

Detailed description: The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the organ and the congregation, with lyrics 'All things come of Thee, O Lord,'. The second staff continues the organ and congregation part with lyrics 'and of Thine own have we giv - en Thee.' and includes a choir part with lyrics 'Present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.' The third staff is for the organ, with the instruction 'Congregation repeat Refrain'.

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 every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. 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-128")

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

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-151")

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

The following Fraction Anthem will be sung - first by the cantor, and then by the cantor and the congregation



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. 635

WER NUR DEN LIEBSTER GOTT

After Communion, the Celebrant says

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. 544

DUKE STREET

The Celebrant may bless the people.

The People are dismissed with these or similar words (music at S 175)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia. *People* **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

The Voluntary: Finale in D Major

Eric H. Thiman

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

Please join us in the parish hall for coffee hour following this service.

NEXT SUNDAY IS THE FEAST OF PENTECOST!!! WEAR RED!!!!

Announcements for The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 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 Tuesday, May 23rd at Corfu Restaurant, located at 48 West Sierra Madre Blvd., here in town. Please RSVP to Ray Smith at ray@madre.net or Ray's cell phone # 626-233-1035. All are welcome.

NEXT SUNDAY IS THE FEAST OF PENTECOST!!! WEAR RED!!!!

BETWEEN THE MASSES - The adult discussion group has resumed meeting in person in the Parish Hall. The group usually meets during the hour between 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.

LESSONS NEXT SUNDAY: *The Pentecost* Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:25-35, 37b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

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

5/22 – Helena of Constantinople (*Protector of the Holy Places, 330*) **5/24 – Jackson Kemper** (*First Missionary Bishop in the United States, 1870*) **5/25 - Bede the Venerable** (*Priest and monk of Jarrow, 735*) **5/26 – Augustine** (*First Archbishop of Canterbury, 605*)

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

Assisting the Rector: The Reverend Canon Deacon Ed Sniecienski

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