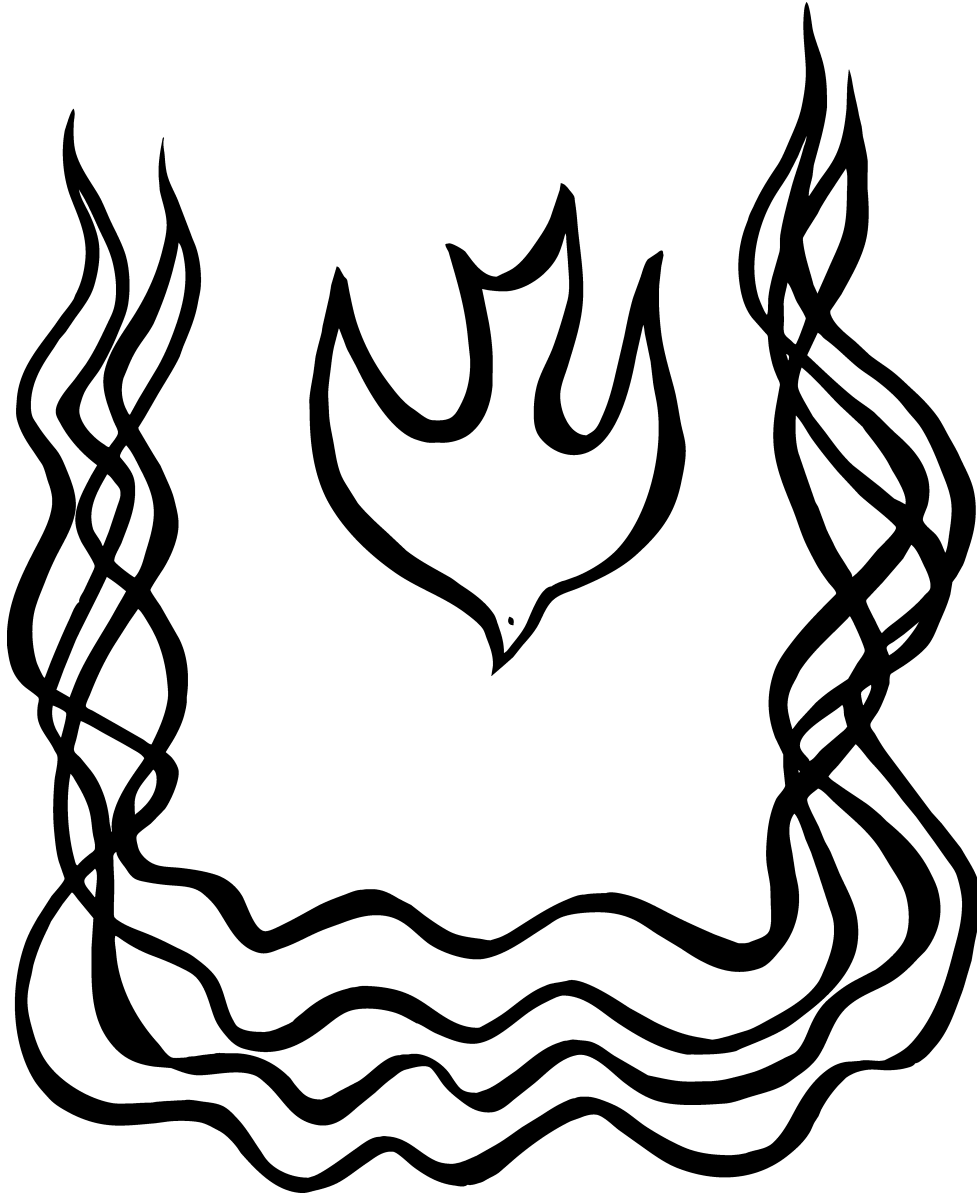


Advent III



Holy Eucharist

December 15, 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 Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn*Rejoice! Rejoice, believers*

Hymnal 68

Opening Acclamation*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

BCP p. 355

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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20 *(The people sit.)*

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah.

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

The Gradual: Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah (*Sung in unison*)

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

The Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

The Holy Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon**The Rev. Anne Bridgers****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 *(Stand or kneel)*

As we wait for Christ to come in victory, let us make our requests known to God who saves the lame and gathers the outcast.

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

People *Come, O Lord, and save us.*

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for José our Bishop, for the presbyters, for the deacons and all who minister in Christ, and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, St. Thomas, Burnsville, and for all the holy people of God.

People *Come, O Lord, and save us.*

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place.

People *Come, O Lord, and save us.*

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority.

People *Come, O Lord, and save us.*

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

People *Come, O Lord, and save us.*

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, and for those in prison.

People *Come, O Lord, and save us.*

For the dying and the dead.

People *Come, O Lord, and save us.*

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

People *Come, O Lord, and save us.*

Joining our voices with the Blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John the Baptist, 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 Gracious God.*

O King of all the nations, only joy of every heart, hear our prayer. Glory to you 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

Come O Precious Ransom

Mark Shepperd

Doxology

(People stand as the offering is presented)

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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when we shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 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. 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

Savior of the nations, come

Hymnal 54

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

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.*



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
 5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
 2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
 3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
 4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
 5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
 2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
 3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
 4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
 5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.



Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

To God We Render Thanks and Praise

J.S. Bach

***We gather for refreshments in Ferebee Hall immediately following the service.
Unique World of Gifts Pop-Up Store will be in Ferebee Hall today!***



O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Adult Forum and Children Activities – Each Sunday in 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 series.*
- *Children’s activities during the forum time include making ornaments for our Parish Jesse tree, a “visit” from St. Nicholas and more!*

After Worship - Intergenerational Events (during Hospitality)

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.

Christmas Eve ~ Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

3:00 p.m. ~ Holy Eucharist with the Children participating in building the Crèche and “Sharing the Story” of Jesus’ Birth, concluding with Silent Night by candlelight.

5:00 p.m. ~ A cherished service of Holy Eucharist with enchanting music from the bells, adult choir, and a string quartet. We end the evening with the moving tradition of candlelight during Silent Night.

Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. ~ A quiet celebration of Holy Eucharist, celebrating our Lord’s birth. Children are encouraged to wear their Christmas pajamas and bring a favorite toy to be blessed.