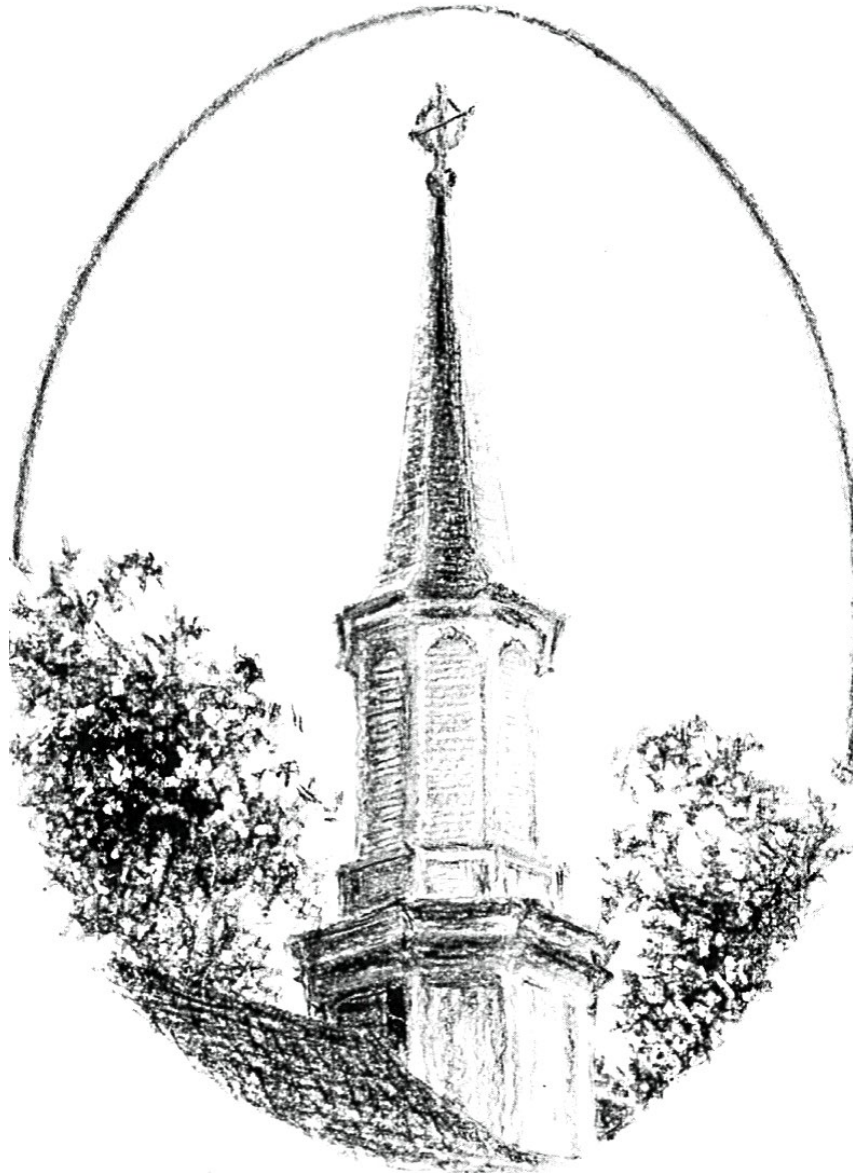


**4 LENT**

**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II  
with Confirmation and Reaffirmation**

**March 10, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.**



**Saint Alban's Episcopal Church Welcomes You**

*130 39<sup>th</sup> Ave. Pl. NW, Hickory, NC 28601*

*(828) 324-1351*

*Welcome to St. Alban's. We are grateful for your presence.*

*Cloth pew bags are now available for our younger worshippers. Please return to the basket as you depart.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Come, thou fount of every blessing*

Hymnal 686

*The people standing, the Bishop says*

*Bishop* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People:* ***His mercy ensures for ever.***

*The Bishop continues*

There is one Body and one Spirit;

*People* ***There is one hope in God's call to us;***

*Bishop* One Lord, One Faith, one Baptism;

*People* ***One God and Father of all.***

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.

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

*Bishop* Let us pray.

