

4 Lent



Holy Eucharist II

March 30, 2025
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

Jerusalem, my happy home

Hymnal 620

Opening Acclamation

BCP. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12 *(The people sit.)*

A Reading from the Book of Joshua.

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 32 *(Spoken in union as the people remain seated.)*

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.

⁶I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁷Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁸You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁹"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.

¹⁰Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."

¹¹Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹²Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

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

¹⁶From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

We sing the praise of him who died

Hymnal 471

The Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

(All stand.)

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and

kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

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)*

Intercessor

Be glad and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all you who are true of heart. Having been reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us pray, "Lord, let your mercy embrace us; accept our prayer."

Gracious God, you have entrusted to your Church the ministry of reconciliation. Reconcile our members to you and to each other, and then work through us to embrace the world.

Lord, let your mercy embrace us;

People *Accept our prayer.*

Open our hearts to welcome sinners as you welcome us.

Give us eyes to see others, not only from a human point of view, but as you see them.

Lord, let your mercy embrace us;

People *Accept our prayer.*

Jesus, you are the true bread which gives life to the world: evermore give us this bread that our souls may be satisfied. And satisfy our bodies with abundant produce from the land.

Lord let your mercy embrace us;

People *Accept our prayer.*

We pray, O God, for families. Restore broken relationships; Heal those who have suffered betrayal and alienation. Comfort those for whom reconciliation in this life is not possible. Shield those with reason to celebrate.

Lord, let your mercy embrace us;

People *Accept our prayer.*

You O God, are a hiding place for those in trouble: you deliver the oppressed; you forgive the guilty; you roll away the disgrace of your people. We make our prayers to you for those in trouble.

Lord, let your mercy embrace us;

People *Accept our prayer*

Holy Jesus, it is our prayer that you may live in us, and we in you, both in this mortal life and for all eternity.

Lord let your mercy embrace us;

People *Accept our prayer.*

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

Pie Jesu

Malcom Archer

Kathy Shirilla and Lauren Timmons - Duet
Dear Jesus, Lord Grant them Rest Eternal

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

S-125

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 Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 363

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 wafers 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.

Communion Hymn

Come now, O Prince of Peace

WLP 795

1. Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one bod - y,
2. Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y,
3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior,
4. Come, Hope of U - ni - ty, make us one bod - y,

come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

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 down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

In the cross of Christ I glory

Hymnal 441

Dismissal

BCP p. 366

Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Postlude in d-minor

Caspar Ett

***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!***

Keeping a Holy Lent at St. Alban's

SUNDAY (AFTER SERVICE) ACTIVITIES:

MARCH 30 - ASSEMBLING THE BLESSING BAGS

WEDNESDAY SOUP & PROGRAM:

APRIL 4

APRIL 9

MEAL BEGINS AT 6PM,
PROGRAM BEGINS AT 6:30PM



PALM SUNDAY: APRIL 13

HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18, NOON

HOLY SATURDAY LITURGY, APRIL 19, 9AM