

# *The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*



## **Holy Eucharist II**

August 17, 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.*

**Prelude**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Processional Hymn

*Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve*

Hymnal 546

## 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.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Lesson: Jeremiah 23:23-29 *(The people sit.)*

Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back-- those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People Thanks be to God.*

## The Gradual: Psalm 82

*(Spoken in Unison)*

<sup>1</sup>God takes his stand in the council of heaven; \*  
 he gives judgment in the midst of the gods:  
<sup>2</sup>“How long will you judge unjustly, \*  
 and show favor to the wicked?  
<sup>3</sup>Save the weak and the orphan; \*  
 defend the humble and needy;  
<sup>4</sup>Rescue the weak and the poor; \*  
 deliver them from the power of the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup>They do not know, neither do they understand;  
 they go about in darkness; \*  
 all the foundations of the earth are shaken.  
<sup>6</sup>Now I say to you, ‘You are gods, \*  
 and all of you children of the Most High;  
<sup>7</sup>Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, \*  
 and fall like any prince.’”  
<sup>8</sup>Arise, O God, and rule the earth, \*  
 for you shall take all nations for your own.

**The Epistle:** Hebrews 11:29—12:2

<sup>29</sup>By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup>By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup>And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—<sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup>Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—<sup>38</sup>of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup>Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

**Sequence Hymn**

*Fight the good fight with all thy might*

Hymnal 552

**The Holy Gospel:** Luke 12:49-56

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

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

Jesus said, <sup>49</sup>“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup>From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup>they will be divided:

father against son  
and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

<sup>54</sup>He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. <sup>55</sup>And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. <sup>56</sup>You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

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 Scottish Episcopal Church and in the Diocesan  
                          cycle of prayer, we pray for all students, faculty and staff returning to school; college and  
                          campus ministries at Appalachian State University; Western Carolina University; University of  
                          North Carolina, 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. The first staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you." and "And al - so with you." The second staff is for 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." The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and bar lines.

*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,***

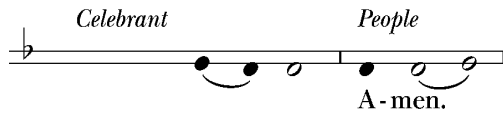
***We await his coming in glory;***

*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

*Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness*

Hymnal 339



## **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**

*Before thy throne, O God, we kneel*

Hymnal 574

## **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!***

## **Ministers of the Service**

Suzanne Garrett - Chaliceist  
John Leach – Chaliceist  
Jay Tate - Usher  
Jan Houck – Usher  
Maria Headrick – Sound / Streaming

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## **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