

The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost



Holy Eucharist II

November 9, 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.

Prelude

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn

Ye holy angels bright

Hymnal 625

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

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, Lord Jesus, 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, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson: Job 19:23-27a *(The people sit.)*

Job said,

"O that my words were written down!

O that they were inscribed in a book!

O that with an iron pen and with lead

they were engraved on a rock forever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives,

and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;

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

The Gradual: Psalm 17:1-9 *(Spoken in Unison)*

¹Hear my plea of innocence, O LORD;
 give heed to my cry; *
 listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying lips.
²Let my vindication come forth from your presence; *
 let your eyes be fixed on justice.
³Weigh my heart, summon me by night, *
 melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.
⁴I give no offense with my mouth as others do; *
 I have heeded the words of your lips.
⁵My footsteps hold fast to the ways of your law; *
 in your paths my feet shall not stumble.
⁶I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; *
 incline your ear to me and hear my words.
⁷Show me your marvelous loving-kindness, *
 O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand
 from those who rise up against them.
⁸Keep me as the apple of your eye; *
 hide me under the shadow of your wings,
⁹From the wicked who assault me, *
 from my deadly enemies who surround me.

The Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

¹As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ²not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. ³Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. ⁴He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

¹³But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

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

The Holy Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

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

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

²⁷Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus ²⁸and asked him a question, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; ³⁰then the second ³¹and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. ³²Finally the woman also died. ³³In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.”

³⁴Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; ³⁵but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.”

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 Church in the province of the West Indies and in the Diocesan Cycle of prayer, we pray for the Diocese of WNC Convention and all Delegates.
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.***

The Holy Communion

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 People, the second for the Celebrant and the People, the third for the Celebrant, and the fourth for the People.

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

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

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

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People

S-130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full, 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

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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."

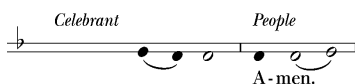
Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

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.



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.

Communion Hymn

Now the silence

Hymnal 333

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 365

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

Praise to the living God

Hymnal 372

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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!

Announcements

Altar flowers today are given to the glory of God by Jack and Carleen Crawford in memory of Carleen's parents, Sarah Chaffin Kitchens and Harold Chaffin, and Jack's grandmother, Verne Garrett DeSaussure

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

If you've not already turned in your pledge, please mail it in, stop by the church office (M-Th, 10:30-2:30), or call Janet, our financial administrator to phone in your pledge. (828.324.1351)

Have you ever considered setting up automatic online payments for your pledge? It makes giving to the church easy for you and helps the church by providing a more even cashflow stream. St. Alban's has a secure and easy method through our *VANCO* system. You can visit it online at our website (www.stalbansparish.org) and click on the green button at the bottom of the page. Also, Janet, our Financial Administrator, is available by phone, email, or appointment to answer your questions.

Friendly Sunday Morning Reminder: you are invited to use the time before worship begins for silent prayer and contemplation. Joyful and noisy conversation is welcomed and encouraged after services.

Church of the Ascension will host a concert by Baritone Edward Thomas Bland followed by a service of *Evensong* today, Nov. 9, at 5:30 p.m.

PRAYER SHAWL "WORKSHOP" - You are invited to help prepare the prayer shawls for their blessing. ***NO KNITTING EXPERIENCE*** necessary! This includes folding, tying bows, and adding prayer cards to each shawl. **WHEN & WHERE:** Monday, November 10, 2:30 p.m. in the Commons Room. Questions, contact Eileen Leach: 828.256.3744.

Parish Offices will be closed on Tuesday, November 11 in honor of Veterans Day.

We're in need of a few more volunteers to help serve lunch at ***The Corner Table*** in Newton on Thursday, November 13. If you're able to help out, please sign up at the kiosk or call the office!

INTERESTED IN PLAYING BRIDGE? *"Players Bridge"* for experienced players begins on Thursday, November 13, at 2:00 p.m. in the Barn. Please contact Martie Smith with questions about *"Players Bridge"* at 704.242.0810. *"Beginners Bridge"* begins on Tuesday, January 20, 5:30 p.m. in Ferebee Hall. Bring your sandwich and beverage, so you won't be hungry. It's also recommended that Beginners look online for instructions and information about the game of Bridge, so you can arrive with a *"feel"* of how it works. If you are interested in learning the game and spending some time with some friends, contact Pett Brands at pettway163@gmail.com or 828.310.4003.

