

# *The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*



## **Holy Eucharist II**

September 14, 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.*

**Prelude**

*Festive Intrada in C Major*

Paul Fey

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Proclamation Hymn

*O for a closer walk with God*

Hymnal 683

## 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-278

***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.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Lesson: Exodus 32:7-14 *(The people sit.)*

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by

your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

**The Gradual: Psalm 51:1-11**            *(Sung in Unison)*

- <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.  
<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through from my wickedness, \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.  
<sup>4</sup>Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.  
<sup>5</sup>And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment.  
<sup>6</sup>Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.  
<sup>7</sup>For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.  
<sup>8</sup>Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.  
<sup>9</sup>Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.  
<sup>10</sup>Hide your face from my sins, \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.  
<sup>11</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.

**The Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:12-17**

<sup>12</sup>I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup>even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup>To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

**Sequence Hymn**

*The Lord my God my shepherd is*

Hymnal 663

**The Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1, 8-32**

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

People

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

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: <sup>8</sup>“What woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

<sup>11</sup>Then Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled his stomach<sup>[b]</sup> with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>Then the father<sup>[d]</sup> said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

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 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 South America and in the Diocesan Cycle of prayer for Holy Cross, Tryon and Holy Cross, Valle Crucis, 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, especially Martha Stanley, mother of Ellen Robbins, and James Hovis, son in law of Norma Robinson, 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**

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

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Terre Johnson

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 two staves are for the Celebrant and the People, with the lyrics: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise."

*Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant then sings the preface*

*Celebrant and People*

H-800

***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

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us*

Hymnal 708



**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**

*The great Creator of the worlds*

Hymnal 489

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*

***Thanks be to God.***

**Postlude**

*Postlude Maestoso*

L. Niedermeyer

***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**

Barbara Carter - Chaliceist  
Jeff Mackie – Chaliceist  
Bud Caywood – Lector  
Scarlett and Isla Krenzel - Acolytes  
Aubrey and Aedan Stocks and Piper Amann - Acolytes  
Bill Stokes - Usher  
Sandy Carter – 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