

# *The Third Sunday after the Epiphany*



## **Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

January 25, 2026

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

*Thy strong word did cleave the darkness*

Hymnal 381

## 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

*(The following is sung, all standing)*

*(found in the back of your hymnal)* H-804

***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.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

## First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

*(The people sit.)*

<sup>1</sup>There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

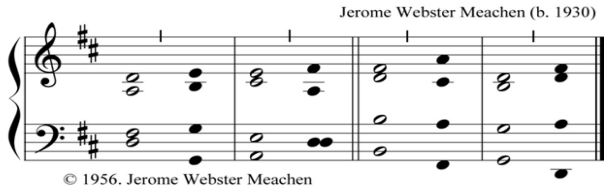
<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
 have seen a great light;  
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
 on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
 you have increased its joy;  
 they rejoice before you  
 as with joy at the harvest,  
 as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
 and the bar across their shoulders,  
 the rod of their oppressor,  
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

**The Gradual:** Psalm 27:1, 5-13                    (*Sung in unison.*)



<sup>1</sup>*The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
 whom then shall I fear? \**  
*the LORD is the strength of my life;  
 of whom then shall I be afraid?*

<sup>5</sup>*One thing have I asked of the LORD;  
 one thing I seek; \**  
*that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;*

<sup>6</sup>*To behold the fair beauty of the LORD \**  
*and to seek him in his temple.*

<sup>7</sup>*For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \**  
*he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
 and set me high upon a rock.*

<sup>8</sup>*Even now he lifts up my head \**  
*above my enemies round about me.*

<sup>9</sup>*Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
 with sounds of great gladness; \**  
*I will sing and make music to the LORD.*

<sup>10</sup>*Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; \**  
*have mercy on me and answer me.*

<sup>11</sup>*You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \**  
*Your face, LORD, will I seek.*

<sup>12</sup>*Hide not your face from me, \**  
*nor turn away your servant in displeasure.*

<sup>13</sup>*You have been my helper;  
 cast me not away; \**  
*do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.*

**The Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (*The people sit.*)

<sup>10</sup>Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup>Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

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

**Sequence Hymn**

*They cast their nets*

Hymnal 661

**The Holy Gospel:** Matthew 4:12-23

*(All stand.)*

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

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

<sup>12</sup>Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup>"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup>the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned."

<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

<sup>18</sup>As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Jonathan Stepp

*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 (People stand or kneel.)

Form VI

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 this community, the nation, and the world;  
*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 on our parish 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 Iglesia Anglicana de Chile, and in the Diocesan cycle of prayer for St. Peter by the Lake, Denver, and for the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean our Presiding Bishop, José our Bishop; for Fr. Jonathan, the staff of St. Alban's, and for all bishops and other ministers;

***For all who serve God in his Church.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence. The People may add their own petitions, either silently or aloud.*

Hear us, Lord;

***For your mercy is great.***

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

*Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings, 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. The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

***Who put their trust in you.***

*The Celebrant concludes with a 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.***

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*



*The people stand or kneel. Then 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.

*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.*

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 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**

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.*

*Silence is kept.*

**Fraction Anthem**

Hymnal S-152

*The choir and people sing together*

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

*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 waters 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**

*Take my life, and let it be*

Hymnal 707

**Post-Communion Prayer**

BCP p. 365

Let us pray.

*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**

*Christ for the world we sing*

Hymnal 537

**Dismissal**

BCP p. 366

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*

*Thanks be to God.*

**Postlude**

*Postlude in A*

F. Walczynski

## **Ministers of the Service**

Celebrant: The Rev. Jonathan Stepp  
John Leach - Chalicist  
Tammy Shook – Chalicist  
Joey, Lila, and Sam Abel – Acolytes  
Maverick and Griffin Worley – Acolytes  
Jay Tate and Jan Houck – Ushers

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## **Vestry Members**

Bill Perrin - Senior Warden  
Charlie Brantley - Junior Warden  
Judy Caywood  
Daniel Minch  
Claudia Moore  
Patrick Richart  
Bucky Robbins  
Kay Sigmon  
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 Dzieszinski** - 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