

Worship

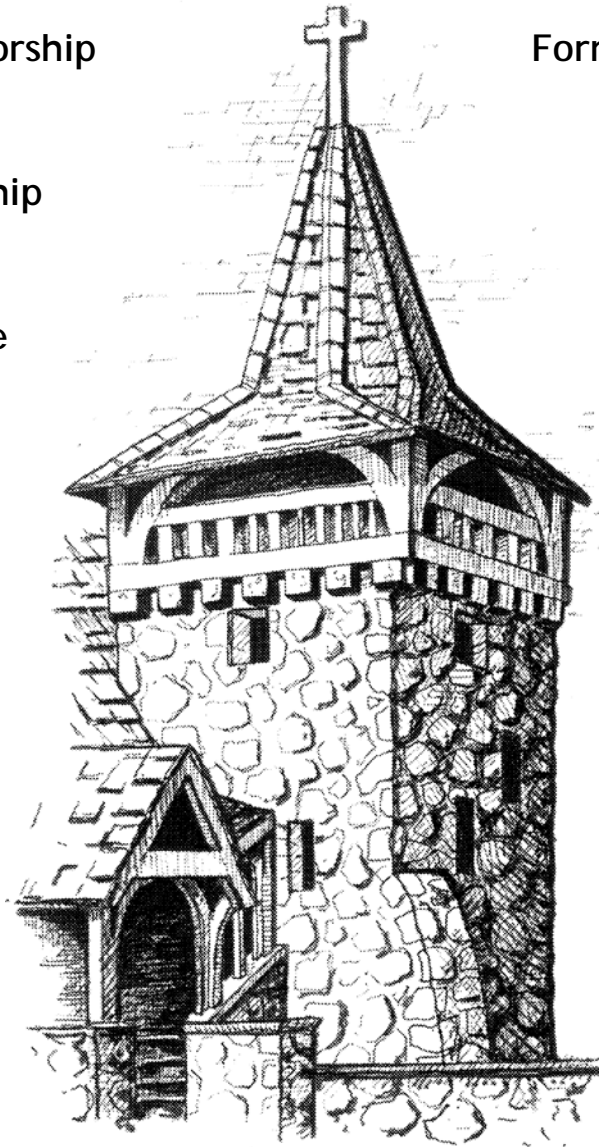
Formation

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 Easter

## April 21, 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 1982, or for hymns 721 – 906 in the green hymnal supplement – Wonder, Love & Praise.*

Voluntary: A meditation on Brother James Air

Harold Darke

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

**Processional Hymn No. 208**

VICTORY

## 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”*)

**Glorify 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 # 224**

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

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and 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 Acts of the Apostles (4:5-12)*

## The Gradual Psalm 23

*Dominus regit me*

Prayer Book page # 612

*The congregation is invited to sing with the choir the antiphon.*



I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ev - er.

Choir: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON

Choir: He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake. 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. ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON

Choir: 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. 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.

ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON

## ***A Reading from the First Letter of John (3:16-24)***

*The People stand and sing*

**The Sequence Hymn, No. 644**

ST. PETER

*Then, all standing, the Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying*

***The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (10:11-18)***

*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*

**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

Prayer Book page # 392

*The Prayers of the People are led today by the deacon.*

*Deacon* Gathered in the care of the good shepherd and guardian of our souls, let us pray to God who knows our every need. For the peace of the Church in all places, and especially for ecumenical efforts to serve the poor, the hungry, and those in need, let us pray.

*People* **For the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.**

For John our Bishop; for Michael our Rector, and Ed our deacon; and for all servants of the living God, that through them the voice of our Lord might be heard. Let us pray. **For the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.**

For the outreach ministries of our parish, that they may witness to the Word of God in community and in the world. Let us pray. **For the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.**

For our nation and its people; for the world and its leaders; and especially for peace in Ukraine, Yemen, Africa, and the Holy Land. Let us pray. **For the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.**

For all those in danger and need, the sick and the suffering, the strayed and the lost, and especially for those who feel their faith is gone. Let us pray. **For the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.**

For those commended to our prayers, especially... for their deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need. Let us pray. **For the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.**

For all military personnel, and especially those we know and love: \_\_\_\_\_ and for all who suffer from the violence of war. Let us pray. **For the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.**

We give thanks for our many blessings, especially for those parishioners celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries this week; \_\_\_\_\_ and for our families, companions, and all those we love. Let us pray. **For the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.**

For the forgiveness of our sins, things done, and things left undone, and for our indifference to injustice. Let us pray. **For the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.**

For the dying and for those who have been raised to the life eternal, especially... Let us pray. **For the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.**

Remembering the blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the good shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. **To you, O Lord our God.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who anoints our head with oil and fills our cup with wine. Hear the prayers we offer for every need and revive us with your Holy Spirit. Glory to you for ever and ever. *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.*

The Lord's My Shepherd

*music:* Howard Goodal

*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*

### The Offertory Hymn No. 380 (verse 3)

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings*

Prayer Book page # 361

*(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. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. 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

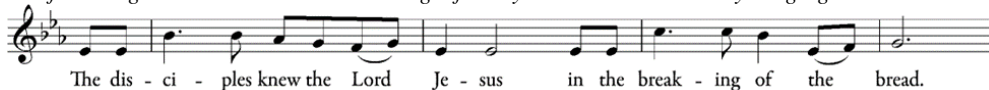
Prayer Book page # 364

*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 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.

*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.*]

*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.*

*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. 304**

LAND OF REST

*The Celebrant may bless the people. The People are dismissed with these 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: Two versets on Brother James Air

Noel Rawsthorne

*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 through Eastertide. Latin for "Queen of Heaven," the phrase refers to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Regina Coeli is also the beginning of a devotion, common in some Anglo-catholic circles, used during the Easter season in place of the Angelus. The customary bell-ringing sequence for Regina Coeli, consists of four sets of two strokes, with pauses between each set, followed by eight peals.*

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia.

Has risen, as He said, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

O God, who through the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ

gave rejoicing to the world

grant, we pray, that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary,

we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

# Announcements for The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 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 WEDNESDAY, April 24<sup>th</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.

**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.

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

**LESSONS NEXT SUNDAY:** Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:24-30 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8

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

**4/22 – Hadewijch of Brabant** (*Poet and Mystic, 13 cent.*) **4/23 – Toyohiko Kagawa** (*Prophetic Witness, 1960*)

**4/25 – St. Mark** **4/27 – Zita of Tuscany** (*Worker of Charity, 1271*)

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

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

*Parish Administrator:* Ms. Kim Lumino; *Director of Music and Organist:* Mr. Robert Williamson;

*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;

## The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

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