

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



Holy Eucharist II

October 26, 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.

O Sing of Christ

Prelude

Brad Hall

The Liturgy of the Word

ProceSSIONAL Hymn

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

Hymnal 398

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

(The people sit.)

Although our iniquities testify against us,
act, O LORD, for your name's sake;

our apostasies indeed are many,
and we have sinned against you.

O hope of Israel,
its savior in time of trouble,

why should you be like a stranger in the land,
like a traveler turning aside for the night?

Why should you be like someone confused,
like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?

Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us,
and we are called by your name;
do not forsake us!

Thus says the LORD concerning this people:

Truly they have loved to wander,
they have not restrained their feet;
therefore the LORD does not accept them,
now he will remember their iniquity
and punish their sins.

Have you completely rejected Judah?
Does your heart loathe Zion?

Why have you struck us down
so that there is no healing for us?

We look for peace, but find no good;
for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.

We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD,
the iniquity of our ancestors,
for we have sinned against you.

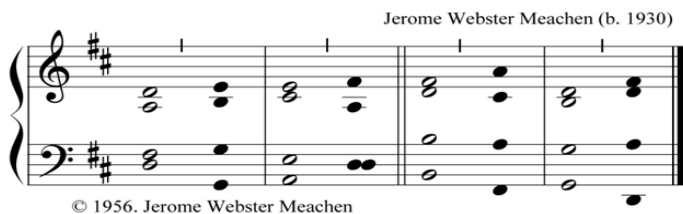
Do not spurn us, for your name's sake;
do not dishonor your glorious throne;
remember and do not break your covenant with us.

Can any idols of the nations bring rain?
Or can the heavens give showers?

Is it not you, O LORD our God?
We set our hope on you,
for it is you who do all this.

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

The Gradual: Psalm 84:1-6 *(Sung in Unison)*



¹How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

²The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

³Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

⁴Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁵Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁶They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

The Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

Sequence Hymn

Praise the Spirit in Creation

Hymnal 507

The Holy Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

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

⁹Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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 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 Church in Wales and in the Diocesan Cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Francis, Rutherfordton.

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sarah, Archbishop-elect of Canterbury, 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 Linda Brady, 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

O God, You Saw My Early Being
Anna Morris-Oboe

Robert Hobby

Doxology

(People stand as the offering is presented)

Hymn 380, verse 3

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C *(Stand or kneel)*

BCP p. 369

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 for the People. The third staff is 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 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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

Glory to you for ever and ever.

By your will they were created and have their being.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant and People

S-129

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

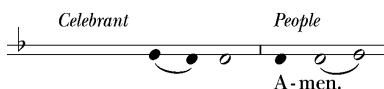
Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.



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 follows 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

Humbly I Adore You

Hymnal 314

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

O God our Help in Ages Past

Hymnal 680

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Allegretto in C minor

J. Diebold

*Altar flowers today are given to the glory of God and in memory of
Lawson and Flata Styles, Huit and Margaret Smith, and David and Fran Smith from Bruce and Carol Smith.*

The theme of this year's Stewardship Season is Walk in Love 2.0.

This year we are building on the work of spiritual discernment that we compiled last year in preparation for Fr. Jonathan's arrival. A letter from Fr. Jonathan with pledge cards was mailed out previously. If you haven't received yours, please notify Kim, our Parish Administrator. You are welcome to drop your pledge card off any Sunday in the Alms Basin (offering plate), or weekdays in the church office, or by mail. You're also welcome to call our financial administrator Janet and provide your pledge by phone. ***Next Sunday, November 2*** we will gather together for *All Saints/All Souls Day* in coordination with our ***Ingathering Sunday*** where we will present our pledges at the altar for a blessing. Following service, our ***Parish Life Committee*** will host a ***Fall Themed Cider & Dessert Buffet!***

Thank you for your prayerful consideration on this year's stewardship campaign. Pledges are such an important factor in planning our 2026 budget.

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Ministers of the Service

Suzanne Henson - Chaliceist
Jeff Mackie – Chaliceist
Ingrid Peake - Lector
Joey, Lila, and Sam Abel - Acolytes
Maverick and Griffin Worley - Acolytes
Charlie Amann – Usher
Richard Brantley - Usher
Chuck Camby and Terry Jennings – Sound/Streaming

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