

Advent I



Holy Eucharist

December 1, 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 available for our younger worshippers.
Please return to the basket as you depart.*



The Advent Wreath

Advent marks the beginning of the church year. Use of an Advent wreath is a meaningful ritual that enhances the season of preparation. The wreath consists of evergreens encircling four candles, one for each week of Advent. The candles are traditionally blue or purple (in Germany they are red). One candle is lighted each day of the first week of Advent, two are lighted the second week and so on. You may add a white candle, the Christ candle, in the center for Christmas Eve/Day.

The Advent wreath is full of symbols. The circular shape reminds us of eternity, as a circle has no end. The candles symbolize Christ as the Light of the World, whose light combats the darkness. The evergreens represent Christ bringing new life to the world. Even the colors of the Advent candles tell us something about the seasons: blue (or purple) is the royal color of Christ our King.

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn

"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us

Hymnal 62

Opening Acclamation

BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

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.

Trisagion

(Sung in unison)

S102

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 357

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE LESSON: Jeremiah 33:14-16

(The people sit.)

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Gradual: Psalm 25:1-9

(Sung in unison)

- ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- ²Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- ³Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- ⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- ⁵Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- ⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- ⁷Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- ⁸He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- ⁹All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians.

- ⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?
- ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.
- ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

Sequence Hymn

Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes

Hymnal 72

The Holy Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

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

Jesus said: ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming

upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Anne Bridgers

The Nicene Creed

(All stand)

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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 *(Stand or kneel)*

The Celebrant and People pray responsively.

We long for the coming of the Lord, when all will be made right; until that Day dawns, we pray and work for the kingdom, saying: "O Christ, hear us."

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for José our Bishop, and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, St. Andrew's, Bessemer City, St. Andrew's, Canton, and for all the holy people of God.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

For the church throughout the world, for this gathering and for the faithful in every place.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

For this Nation, for our President, our Governor, and our Mayor; for all those in authority.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

For all those who have been displaced from their homes by strife, warfare, poverty, or violence; for all refugees and those seeking shelter.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, all those on our Parish Prayer List, for the hungry and the oppressed, and for those in prison.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

For those we love but see no longer see, for all those who have died.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need.

People ***O Christ, hear us.***

Joining our voices with the Blessed Virgin Mary and with Alban and all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

People ***To you, O God most High.***

Confession *(People stand or kneel)*

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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

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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.

Announcements

***An Alban Advent
O Come, O Come Emmanuel***

Adult Forum and Children Activities - 4 Sundays of Advent

9:15 a.m. Cider & Donuts - *Ferebee Hall*

9:30 a.m. Adult Forum - ***An Unlikely Advent:***

- *A closer look at the extraordinary people of the Christmas Story. Rev. Anne will facilitate this 4 week series.*
- *Children's activities during the forum time include making ornaments for our Parish Jesse tree, a "visit" from St. Nicholas and more!*

***Please sign up at the Kiosk if you are interested in participating in Advent Adult formation
& Children's Activities.***

After Worship - Intergenerational Events (during Hospitality)

December 1 Create our "HAND-some" Jesse Tree

December 8 Continue creating our "HAND-some" Jesse Tree

December 15 Unique World Gifts Pop Up Store (for all your last minute shopping)

December 22 Gingerbread House Day following our Lessons & Carols

Advent Meditations Resources are available on our website (www.stalbansparish.org) or in our *Alban Times* weekly newsletter.

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The Holy Communion

Anthem

My Lord what a Morning

arr. Benson

Doxology

Hymn 380, 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 B

BCP p. 367

The people remain standing.

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.

Then, 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.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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

H800

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. 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 and any other vessel 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 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. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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,
and deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever 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

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hymnal 616

Post-Communion Prayer

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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

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn

Watchman, tell me of the night

Hymnal 640

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Savior of the Heathen, Come

J.S. Bach

***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!***