

# IV Pentecost

Hear the Word. Break the Bread. Share the Love.



## Holy Eucharist

June 16, 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 worshipers.  
Please return to the basket as you depart.*

**Prelude**

*The Church's One Foundation*

Charles W. Ore

## The Liturgy of the Word

**Processional Hymn**

The Church's one foundation

Hymn 525

**Opening Acclamation**

BCP p. 355

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

**Collect for Purity** (*Celebrant and People*)

BCP p. 355

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.

**Gloria**

Hymnal S-280

**The Collect of the Day**

BCP p. 357

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**The Lesson: Ezekiel 17:22-24** *The people sit.*

A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it,

in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord.

I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

**The Gradual: Psalm 92:1-4, 11-14** (*Spoken in unison*)

- <sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, \*  
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;  
<sup>2</sup>To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning \*  
and of your faithfulness in the night season;  
<sup>3</sup>On the psaltery, and on the lyre, \*  
and to the melody of the harp.  
<sup>4</sup>For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD; \*  
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.  
<sup>11</sup>The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, \*  
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.  
<sup>12</sup>Those who are planted in the house of the LORD \*  
shall flourish in the courts of our God;  
<sup>13</sup>They shall still bear fruit in old age; \*  
they shall be green and succulent;  
<sup>14</sup>That they may show how upright the LORD is, \*  
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.

**The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17**

A Reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Church in Corinth.

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord — <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.

<sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

*Reader*       The Word of the Lord.  
*People*       Thanks be to God.

**Sequence Hymn**

*Father, we thank thee who hast planted*

Hymnal 302

**The Holy Gospel: Mark 4:26-34**

*Deacon*       The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
*People*       Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>26</sup>Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,<sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

*Deacon*       The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*       Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Anne Bridgers

**The Nicene Creed**   *(People stand)*

**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.**

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

**People** *For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**People** *For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**People** *For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**People** *For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**People** *For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and José, our Bishop; for all bishops and other ministers; and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, Camp Henry, all the children and youth of the diocese.

**People** *For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;

**People** *For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**People** *And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**People** *Who put their trust in you.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and

serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Absolution**

BCP p. 360

*Celebrant*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

**The Peace** *(All stand)*

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

*People*           And also with you.

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Holy Communion

**The Doxology** *(Hymn 380, verse 3)*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all the creatures here below; praise him above the heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

**The Great Thanksgiving** – Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP p. 361

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant says*

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.

*Here a Proper Preface is said.*

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:

**Sanctus**

Hymnal S129

*Celebrant 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 as 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.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant 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 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*

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 now pray,

*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,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;*

Therefore let us keep the feast.

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

### **The Communion of the People**

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

### **Communion Hymn**

*For the bread which you have broken*

Hymnal 341

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

BCP p. 365

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 Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace. Amen.

## **Recessional Hymn**

*Love divine, all loves excelling*

Hymnal 657

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

*Postlude In b*

Charles H. Rinck