

The Last Sunday after Pentecost

Christ the King Sunday



Holy Eucharist II

November 23, 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 worshipers.

Please return to the basket as you depart.

Prelude

Praeludium, Fuge und Ciacona

Dietrich Buxtehude

The Liturgy of the Word

Proclamation Hymn

A mighty fortress is our God

Hymnal 688

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

S236

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, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we will 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.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Lesson: Jeremiah 23:1-6

(The people sit.)

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

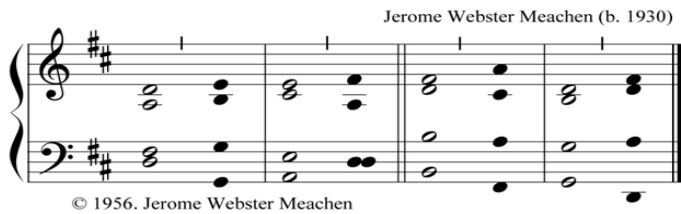
The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

The Gradual: Psalm 46

(Sung in Unison)



- ¹God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
- ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
- ³Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- ⁴The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- ⁵There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁶God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.
- ⁷The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- ⁸The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- ⁹Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- ¹⁰It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.
- ¹¹“Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”
- ¹²The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

The Epistle: Colossians 1:11-20

¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

Sequence Hymn

Hosanna to the living Lord

Hymnal 486

The Holy Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

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

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

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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, we pray for The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia and in the Diocesan Cycle of prayer, we pray for Christ Church, Sparta, Church of the Savior, Newland, Chapel of Christ the King, Craggy Correctional Center, Asheville, and all other prison ministries.
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, 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.***

Postlude

Postlude in G

F. Walczynski

The Holy Communion

Anthem

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Dan Forrest

Doxology

(People stand as the offering is presented)

Hymn 380, verse 3

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer D *(Stand or kneel)*

BCP p. 372

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Staff 1: The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Staff 2: Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Staff 3: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Staff 4: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Celebrant and People

S-125

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup containing wine to be consecrated.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

***We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.***

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Blessed Alban and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and 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 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.

1. Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one bod - y,
2. Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y,
3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior,
4. Come, Hope of U - ni - ty, make us one bod - y,

come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The first system contains four verses of lyrics. The second system contains a single line of lyrics. The music is in 3/4 time and B-flat major.

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 365

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

Rejoice, the Lord is King

Hymnal 481

Dismissal

Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People****Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.***

Postlude

Postlude in G

F. Walczynski

***Join us in the Commons Room immediately following the service for refreshments!
All are welcome to participate and check out the kiosk for more ways to Walk in Love!***

Constance Snyder - Chaliceist
Connie Love – Chaliceist
Randy Truitt - Lector
Joey, Lila, and Sam Abel - Acolytes
Maverick and Griffin Worley - Acolytes
Bruce Smith – Usher
Carol Smith - Usher
Grover Houck – Sound/Streaming
Annette Hoskins – 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