

# *The Fifth Sunday of Easter*



## **Holy Eucharist II**

May 18, 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 worshippers.  
Please return to the basket as you depart.*

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Processional Hymn

*I come with joy to meet my Lord*

Hymnal 304

## 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

*(The people stand)*

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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.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; in the high vault of heaven,

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we will highly exalt you. Glory to you!

## 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, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

## First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

*(The people sit.)*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup>But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring

Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

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

**Psalm:** Psalm 148                      (*Spoken in unison*)

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD from the heavens; \*  
praise him in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>Praise him, all you angels of his; \*  
praise him, all his host.

<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon; \*  
praise him, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>Praise him, heaven of heavens, \*  
and you waters above the heavens.

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the Name of the LORD; \*  
for he commanded, and they were created.

<sup>6</sup>He made them stand fast for ever and ever; \*  
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, \*  
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>Fire and hail, snow and fog, \*  
tempestuous wind, doing his will;

<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills, \*  
fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup>Wild beasts and all cattle, \*  
creeping things and wingèd birds;

<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples, \*  
princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup>Young men and maidens, \*  
old and young together.

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the Name of the LORD, \*  
for his Name only is exalted,  
his splendor is over earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>He has raised up strength for his people  
and praise for all his loyal servants, \*  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.  
Hallelujah!

**Second Reading:** Revelation 21:1-6                      (*The people sit.*)

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

<sup>1</sup>I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
<sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

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

### **Sequence Hymn**

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life*

Hymnal 487

**The Holy Gospel:** John 13:31-35

*(All stand.)*

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

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

<sup>31</sup>At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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<br><i>People</i>     | Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;<br><b><i>That we all may be one.</i></b>  |
| Intercessor<br><br><i>People</i> | In the Anglican Cycle of prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and The Middle East and in the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Camp Henry and all the children and youth of the diocese. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;<br><b><i>That your Name may be glorified by all people.</i></b> |
| Intercessor<br><br><i>People</i> | 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;<br><b><i>That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.</i></b>   |
| Intercessor<br><br><i>People</i> | 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;<br><b><i>That there may be justice and peace on the earth.</i></b>  |
| Intercessor<br><i>People</i>     | Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;<br><b><i>That our works may find favor in your sight.</i></b>  |
| Intercessor<br><br><i>People</i> | 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;<br><b><i>That they may be delivered from their distress.</i></b>   |
| Intercessor<br><br><i>People</i> | We pray for those who have died, especially Ralph Gignac, stepfather of Scott Major;<br>Give to the departed eternal rest.<br><b><i>Let light perpetual shine upon them.</i></b>   |
| Intercessor<br><i>People</i>     | We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;<br><b><i>May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.</i></b>  |
| 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

*If Ye Love Me*

Wilby

## Doxology

*(People stand as offering is presented)*

Hymn 380, verse 3

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer D *(Stand or kneel)*

BCP p. 372

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the Celebrant and the People, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff is for the Celebrant and the People, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics "It is right to give him thanks and praise."

*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-128

***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*

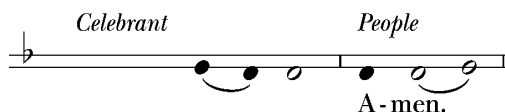
Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

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. 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 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.*



*Descant*

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - - mor,  
Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

**A**

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - - mor,  
Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.  
Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

**B**

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.  
Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

*Translation: Where true charity and love abide, God is there.*

### 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

BCP p. 366

*The Celebrant blesses the people.*

### Recessional Hymn

*O praise ye the Lord!*

Hymnal 432

### Dismissal

BCP p. 366

*Celebrant*

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

*People*

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

### Postlude

*Allegretto*

F. Molitor

## **Vestry Members**

Judy Caywood - Senior Warden

Bill Perrin - Junior Warden

Charlie Brantley

Jane Earl

Susan Hook

Claudia Moore

Ingrid Peake

Bucky Robbins

Bruce Smith

Chris Oram - Vestry Clerk

Ellen Robbins – Treasurer

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## **Those Who Serve You**

**The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe** - Presiding Bishop & Primate of The Episcopal Church

**The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin** - Bishop, Diocese of Western NC

**The Rev. Jonathan Stepp** - 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