

The Sixth Sunday of Easter



Holy Eucharist II

May 25, 2025
10:30 a.m.

Saint Alban's Episcopal Church Welcomes You
130 39th 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.*

Prelude

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn

All creatures of our God and King

Hymnal 400

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)

S-280

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, on 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, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

First Reading: Acts 16:9-15

(The people sit.)

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were

baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

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

Psalm: Psalm 67 (*Sung in unison*)

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
 show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
²Let your ways be known upon earth, *
 your saving health among all nations.
³Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
 let all the peoples praise you.
⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
 for you judge the peoples with equity
 and guide all the nations upon earth.
⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
 let all the peoples praise you.
⁶The earth has brought forth her increase; *
 may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
⁷May God give us his blessing, *
 and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5 (*The people sit.*)

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

¹⁰In the spirit [the angel] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

Sequence Hymn

Each little flower that opens

Hymnal 405

The Holy Gospel: John 14:23-29

(*All stand.*)

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

²³Jesus said to Judas (not Iscariot), “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

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 Diocese of Mombasa - The Anglican Church of
Kenya 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

Come Ye Disconsolate

Terre Johnson

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, with lyrics 'The Lord be with you.' and the People, with lyrics 'And al - so with you.' The second staff is for the Celebrant, with lyrics 'Lift up your hearts.' and the People, with lyrics 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff is for the Celebrant, with lyrics 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff is for the People, with lyrics '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-130

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

Communion Hymn

Dona nobis pacem, pacem
Men begin/Women follow in Canon

Hymnal 712

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 Celebrant blesses the people.

BCP p. 366

Recessional Hymn

As those of old their first fruits brought

Hymnal 705

Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

BCP p. 366

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

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Ministers of the Service

Suzanne Garrett - Chaliceist

Steve Snyder – Chaliceist

Mary Michele Millholen - Lector

Richard Brantley - Usher

Jeff Mackie – Usher

Annette Hoskins – Sound / Streaming

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

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