

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Holy Eucharist II

August 10, 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 worshippers.
Please return to the basket as you depart.*

Prelude

The Liturgy of the Word

Proclamation Hymn

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord

Hymnal 637

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 to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson: Genesis 15:1-6 (The people sit.)

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Gradual: Psalm 33:12-22

(Spoken in Unison)

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! *
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!
¹³The LORD looks down from heaven, *
and beholds all the people in the world.
¹⁴From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze *
on all who dwell on the earth.
¹⁵He fashions all the hearts of them *
and understands all their works.
¹⁶There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; *
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.
¹⁷The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; *
for all its strength it cannot save.
¹⁸Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, *
on those who wait upon his love,
¹⁹To pluck their lives from death, *
and to feed them in time of famine.
²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD; *
he is our help and our shield.
²¹Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, *
for in his holy Name we put our trust.
²²Let your loving-kindness, O LORD, be upon us, *
as we have put our trust in you.

The Epistle: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

Sequence Hymn

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove

Hymnal 510

The Holy Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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 Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda and in the Diocesan
cycle of prayer, we pray for La Capilla de Santa Maria, Hendersonville, St. Mary of the Hills,
Blowing Rock, and St. Mary's, Asheville. 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

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 flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the Celebrant, and the second is for the People. The third staff is for the Celebrant, and the fourth is 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
The Lord be with you. *People*
And al - so 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.

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

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

Now the silence

Hymnal 333

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

Rejoice! rejoice, believers

Hymnal 68

Dismissal

People Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
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

*When coming forward to receive communion, please form one line to receive the bread;
then go to the cup on your right for intinction or the cup on your left to drink.
Please return to your seat via the side aisles.*

Thank you for your patience as we continue to hold church services in Ferebee Hall. The refinishing company is communicating with Reg Moore and providing updates on the progress of the pews, altar rails, and pulpit. Installation is expected in ***approximately one week***, but in the meantime, we are delighted to gather comfortably in Ferebee Hall!

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.

Fr. Jonathan would like your input on possible topics for **Adult Forums** this fall! Please take the very short survey that was listed in this week's "*Alban's Times*" to let us know which topic sounds most interesting to you.

Join your fellow **FOOTHILLS DEANERY** Churches for a Crawdads Baseball Game **today at 2pm!** St. Johns, Marion has invited all the churches in the Foothills deanery to join them for an afternoon of baseball today! If you have a St. Alban's t-shirt, please wear it. Don't forget to bring your Sunday Bulletin for a \$2 discount on your ticket! It's also "Bark in the Park" day!! Bring your pup to the park!

PRAYER SHAWL "WORKSHOP" - You are invited to help prepare the prayer shawls for their blessing. **NO KNITTING EXPERIENCE** necessary! This includes folding, tying bows, and adding prayer cards to each shawl. If you have ever experienced knitting, giving, or receiving one of these shawls you know what a true blessing it is. **WHEN & WHERE:** Monday, August 11, 2 p.m. in the Commons Room. Questions, contact Eileen Leach: 828.256.3744.

Fr. Jonathan will have a training session for all **Lectors** and **Chalice Bearers** on Sunday, Aug. 24, at 9:00 a.m. in the church. If you serve in one of these roles and will not be able to attend that day, please let him know. (frjonathan@stalbansparish.org) The training will begin with Lectors so that those who only lector and do not serve the chalice can leave when that part of the training is finished. If you are not currently serving as a Lector or Chalice Bearer, but would like to – or would like to learn more about it - please reach out to Fr. Jonathan before the training session.

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE! Our plants are **THRIVING** with the loving care they are receiving. They still require lots of attention (watering, occasional weeding, and of course, words of affirmation like: "*You are such a pretty tomato!*") If you are interested, and have some **LOVE of Gardening**, please contact Bud Caywood (828.302.6783 or caywoodstudio@outlook.com), and he'll be happy to get you lined up with a little job to help keep this beautiful outreach mission providing fresh veggies to The Hickory Soup Kitchen!

"LOADS of LOVE" Laundry Drive--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! Pat Rice and Jane Earl delivered our first collection to CCM last week. They currently do about 4 loads of laundry each day, so these donated items will be such a blessing!! There's something special about a fresh, clean load of laundry!!

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!

This Week at St. Alban's:

Monday, August 11

- 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study Group meets in the Barn
- 2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry Team Workshop meets in the Commons Room

Tuesday, August 12

- 9:00 a.m. Building and Grounds Committee meets at the Big Table
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Planning Meeting

Wednesday, August 13

- 9:00 a.m. Finance Committee meets upstairs
- 9:30 a.m. Newcomers of Catawba Valley meets in Ferebee Hall



Please pray for the repose of the soul of The Rev. Helen Tester and for God's loving comfort for her family and friends in their grief. "Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting."

Continued prayers of healing, comfort, peace, and strength for

Harry Andrews; Jim Dingman; Tammy Shook; Shirley Barlowe (Kevin Barlowe's mother); Melissa Nichols; Anthony Stikeleather (brother of Nancy Brady); James Johnson (son-in-law of Randy and Dana Truitt); Peter Sullivan; Angela Andrews (sister of Harry Andrews); Jenny McCall (sister of Rachel Lucas); Linda Walker; Becky Thomas; Matt Caywood; Linda Brady (mother of Doug Brady); Nancy Wall.

Continued prayers for all people affected by Hurricane Helene, those suffering from the floods in south-central Texas, and those recovering from wildfires.



BIRTHDAYS (August 10 – August 24)

August	11	James Johnson Jr. and Dan Green
August	12	Pett Brands
August	15	Marshall Fisher and Noah VanBeurden
August	16	David Abel
August	17	Piper Amann and Eileen Leach
August	22	Richard Brantley

ANNIVERSARIES (August 10 – August 24)

August	11	Jeff & Florence Mackie
August	19	Tom & Jacquie Trotter
August	23	Bucky & Ellen Robbins
August	24	Steve & Constance Snyder

Ministers of the Service

Jay Tate - Chaliceist
Mary Michele Millholen – Chaliceist
Phil Hejl - Usher
Marti Hejl – Usher

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