

# 5 Lent



## Holy Eucharist II

April 6, 2025  
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 available for our younger worshipers.  
Please return to the basket as you depart.*

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Processional Hymn

*Take up your cross, the Savior said*

Hymnal 675

## Opening Acclamation

BCP. 355

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* His mercy endures for ever. Amen.

## Trisagion *(Sung three times)*

S-102

Holy God, Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

## The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 357

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21 *(The people sit.)*

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the LORD,

who makes a way in the sea,

a path in the mighty waters,

<sup>17</sup>who brings out chariot and horse,

army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise,

they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

<sup>18</sup>“Do not remember the former things,

or consider the things of old.

<sup>19</sup>I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness

and rivers in the desert.

<sup>20</sup>The wild animals will honor me,

the jackals and the ostriches;

for I give water in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

<sup>21</sup>the people whom I formed for myself

so that they might declare my praise.”

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

- <sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.  
<sup>2</sup>Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
<sup>3</sup>Then they said among the nations, \*  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”  
<sup>4</sup>The LORD has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.  
<sup>5</sup>Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.  
<sup>6</sup>Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.  
<sup>7</sup>Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

**Second Reading:** Philippians 3:4b-14

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

<sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*           Thanks be to God.

**The Holy Gospel:** John 12:1-8

*(All stand.)*

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>1</sup>Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Anne Bridgers

**The Nicene Creed**

*(All stand.)*

BCP p. 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** *(People stand or kneel)*

Intercessor As we approach the Paschal Mystery, let us earnestly offer our prayers to God, who makes all things new, saying: “O God our Savior, hear our prayer.”

Draw your church more deeply into the reality of Christ’s sufferings, so that every one whom you have called in him may show forth the power of his resurrection.

O God our Savior,

**People** *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor Renew the spirit of hope in every human society and nation. Invigorate us, that we may strain forward to the future you promise. O God our Savior,

**People** *Hear our Prayer.*

Intercessor Show your mercy to those who are held back by wandering from your plans, and free them to receive your word of life. O God our Savior,

**People** *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor Rescue from fear those who are deprived of their human needs or their human rights. Give them their share of the dignity you confer on all your children.

O God our Savior,

**People** *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor Grant to this assembly a heart open to your word, that we may embrace your promise, heed your commands, and declare your praise, O God our Savior,

**People** *Hear our Prayer.*

Intercessor We offer additional prayers for the concerns, joy and needs of our lives, silently or aloud  
*(Prayers may be offered.)*

Intercessor O God our Savior,

**People** *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor We pray also for all those who have died, especially those we name now silently or aloud,  
*(Prayers may be offered.)*

Intercessor O God our Savior,

**People** *Hear our prayer.*

Presider We thank you God, for transforming the wilderness of the cross into a way of return for your lost and sinful creatures. Receive these our prayers and ready our hearts, minds and souls to share in the Paschal Feast, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Confession of Sin**

BCP p. 359

*Celebrant says* 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**

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 Order of the Daughters of the King - Service of Admission and Rededication**

*Congregation is seated. Daughters of the King stand before the altar rail.*

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

BCP p. 360

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

## The Holy Communion

**Anthem***An Offering*

Dan Forrest

*This morning's open plate offering is designated for those recovering from the recent wildfires in Western North Carolina.*

**Doxology***(People stand as offering is presented)*

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 C *(Stand or kneel)*

BCP p. 369

*The People remain standing.*

*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.

*The Celebrant continues*

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**

S-128

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 Celebrant 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 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 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.*

**The Lord's Prayer**

BCP p. 363

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*People and Celebrant*

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

## The Breaking of the Bread

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

### Fraction Anthem

S-164

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.

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

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*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.*

### Communion Hymn

*Let thy Blood in mercy poured*

Hymnal 313

### The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 365

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant 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.

### Solemn Prayer over the People

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Recessional Hymn

*There's a wideness in God's mercy*

Hymnal 470

### Dismissal

BCP p. 366

Let us bless the Lord.

*People*

Thanks be to God.

### Postlude

*Benedicamus*

Alexandre Guilmant

***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!***

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# Keeping a Holy Lent at St. Alban's

## WEDNESDAY SOUP & PROGRAM:

April 9, Meal: 6 p.m., Program: 6:30 p.m.

## Next Sunday: The Sunday of the Passion:

### Palm Sunday

We will welcome Roscoe the donkey at 9:30 a.m. on the front lawn before the service at 10:30. On Palm Sunday, the Procession begins as the Church bell rings and palm crosses are blessed as we enter into Holy Week.

## HOLY WEEK

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 7 P.M.:** This evening service invites us to focus on our Lord's Last Supper and his commandment to love one another as he loves us. The tradition of washing one another's feet is included as well.

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18, NOON:** This day of solemn observance is the one day of the year when Holy Eucharist is not celebrated. Prayers are offered, The Passion Gospel is read and includes time for meditation on the cross of Christ.

**HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 9 A.M.:** This brief liturgy for Holy Saturday includes contemplation on the Empty Tomb and special prayers offered for all those whom we love but see no longer. Following the liturgy, the church is spruced up and decorated for Easter Morning. Many hands make light work.

## EASTER DAY, APRIL 20

**THE LORD IS RISEN!** Invite friends to join you for our joyous celebration with glorious music for the occasion! You are invited to bring flowers for decorating the Flower Cross as you arrive on Easter Day!

Donuts, Coffee, & Easter Eggs: 9:45 a.m.

Festival Eucharist: 10:30 a.m.