

# *The Last Sunday after the Epiphany*



## **Holy Eucharist II**

March 2, 2025

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

*O wondrous type! O vision fair*

Hymnal 137

## Gloria

Hymnal S-236

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 highly exalt you. Glory to you!

## 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.

## The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 357

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## First Reading: Exodus 34:29-35 *(The people sit.)*

A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

<sup>29</sup>Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

<sup>30</sup>When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup>But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. <sup>32</sup>Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup>When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; <sup>34</sup>but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup>the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Psalm: Psalm 99**

*(Sung in unison)*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is King;  
let the people tremble; \*  
    he is enthroned upon the cherubim;  
    let the earth shake.  
<sup>2</sup>The LORD is great in Zion; \*  
    he is high above all peoples.  
<sup>3</sup>Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; \*  
    he is the Holy One.  
<sup>4</sup>“O mighty King, lover of justice,  
you have established equity; \*  
    you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.”  
<sup>5</sup>Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God  
and fall down before his footstool; \*  
    he is the Holy One.  
<sup>6</sup>Moses and Aaron among his priests,  
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, \*  
    they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.  
<sup>7</sup>He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; \*  
    they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.  
<sup>8</sup>O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; \*  
    you were a God who forgave them,  
    yet punished them for their evil deeds.  
<sup>9</sup>Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God  
and worship him upon his holy hill; \*  
    for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2**   *(The people sit.)*

A Reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Church in Corinth.

<sup>12</sup>Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, <sup>13</sup>not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. <sup>14</sup>But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; <sup>16</sup>but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

<sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

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

**Sequence Hymn**

*Christ upon the mountain peak*

Hymnal 129

**Gospel:** Luke 9:28-36-43a *(All stand.)*

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>28</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup>They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup>Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup>While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” <sup>36</sup>When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

<sup>37</sup>On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. <sup>38</sup>Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. <sup>39</sup>Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. <sup>40</sup>I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” <sup>41</sup>Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” <sup>42</sup>While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. <sup>43a</sup>And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

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**                      *(People stand or kneel)*

Placing our hope in God, offering ourselves to God, let us pray, "Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus, and transform our lives."

Almighty God, as we turn our gaze toward our Lenten journey, strengthen us to bear our cross and to follow faithfully in the way of your Son, Jesus.

Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus,

***And transform our lives.***

O mighty Sovereign, lover of justice, establish equity, that the dignity of every human being may be preserved and respected. But also show us mercy and forgive us for our failures.

Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus,

***And transform our lives.***

Your glory outshines the brightness of the sun; the earth shakes in your presence and yet, it pleases you, O God, to reveal yourself to us through your creation. Give us hearts that love what you call good.

Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus,

***And transform our lives.***

We pray for all those in need of your liberating salvation, O God. May the glory we encounter here shine on our faces and in our lives. Strengthen us to embody the Good News of your love.

Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus,

***And transform our lives.***

Lord Jesus, free the suffering from their afflictions, as we remember especially all those on our Parish Prayer List. Restore the broken to wholeness. Unveil the faces of those who dwell in great darkness.

Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus,

***And transform our lives.***

May we be changed into the likeness of your Son, O God, from glory to glory. Bring us at last into that place, with all your saints, where we might no longer see in a mirror dimly, but see you face to face.

Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus,

***And transform our lives.***

**Confession of Sin**

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*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**

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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.)*

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*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* And also with you.

# The Holy Communion

**Anthem**

*Farewell to Alleluia*  
Anna Moris - Oboe

Don Busarow

**Doxology**

*(People stand as 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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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**

S129

*Celebrant and People*

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one 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,  
but deliver us from evil.

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

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:

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;



## **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**

*My Lord, What a Morning*  
Genesis Bells

arr. Thompson

## **Communion Hymn**

*We Are Marching in the Light of God*

*1-Marching*

*2-Singing*

*3-Praying*

*4-Marching*

## **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 Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## **Recessional Hymn**

*Ye watchers and ye holy ones*

Hymnal 618

## **Dismissal**

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Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*

Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

*Postlude in E*

S. Surzynski