

Walk In Love

As We

Hear the Word. Break the Bread. Share the Love.



XVI Pentecost
Holy Eucharist

September 8, 2024
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 now available for our younger worshipers.
Please return to the basket as you depart.

Prelude

Earth and All Stars

Jacob B. Weber

The Liturgy of the Word

Choral Entroit

We Walk in the Light
South African Praise Song

Processional Hymn

Earth and all stars

Hymnal 412

Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

BCP p. 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity (*Celebrant and People*)

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.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lesson: Isaiah 35:4-7a *The people sit.*

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

‘Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 125 (*Sung in unison*)

¹Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, *
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

²The hills stand about Jerusalem; *
so does the LORD stand round about his people,
from this time forth for evermore.

³The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, *
so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

⁴Show your goodness, O LORD, to those who are good *
and to those who are true of heart.

⁵As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,
the LORD will lead them away with the evildoers; *
but peace be upon Israel.

The Epistle: James 2:1-17

A Reading from the Letter of James.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?

²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

Sequence Hymn

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love

Hymnal 602

The Holy Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

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

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Anne Bridgers

The Nicene Creed

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 Leader and People pray responsively

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Presiding Bishop-Elect, and José, our Bishop; and all bishops and other ministers; and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, St. Giles Chapel and residence and staff of Deerfield Episcopal Retirement community, Asheville, let us pray to the Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially all those on our Parish Prayer List, let pray to the Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, remembering especially Joyce Waller, let us pray to the Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

In the communion of Alban and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession *(People stand or kneel)*

BCP p.360

Celebrant 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 p. 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.

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 Holy Communion

Anthem

Why Must We Bear the Pain

Cherwein

Doxology *(Hymn 43, verse 3)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all the creatures here below; praise him above the heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A
The People remain standing.

BCP p 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also 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.

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus *(Sung)*

S129

Celebrant and People

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The People stand or kneel, as the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

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 and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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. *AMEN.*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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 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.

The Communion of the People

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Communion Hymn

Lord, whose love through humble service

Hymnal 610

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

The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to walk in Love as Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn

Thou, whose almighty word

Hymnal 371

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Postlude in F Major

F. Branchina

***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!***

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Ministers of the Service

John Leach- Chalicist
Constance Snyder – Chalicist
Carol Smith - Lector
Ethan Melon - Acolyte
Genevieve Melon - Acolyte
Joey Abel - Acolyte
Lila Abel - Acolyte
Steve Snyder – Usher
Bruce Smith – Usher
Grover Houck – Sound and Streaming

Vestry Members

Terry Jennings - Senior Warden
Judy Caywood - Junior Warden
Charles Bolick
Jane Earl
Susan Hook
Carol LeGrand
Ingrid Peake
Bill Perrin
Bruce Smith
Chris Oram - Vestry Clerk
Mary Klinger – Treasurer

Those Who Serve You

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry - Presiding Bishop & Primate of The Episcopal Church
The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin - Bishop, Diocese of Western NC
The Rev. Anne Bridgers - Interim 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