

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



Holy Eucharist II

August 24, 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

How lovely is thy dwelling-place

Hymnal 517

Opening Acclamation

BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity *(Celebrant says)*

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-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, 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.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lesson: Isaiah 58:9b-14 *(The people sit.)*

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;
then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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

The Gradual: Psalm 103:1-8 *(Spoken in Unison)*

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

²Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.

³He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;

⁴He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

⁵He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶The LORD executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.

⁷He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.

⁸The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Epistle: Hebrews 12:18-29

¹⁸You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also

the heaven.” ²⁷This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; ²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

Sequence Hymn

Not here for high and holy things

Hymnal 9

The Holy Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹⁰Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.” ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

People The Gospel of the Lord.
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 Church of the Province of South East Asia and in
 the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for Christ Church, Sparta, and Church of the Savior,
 People Newland. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
 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
 People Jonathan, the staff of St. Alban's, and all bishops, priests, and deacons;
 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
 People hold authority in the nations of the world;
 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
 People have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
 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

Doxology

(People stand as offering is presented)

Hymn 380, verse 3

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B *(Stand or kneel)*

BCP p. 367

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

Celebrant and People

S-129

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, 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 give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Alban, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.



The Lord's Prayer

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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

Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray

Hymnal 315

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.

The Blessing

BCP p. 366

Recessional Hymn

Jesus, Lover of my soul

Hymnal 699

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

***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!***

Announcements

Today we welcome Dr. Martha Hill as our guest organist.

Vitality Grant - Our Diocese has given St. Alban's a \$10,000 Vitality Grant to help us install acoustic panels in Ferebee Hall and the Commons Room. This grant will cover almost ½ the cost of the total project. These panels are very commonly used in church spaces to reduce the echoing effect that can make it hard to hear one-on-one conversations when larger crowds are present. We are grateful to the Diocese for their generosity and looking forward to completing this project soon.

FISH FRY – Tickets are now on sale after church for the Annual St. Alban's Fish Fry! Tickets are \$25/meal and include Fish, fries, coleslaw, fresh desserts, and beverages. ***In addition to purchasing a ticket,*** you can help reduce the overhead costs of this event by donating 12 oz. cans of soda or small water bottles (8 oz.) and/or sign up at the kiosk to provide a homemade dessert. Collections of beverages can be delivered to the collection site in the Commons Room.

Adult Forum: Episcopal 101 will take place on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. from Sept. 14 - 28. Where did the Episcopal Church come from, in what ways are we similar to and different from other Christians, and why does it matter? We especially encourage you to attend these forums if you are new to St. Alban's - this will be a chance to learn more about us, the wider Episcopal Church, and the spirituality of key elements of our life together, such as Confirmation and the Liturgy.

“LOADS of LOVE” Laundry Drive—LAST 2 SUNDAYS BEFORE OUR LAUNDRY DRIVE IS OVER! Help bring dignity to our neighbors in need by donating supplies for the homeless right here in our area, by supporting the Laundry Ministry of Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry. We will continue to collect Laundry Drive items through the summer. Items needed: Low suds detergent (high efficiency preferred), spot/soil remover spray, dryer sheets. Look for the donation basket in the Commons Rooms.

An Update about Flowers on Sundays: when we make flower dedications, we are giving them primarily to the glory of God and secondarily in remembrance of people and events in our lives that are important. Thank you for your generosity in giving to this ministry! Since flowers are given to God's glory, we release that gift for God's pleasure, even when the church is quiet and solitary after worship has ended. For that reason, all of the flowers will remain in their vases in the church throughout the week. Please feel free to come by during the week for contemplation and prayer in the quiet of the church and continue to enjoy the beauty of the space and the flowers that are there. Arrangements are designed to complement the designations. Suzanne Garrett will be in touch with each donor prior to the appointed Sunday. The cost is \$55. for one arrangement and \$110. for two arrangements, which go towards the annual flower fund.

Hospitality happens whenever we intentionally seek to welcome the other. Our time of refreshment NEEDS YOU! At the time this was printed we had the last week in September and 3 weeks available in October available to host. Please find a date that works for you and sign up at the kiosk in the Commons Room!

Donation Opportunity: Pett Brands currently manages the reading material at the Habitat Store in Taylorsville. They are critically low on books. If you have any books you would like to donate, please bring them to the Commons Room and Pett will collect them for the Taylorsville Habitat Store!

Fall Kickoff: Sunday, September 7th we will Welcome back the Choir to the Loft, Celebrate the return of our Acolyte Teams, and have our annual Blessing of the Backpacks...the “cherry on top” of this fabulous morning will be an Ice Cream Social provided by our Parish Life Committee!

PRAYER REQUESTS - Prayers for parishioners, family members, and loved ones are such an important aspect of our spiritual lives; we want to make sure everyone is well informed on how to communicate your prayer requests. The prayers that are listed on the bulletin and in Alban Times are received by calling or sending your requests to the office (828.324.1351 or theoffice.stalbans@gmail.com). We also ask that you ask your loved one for permission to be included on the list as some people prefer privacy. Please make sure you include your name and the name of the one requesting prayers. These requests are due to the office by Wednesday if they are to be included in the bulletin and Alban Times that week. The Prayer Box in the nave is specifically designed for requests going to the Daughters of the King. These prayers are sent through email to the members and are not published publicly. The Daughters of the King is an Episcopal women's organization with a chapter here at St. Alban's. They are charged with a lifelong program of prayer, service and evangelism.

This Week at St. Alban's:

Monday, August 25

- 10:30 am. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study Group meets in the Barn

Tuesday, August 26

- 1:00 p.m. Seekers Study Group meets in the Barn

Ministers of the Service

Suzanne Henson - Chalcist

Tammy Shook - Chalcist

Lee Young - Lector

Bill Stokes - Usher

Meghan Neely - Usher

Chuck Camby - Sound/Streaming

Martha Hill - Guest Organist

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 Dzieszinski - 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