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 LESSON Numbers 21:4-9

*Reader* A Reading from Numbers

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

*People* ***Thanks be to God***

### THE GRADUAL Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (*spoken*)

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \*  
and his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim \*  
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

3 He gathered them out of the lands; \*  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

- 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; \*  
they were afflicted because of their sins.
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food \*  
and drew near to death's door.
- 19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, \*  
and he delivered them from their distress.
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them \*  
and saved them from the grave.
- 21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy \*  
and the wonders he does for his children.
- 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

## THE EPISTLE Ephesians 2:1-10

*Reader* A Reading from Ephesians

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord

*People* **Thanks be to God**

## SEQUENCE HYMN

*Jerusalem, my happy home*

Hymnal 620

## THE HOLY GOSPEL John 3:14-21

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The Gospel of the Lord

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

## THE SERMON

*The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin*

### PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

*The Bishop says*

The Candidates will now be presented.

*Presenter* I present *these persons* for confirmation.

I present *these persons* who *desire* to reaffirm *their* baptismal vows.

*The Bishop asks the candidates*

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*Candidates* I do.

*Bishop* Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Candidates* I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

*After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

*People* ***We will.***

*The Bishop then says these*

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

### THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* ***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

*Bishop* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* ***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* ***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.***

*Bishop* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* ***I will, with God's help.***

*Bishop* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* ***I will, with God's help.***

*Bishop* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* ***I will, with God's help.***

*Bishop* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* ***I will, with God's help.***

*Bishop* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People* ***I will, with God's help.***

# PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

*The Bishop then says to the congregation*

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

*Leader* Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Send them into the world in witness to your love.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Then the Bishop says*

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## For Confirmation

*The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says*

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* With your Holy Spirit; empower *him/her* for your service; and sustain *him/her* all the days of *his/her* life. **Amen.**

## For Reaffirmation

*N.*, may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer*

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over *these* your *servants*; let your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that *they* may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Bishop processes to the Intercessory Prayer Wall*

## **Blessing of Crosses**

*The Bishop says*

Forasmuch as devout and faithful people have taken in hand to build on this ground, now marked with the symbol of Christ, a House to be dedicated to the glory of God - we add these crosses, hand-crafted from the original altar rail, as sign and symbol of the prayers offered in this holy space. We ask God's blessing upon them and those who will pray before them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

## **THE PEACE**

*Bishop* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* *And also with you.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS and OFFERTORY**

*Today's loose-plate offering will be given to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.*

*Please make check out to the Diocese of Western North Carolina,  
designated for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.*

*Thank you for your generosity.*



## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### ANTHEM

*What Wondrous Love*

*arr. Edmonds*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *[Eucharistic Prayer C, p. 369]*

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.

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

*Bishop* Lift up your hearts.

*People* ***We lift them to the Lord.***

*Bishop* 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 Bishop proceeds*

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

***Glory to you for ever and ever.***

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

***By your will they were created and have their being.***

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

***Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

***By his blood, he reconciled us.***

***By his wounds, we are healed.***

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS S130 *(found in the front section of the hymnal)*

*Bishop and People*

***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. The Bishop continues*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Bishop is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
*We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.*

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

*Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.*

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.  
**AMEN.**

*Bishop* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
*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 FRACTION S164**

*Bishop and People*

*Jesus, Lamb of God; have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:  
give us your peace, give us your peace.*

## **THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*Gluten free wafers are available upon request at the altar rail.*

*Two chalices are offered at the altar rail. The first one is offered to those who prefer to drink from the cup. The second chalice follows for those who prefer to intinct (dip) the wafer in the wine before consuming.*

*Please hold the wafer in your open palm to indicate your preference to the server.*

## **COMMUNION ANTHEM**

*I've Got Peace Like a River  
Oxford Bells*

*arr. Eithun*



**HYMN DURING COMMUNION** (*choir & congregation*) *My faith looks up to thee* Hymnal 691

**THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER** BCP p. 366

*Bishop* Let us pray.

*Bishop and People*

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**EPISCOPAL BLESSING**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN** *Lift high the cross* Hymnal 473

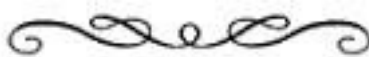
**THE DISMISSAL**

*Bishop* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* *Thanks be to God.*

**THE POSTLUDE** XXXXX . XXXXX

*We welcome our Bishop this morning to St. Alban's. Please join the Bishop for a reception and conversation immediately following the service in Ferebee Hall.*



**Blessings upon those being confirmed:**

**Bud Caywood  
Lynn Caldwell  
Bill Claypoole  
Jacob Crenshaw  
Mary McNulty**

**Jan Middleton  
Kevin Middleton  
Meghan Neely  
Jay Tate  
Lee Young**

**Blessings upon those being reaffirmed:**

**Eddie Alala  
Judy Caywood  
Ingrid Peake  
Mary Alice Phillips  
Pat Rice  
Bruce Smith**