

# *The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*



## **Holy Eucharist II**

September 7, 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

Lift High the Cross

Hymnal 473

## 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-236

***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.  
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
we will praise you and 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.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

## The Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

(The people sit.)

Moses said to all Israel the words which the LORD commanded him, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have

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

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>Their delight is in the law of the LORD, \*  
and they meditate on his law day and night.

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \*  
everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>It is not so with the wicked; \*  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, \*  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

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

1. Will you come and fol - low me if  
 2. Will you leave your self be - hind if  
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see if  
 4. Will you love the "You" you hide if  
 5. Christ, your sum-mons ech - oes true when

I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and  
 I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and  
 I but call your name? Will you set the pris - 'ner free and  
 I but call your name? Will you quell the fear in - side and  
 you but call my name. Let me turn and fol - low you and

nev - er be the same? Will you let my love be shown? Will you  
 nev - er be the same? Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your  
 nev - er be the same? Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do  
 nev - er be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to re -  
 nev - er be the same. In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your

let my Name be known? Will you let my life be grown in  
 life at - tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer prayer in  
 such as this un - seen? And ad - mit to what I mean in  
 shape the world a - round through my sight and touch and sound in  
 love and foot - steps show, thus I'll move and live and grow in

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. (Final Ending)

you and you in me?  
 you and you in me?  
 you and you in me?  
 you and you in me?

5. you and you in me.

## **The Holy Gospel: Luke 14:25-33**

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

*People*

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

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*

***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

## **The Sermon**

The Rev. Jonathan Stepp

## **The Nicene Creed**

*(All stand.)*

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***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 VI                      *(People stand or kneel)*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*[Silence]*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For the leaders of the world, our nation, our state, and our city.  
**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For those who are sick, especially those on our prayer list, and for all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, for The Anglican Church of Southern Africa and in the Diocesan Cycle of prayer for St. Giles Chapel and the residents and staff of Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community, Asheville, and for the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Stephen, Archbishop of York, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Jose, our Bishop, Father Jonathan, the staff of St. Alban's, and for all bishops, priests, deacons, and other ministers;  
**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*[Silence is kept. The people may add their own prayers, offered either silently or aloud.]*

Hear us, Lord;  
**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*[Silence is kept. The people may add their own thanksgivings, offered either silently or aloud.]*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*[Silence is kept. The people may add their own petitions, offered either silently or aloud.]*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
**Who put their trust in you.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

## **Confession of Sin**

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*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.*

## **Blessing of the Backpacks**

### **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

*Psalm 139*

Allen Pote

Doxology

*(People stand as offering is presented)*

Hymn 380, verse 3

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B *(Stand or kneel)*

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*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-128

***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** *When Christ was lifted from the earth* Hymnal 603

**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** *Praise the Lord through every nation* Hymnal 485

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

**Postlude** *Postludium* C.H. Rinke

***We gather for an ice cream social 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**

Barbara Carter - Chalcist

Cynthia Haas – Chalcist

Bill Perrin – Lector

Ethan, Genevieve, and Ali Melon - Acolytes

Noah and Sadie VanBeurden - Acolytes

Bruce Smith - Usher

Carol Smith – Usher

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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