

*Walk In Love
As We
Hear the Word. Break the Bread. Share the Love.*



**Ingathering Sunday
Holy Eucharist**

**November 24, 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.*



1 Corinthians 13:1-8

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends.

Prelude

This is the Day, that God Made

Paul Fey

The Liturgy of the Word

Introit

Love, Love, Love

arr. Bettinis

Choir and Congregation

Processional Hymn

Rejoice, the Lord is King

Hymnal 481

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 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.

Hymn of Praise

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 praise you and 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: 2 Samuel 23:1-7 *The people sit.*

A Reading from the Book of Second Samuel.

These are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,

the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:

The spirit of the Lord speaks through me,
his word is upon my tongue.

The God of Israel has spoken,
the Rock of Israel has said to me:

One who rules over people justly,
ruling in the fear of God,

is like the light of morning,
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Is not my house like this with God?

For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.

Will he not cause to prosper
all my help and my desire?

But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;

to touch them one uses an iron bar
or the shaft of a spear.

And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Gradual: Psalm 132:1-10

(Sung in unison)

¹LORD, remember David, *
and all the hardships he endured;
²How he swore an oath to the LORD *
and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:
³“I will not come under the roof of my house, *
nor climb up into my bed;
⁴I will not allow my eyes to sleep, *
nor let my eyelids slumber;
⁵Until I find a place for the LORD, *
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.”
⁶“The ark! We heard it was in Ephratah; *
we found it in the fields of Jearim.
⁷Let us go to God’s dwelling place; *
let us fall upon our knees before his footstool.”
⁸Arise, O LORD, into your resting-place, *
you and the ark of your strength.
⁹Let your priests be clothed with righteousness; *
let your faithful people sing with joy.
¹⁰For your servant David’s sake, *
do not turn away the face of your Anointed.

The Epistle: Revelation 1:4b-8

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

^{4b}Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

Sequence Hymn

I want to walk as a child of the light

Hymnal 490

The Holy Gospel: John 18:33-37

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

³³Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Anne Bridgers

As we reaffirm our commitment to Walk in Love, let us stand and renew our Baptismal Covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

A Litany of Thanksgiving

(Stand or kneel)

p. 836-837

The Leader and People pray responsively

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,

***People* We thank you, Lord.**

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

***People* We thank you, Lord.**

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

***People* We thank you, Lord.**

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

***People* We thank you, Lord.**

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

***People* We thank you, Lord.**

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

***People* We thank you, Lord.**

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

People **We thank you, Lord.**

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

People **We thank you, Lord.**

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

People **To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. 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.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Anthem

Lord Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

Fedak

Pledge Cards for St. Alban's mission and ministry for 2025 are presented at the Altar by representatives of the Parish. At this time, others may come forward to present their Pledge Cards, as well, placing them upon the altar.

A Prayer for the Right Use of God's Gifts

Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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 A

BCP p. 361

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.

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.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

S130

Celebrant and People

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 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.*

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,
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 Anthem

Joyeuse
Oxford Ringers

Buckland

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me
 2. When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws

stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; _____
 near, when my life is al - most gone; _____
 near, and the day is past and gone; _____

— through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the
 — hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I
 — at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my

light, take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me on. _____
 fall, take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me on. _____
 hand, take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me on. _____

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

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Love one another. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

Crown him with many crowns

Hymnal 494

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Allegretto in G

A. Corelli

Join us today for a yummy Baked Potato Bar Lunch with Appli-licious desserts immediately following the service.

All are welcome to participate and join us for our Parish Wide Discernment wrap up! Your input is valuable as the Vestry proceeds with developing the Parish Profile. Many thanks to our Parish Life Committee for coordinating today's lunch! Check out the kiosk for more ways to Walk in Love!