

# *The Fourth Sunday of Easter*



## **Holy Eucharist II**

May 11, 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

## Introit

*I Can Pray*  
CantorKids

Toni Sullivan

## Proclamation Hymn

*Awake and sing the song*

Hymnal 181

## Opening Acclamation

BCP p. 355

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* ***The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.***

## Collect for Purity

BCP p. 355

*Celebrant says*

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** *(found in the back of your hymnal)*  
*The following is sung, all standing*

H-804

Glory to 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

BCP p. 357

*Celebrant* 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.***

**First Reading:** Acts 9:36-43 *(The people sit.)*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>36</sup>Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup>At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup>Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup>So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup>Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup>Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

**Psalm:** Psalm 23 (Sung in unison)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; \*

I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

and leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He revives my soul \*

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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.

**Second Reading:** Revelation 7:9-17 (The people sit.)

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

<sup>9</sup>I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

<sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honor

and power and might

be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup>I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>For this reason they are before the throne of God,

and worship him day and night within his temple,

and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them,

nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

**Sequence Hymn**

*The King of love my shepherd is*

Hymnal 645

**The Holy Gospel: John 10:22-30**     *(All stand.)*

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

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

<sup>22</sup>At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>The Father and I are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Jonathan Stepp

**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

Form III     *(People stand or kneel)*

Intercessor     Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
People     ***That we all may be one.***

Intercessor     In the Anglican Cycle of prayer, we pray for the Nippon Sei Ko Kai and in the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Church of the Ascension, Hickory. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
People     ***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

Intercessor     We pray for Stephen, Archbishop of York, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, José, our Bishop, Father Jonathan, the staff of St. Alban's, and all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
People     ***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

Intercessor     We pray for the leaders of our nation, our state, and our city, and we pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
People     ***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Intercessor     Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
People     ***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Intercessor     We pray for those who are sick, especially those on our prayer list, and we pray that you will have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
People     ***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Intercessor     Give to the departed eternal rest.  
People     ***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Intercessor     We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
People     ***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Intercessor     And now let us pray for our own needs and those of others,

*Silence is kept.*

*The People may add their own petitions, either silently or aloud.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## 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. 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.)*

BCP p. 360

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

# The Holy Communion

## Anthem

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*  
Sally Ross, Cello

Brenda Portman

## Doxology

*(People stand as offering is presented)*

Hymn 380, verse 3

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer D *(Stand or kneel)*

BCP p. 372

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. 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 truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

*Celebrant and People*

S-125

***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 Celebrant continues*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and People*

***We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.***

*The Celebrant continues*

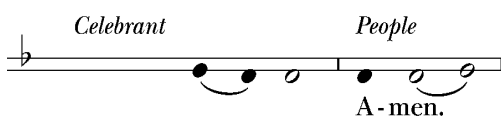
Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Blessed Alban and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.



## **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**

BCP p. 364

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. *Amen.*

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

*No Hands, But Yours*

Tom Shelton

Women of Parish Choir

## **Communion Hymn**

*My Shepherd will supply my need*

Hymnal 664

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

BCP p. 365

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

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.***



**Blessing**

*The Priest blesses the people.*

BCP p. 366

**Recessional Hymn**

*My faith looks up to thee*

Hymnal 691

**Dismissal**

*Celebrant*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People*

***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.***

BCP p. 366

**Postlude**

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***NOTE FROM FR. JONATHAN & THE STEPP FAMILY***

*Dear People of St. Alban's,*

*Thank you for the warm and wonderful welcome you have given us as a family in these first couple of weeks here! We were especially grateful for the welcome we received at worship this past Sunday and the wonderful luncheon celebration afterwards - the gift basket you prepared is great and much appreciated! Our life of ministry together is off to a great start and we are very excited about all that God has in store for us as we continue this journey together.*

*With Thanksgiving,*

*Fr. Jonathan, Beth, Emily, Lewis, and Emeline*