The next monthly gathering of the **Daughters of the King** will be ***Tuesday, November 18th at 6pm*** in Ferebee Hall. The program will include a presentation from Stephanie Robinson, Manager of Community Outreach for Safe Harbor, a light meal, and fellowship. ***All women of the church are welcome.***

Soul Collage Workshop - Sunday, Nov. 23, 2:30-5 p.m. in Ferebee Hall: Kathy Peters, facilitator from last month's Women's Retreat, will be visiting to lead a SoulCollage® workshop. She will guide us through a spiritual project of creating a collage on a small card from images found in magazines. See The Alban Times for more info. Please RSVP to Carol Smith at 828.234.3456 or esmorgansmith@gmail.com by Nov. 19th, as space is limited.

Our ***Advent Adult Forum*** series will look at hope and expectation in the writings of C.S. Lewis and will meet at 9:00 a.m. on the Sundays of December 7, 14, and 21.

Anyone who does not have a permanent name tag, please contact Kim in the office at 828.324.1351 or theooffice@stalbansparish.org.

Our **Thanks Giving Tree** (previously known as the Advent Giving Tree) is in the Commons Room and will remain through Advent. We are collecting early this year, so that we may begin to deliver warm clothes now. We are collecting **new** men's underwear, tennis shoes, waterproof boots, gloves, hats, scarfs, socks, hand/foot warmers, and ear warmers. Please place your donations under the *Thanks Giving Tree*. They will be delivered to GHCCM weekly, so those in our community can begin using them immediately. GHCCM is most in need of men's items, especially men's underwear. We are also offering honor cards supporting The John K. Earl Medical Ministry, as well as Episcopal Relief and Development. Honor cards are a great way to give a thoughtful gift to someone in your life, while also supporting wonderful ministries. Simply pick up honor cards on the table by the tree and drop your check/cash in the box by the tree. Each card has a suggested \$5 minimum. Please note "John Earl" or "Episcopal Relief and Development" on your check memo line. *Thank you for walking in love to help our community during this holiday season!*

Honor the Winter Solstice and renew your connection to nature and self through mindful immersion at Lake Logan with Karla Woggon, Wednesday, December 1 and 7. Celebrate the winter solstice with a peaceful day of **forest bathing**—a practice that connects you deeply with the natural world. Immerse yourself in nature and experience its profound health and spiritual benefits. See The Alban Times for more details!

Second Harvest Food Bank supplies all of our "*Feeding Ministries*" with canned and dry goods at greatly reduced cost to help feed those in need in our community, including Hickory Soup Kitchen, GHCCM, and The Corner Table. Because of the increased need for food currently with SNAP coupons suspended, your John Earl Outreach Roundtable along with Carleen Crawford, "Champion" for Castle of Cans, decided to put a collection bin in the Parish Hall to collect cans through the fall and winter, and in thanksgiving for all of our many blessings! Specifically needs are: canned fish or meat, peanut butter, canned low sodium soups and stews, canned or dry Beans, canned fruits in juice, canned low sodium vegetables.

Interested in sharing your floral creativity? We are looking for someone to lead our Floral Ministry! If interested, please contact the church office!

Donation Opportunity: Pett Brands currently manages the reading material at the Habitat Store in Taylorsville. They are critically low on books. If you have any books you would like to donate, please bring them to the Commons Room and Pett will collect them for the Taylorsville Habitat Store!

During *Castle of Cans Octoberfest* collection, St. Alban's had a goal of collecting \$500.00 toward food purchases for Second Harvest Food Bank. We succeeded and went over our goal, collecting \$751.00!! Thanks to everyone who contributed!

We invite you to visit the **Prayer Box** below the wooden crosses in the left side of the Nave to share your prayer concerns--we are honored to lift them in prayer. All prayer requests are held in confidence and prayed for weekly.

This Week at St. Alban's:

Monday, November 10

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 2:30 p.m. Prayers Shawl Ministry meets in Commons Room

Tuesday, November 11 – *Parish Offices Closed in Observance of Veterans Day*

- 9:00 a.m. Building & Ground Committee meets at the Big Table
- 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study meets in the Barn
- 5:00 p.m. Cedar Grove HOA meets in the Barn

Wednesday, November 12

- 9:00 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting upstairs
- 9:30 a.m. Newcomers of Catawba Valley meets in Ferebee Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Genesis Bells
- 6:00 p.m. CantorKids
- 6:00 p.m. Oxford Bells
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 13

- 2:00 p.m. Players Bridge Group meets in the Barn
(beginners group begins in January)

Ministers of the Service

Constance Snyder - Chaliceist
Steve Snyder – Chaliceist
Scarlett and Isla Krenzel - Acolytes
Aubrey and Aedan Stocks - Acolytes
Piper Amann - Acolyte
Jan Houck – Usher
Jay Tate - Usher
Gary Mansi 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