

*Walk In Love  
As We  
Hear the Word. Break the Bread. Share the Love.*



**XX Pentecost  
Holy Eucharist**

October 6, 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.*

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Processional Hymn

*For the beauty of the earth*

Hymnal 416

## Opening Acclamation

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

BCP p. 355

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 236

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

## The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 357

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Lesson: Job 1:1; 2:1-10 *The people sit.*

A Reading from the Book of Job.

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life."

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.” But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

**The Gradual:** Psalm 26       *(Sung in unison)*

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD,  
for I have lived with integrity; \*  
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.  
<sup>2</sup>Test me, O LORD, and try me; \*  
examine my heart and my mind.  
<sup>3</sup>For your love is before my eyes; \*  
I have walked faithfully with you.  
<sup>4</sup>I have not sat with the worthless, \*  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.  
<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers; \*  
I will not sit down with the wicked.  
<sup>6</sup>I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, \*  
that I may go in procession round your altar,  
<sup>7</sup>Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving \*  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.  
<sup>8</sup>LORD, I love the house in which you dwell \*  
and the place where your glory abides.  
<sup>9</sup>Do not sweep me away with sinners, \*  
nor my life with those who thirst for blood,  
<sup>10</sup>Whose hands are full of evil plots, \*  
and their right hand full of bribes.  
<sup>11</sup>As for me, I will live with integrity; \*  
redeem me, O LORD, and have pity on me.  
<sup>12</sup>My foot stands on level ground; \*  
in the full assembly I will bless the LORD.

**The Epistle:** Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews.

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>2:5</sup>Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. <sup>6</sup>But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
or mortals, that you care for them?

<sup>7</sup>You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;

you have crowned them with glory and honor,

<sup>8</sup>subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them,<sup>9</sup>but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,<sup>12</sup>saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

### Sequence Hymn

*My song is love unknown*

Hymnal 458

### The Holy Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People*            Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>2</sup>Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” <sup>3</sup>He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup>They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” <sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female. <sup>7</sup>For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

<sup>10</sup>Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

<sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### The Sermon

**The Rev. Anne Bridgers**

### The Nicene Creed

**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** (Stand or kneel)

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Let us offer up prayers up prayers to Christ Jesus, who took little children in his arms and blessed them.

We pray for all the holy people of God; we pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Presiding Bishop-Elect, and José, our Bishop; and all bishops and other ministers; and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, on this World Communion Sunday, we pray for all our Ecumenical relationships. Lord, in your mercy,

**People** *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the ministries of this congregation and for our lay leaders. Lord, in your mercy,

**People** *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all elected and appointed leaders. Guide them with wisdom, mercy, and most especially, compassion for the poor and downtrodden. Guide us to persist in integrity and build towards a better future together. Lord, in your mercy,

**People** *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the earth, and for the fragile resources we so often despoil. Help us become greater stewards of the earth. Fill us with higher love for your Creation and let us more readily read your lessons from the Great Book of Nature. Lord, in your mercy,

**People** *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all organizations and volunteers working to feed those who are hungry and provide clothes for those who have little. Lord, in your mercy,

**People** *Hear our prayer.*

Remembering especially all those on our Parish Prayer List, we pray for those who need healing and ongoing care. We pray for those whose needs are known to you alone. We pray for those who are travelling and for those serving in the Armed Forces. We pray for those who are homeless, those in prison, and all who are suffering. Lord in your mercy,

**People** *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for those who have died. We pray for all those who have lost their lives in the course of spreading Christ's Love. Lord in your mercy,

**People** *Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for our own needs, or those of others.

*Silence. The people may add their own prayers*

Lord in in your mercy,

**People** *Hear our prayer.*

Lifting our voices with all of your Creation, with Francis, and Alban and all the saints, let us be crowned with glory and honor through your Son, Christ Jesus.

**People** *To you, O Lord, our God.*

*Silence*

*Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Lord Christ, you took the little children into your arms, blessed them, and said that the kingdom of God belongs to them. Take us into your arms; bless us; wash away our sins. Welcome us to your kingdom, and let us sit at the table with the Father and the Holy Spirit, who reign with you in Heaven, now and forever. *Amen.*

**Confession**                      *(People stand or kneel)*

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*Celebrant*      Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

**Absolution**

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*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

**Anthem**

*Kingsfold*

arr. Anne K. Organ

**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  
*The People remain standing.*

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**Celebrant**       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.

*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.

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**

H800

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and God of might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one 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,

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*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.*

*Gluten free waters 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 follow 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.*



## **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**

*Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us*

Hymnal 559

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

BCP p. 365

Let us pray.

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**

Go forth into the world in peace, walking in love as Christ first loved us and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. Amen.

## **Recessional Hymn**

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee*

Hymnal 376

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*

Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

*Postlude in C Minor*

A.J. Monar

***We gather for refreshments in the Commons Room immediately following the service.  
All are welcome to participate and check out the kiosk for more ways to walk in Love!***

## **Vestry Members**

Terry Jennings - Senior Warden  
Judy Caywood - Junior Warden  
Charles Bolick  
Jane Earl  
Susan Hook  
Carol LeGrand  
Ingrid Peake  
Bill Perrin  
Bruce Smith  
Chris Oram - Vestry Clerk  
Mary Klinger – Treasurer

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## **Those Who Serve You**

**The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry** - Presiding Bishop & Primate of The Episcopal Church  
**The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin** - Bishop, Diocese of Western NC  
**The Rev. Anne Bridgers** - Interim Priest-in-Charge  
**Doug Brady** - Organist  
**Janet Dziesinski** - Financial Administrator  
**Cami Roberts** - Director of Family Formation  
**Tammy Shook** - Director of Parish Music and Handbells  
**Lauren Timmons** - Associate Director of Parish Music and Cantorkids Director  
**Kim Wagner** – Parish Administrator