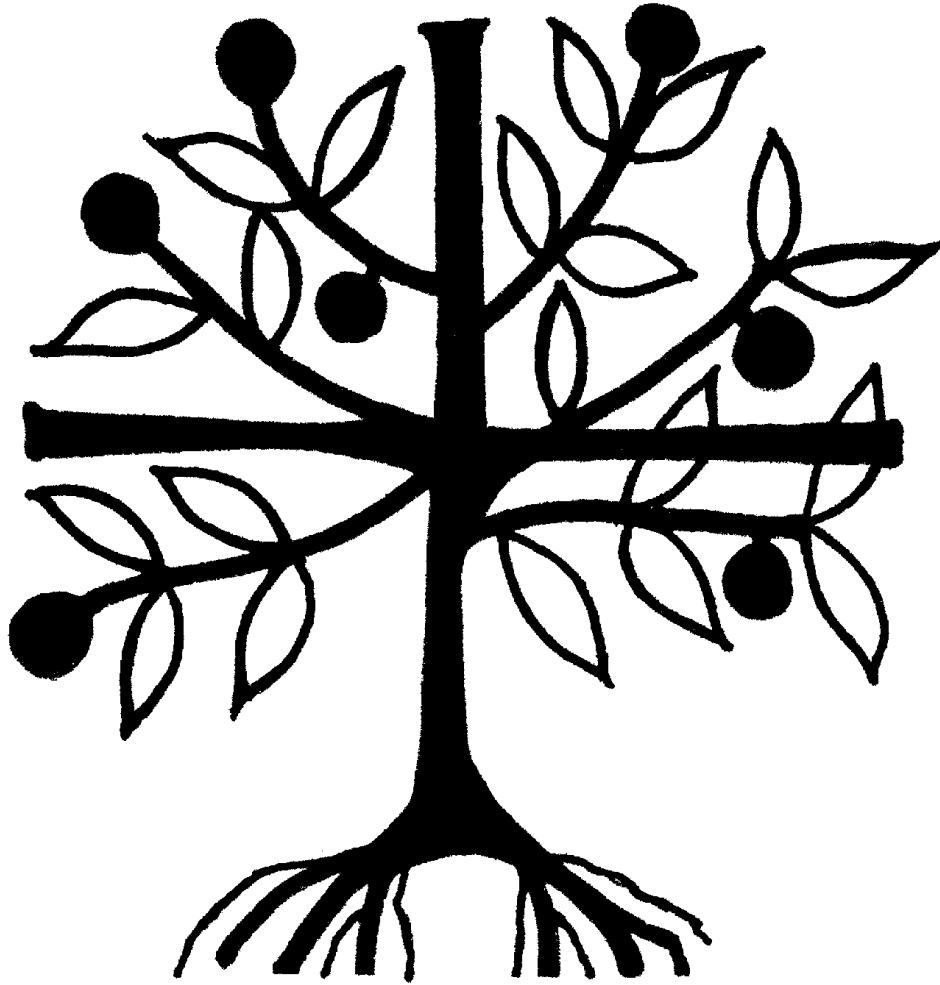


# *3 Lent*



## **Holy Eucharist II**

March 23, 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 worshipers.*

*Please return to the basket as you depart.*

# The Liturgy of the Word

**Processional Hymn***Come, we that love the Lord*

Hymnal 392

**Opening Acclamation***The people standing, the Celebrant says*

BCP p. 355

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
*People* His mercy endures for ever. Amen.

**Trisagion***(sung three times)*

S-102

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, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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 3:1-15***(The people sit.)*

A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

<sup>1</sup>Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." <sup>4</sup>When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup>Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup>He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup>Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup>and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup>He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup>But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” <sup>15</sup>God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’:

This is my name forever,  
and this my title for all generations.”

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

**Psalm:** Psalm 63:1-8            *(Spoken in union as the people remain seated.)*

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.  
<sup>2</sup>Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
that I might behold your power and your glory.  
<sup>3</sup>For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
my lips shall give you praise.  
<sup>4</sup>So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands in your Name.  
<sup>5</sup>My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
<sup>6</sup>When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the night watches.  
<sup>7</sup>For you have been my helper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.  
<sup>8</sup>My soul clings to you; \*  
your right hand holds me fast.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

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

<sup>1</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

**Gospel:** Luke 13:1-9 (All stand.)

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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** (*People stand or kneel*)

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "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 our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, 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 or through outer space, 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, let us 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, 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.*

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.*

**Confession of Sin**

BCP p. 359

*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**

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.)*

BCP p. 360

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

# The Holy Communion

**Anthem**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Brenda Portman

**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 C *(Stand or kneel)*

BCP p. 369

*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.

*The Celebrant continues*

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

*Glory to you for ever and ever.*

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

*By your will they were created and have their being.*

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill.

You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

*Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.*

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

*By his blood, he reconciled us.*

*By his wounds, we are healed.*

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Sanctus**

H-800

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 Lord's Prayer**

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

*People and Celebrant*

Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your Name,  
 your kingdom come,  
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins  
 as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial  
 and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power,  
 and the glory are yours,  
 now and forever. Amen.

**The Breaking of the Bread**

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

**Fraction Anthem**

S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
 Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
 Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:  
 Give us your peace, give us your peace.

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
 and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*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.*



1. When from bond - age we are sum - moned out of dark - ness in - to light,  
 2. When our God names us a peo - ple, Je - sus leads us by the hand  
 3. Through all stag - es of the jour - ney Christ is with us, night and day,  
 4. We must not lose sight of Je - sus, who ac - cept - ed pain and loss,  
 5. See the prize our God has prom - ised: end - less life with Christ our Lord.

1. we must go in hope and pat - ience, walk by faith and not by sight.  
 2. through a lone - ly, bar - ren des - ert to a great and glo - rious land.  
 3. with com - pas - sion for our weak - ness ev' - ry step a - long the way.  
 4. who, for joy of love un - meas - ured, dared em - brace the shame - ful cross.  
 5. Now we fix our eyes on Je - sus, walk by faith in Je - sus' word.

*Refrain*

Let us throw off all that hin - ders; let us run the race to win!

Let us hast - en to our home - land and, re - joic - ing, en - ter in.

## **The Post-Communion Prayer**

BCP p. 365

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## **Solemn Prayer over the People**

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

*Rock of ages, cleft for me*

Hymnal 685

## **Dismissal**

BCP p. 366

Let us bless the Lord.

*People*

Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

*Postlude in F*

Giovanni Martini

***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!***