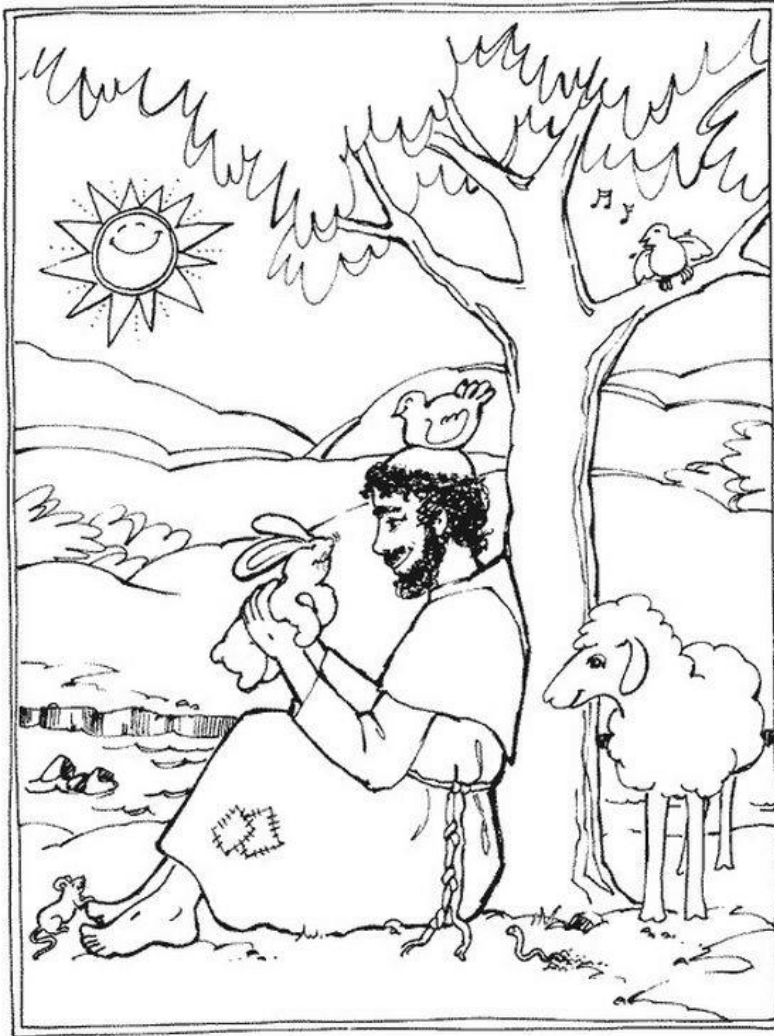


St. Alban's Episcopal Church

The Blessing of the Animals



The Feast of Francis of Assisi

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

October 6, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Welcome to St. Alban's!

The Word of God

The Prelude

The Opening Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Job 39:1–18

"Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer? Can you number the months that they fulfil, and do you know the time when they give birth, when they crouch to give birth to their offspring, and are delivered of their young? Their young ones become strong, they grow

up in the open; they go forth, and do not return to them. "Who has let the wild donkey go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift donkey, to which I have given the steppe for its home, the salt land for its dwelling-place? It scorns the tumult of the city; it does not hear the shouts of the driver. It ranges the mountains as its pasture, and it searches after every green thing. "Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will it spend the night at your crib? Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes, or will it harrow the valleys after you? Will you depend on it because its strength is great, and will you hand over your labour to it? Do you have faith in it that it will return, and bring your grain to your threshing-floor?" The ostrich's wings flap wildly, though its pinions lack plumage. For it leaves its eggs to the earth, and lets them be warmed on the ground, forgetting that a foot may crush them, and that a wild animal may trample them. It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own; though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear; because God has made it forget wisdom, and given it no share in understanding. When it spreads its plumes aloft, it laughs at the horse and its rider."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121 *Read responsively by half verse.*

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *

from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the LORD, *

the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved *

and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *

shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The LORD himself watches over you; *

the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *

nor the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *

it is he who shall keep you safe.

The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *

from this time forth for evermore.

The Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will

pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Rev. Carmen Germino

The Nicene Creed

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Celebrant and People

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

Please read together the names on our prayer list, when prompted.

Deacon

Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

Leader

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea; **We thank you, Lord.**

For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers; **We thank you, Lord.**

For all that is gracious in the lives of humans; **We thank you, Lord.**

For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life; **We thank you, Lord.**

For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees; **We thank you, Lord.**

For the trust you have shown in giving us our beloved pets; **We pray to you, Lord.**

That each pet here may be treasured with care; **We pray to you, Lord.**

That we may love and honor all your works, O God; **We pray to you, Lord.**

That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation; **We pray to you, Lord.**

For those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit. Together we pray for...

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed.

We pray for all the people whose lives and communities have been devastated by Hurricane Helene. In your merciful compassion, O God, comfort and protect the vulnerable and those who are working to help them. Strengthen them throughout the process of recovery and rebuilding. May our response to their suffering be generous and bring you praise.

The Prayer Marking the Anniversary of October 7

Celebrant

God of Life, as we worship together this day, on the eve of the anniversary of the violence perpetrated one year ago in Israel, we remember the victims and their loved ones who continue to mourn. We lament the loss of innocent lives on October 7 and the days since, and we ask that your abiding love remain with all who are captive in Gaza. Give comfort and strength to those who live daily with fear, grief, trauma, prejudice, or a lack of necessities. Grant wisdom to our world leaders, that their words and actions might be guided by a true commitment to peace and justice. We pray for a future in which Israelis and Palestinians know reconciliation, friendship, and mutual flourishing. May your shalom and salaam descend across the lands where your Son, our Prince of Peace, lived, died, and taught us to love one another. All this we ask in his name. **Amen.**

The Prayer for Election Season

Celebrant

Almighty and eternal God, bless our nation and all who dwell in it. Grant us courage and compassion to treat everyone as our beloved neighbor. Enable us to see one another not as enemies, but, in all our diversity, as your children each created in your image. Give to those seeking elected office wisdom and a heart for service. Teach us to live together with humility, civility, and generosity of spirit. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayer Attributed to St. Francis

Celebrant

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen.**

The Exchange of the Peace

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord.

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The Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Hymn: A Place in the Choir

Bill Staines

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord. To utilize our text-to-give option, simply text "ALBANS" to 73256.

The Doxology

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer C

The Sursum Corda

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.

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

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: 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.

People: By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant: 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.

People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight

Celebrant: 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.

People: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

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

The Sanctus

Celebrant and people

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.

Celebrant: 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.

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,

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

Celebrant: Lord God of our Ancestors; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob, Rachel, and Leah; 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.

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

Celebrant: 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

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Celebrant and People

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Ministration of Communion

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All are welcome to gather at the Lord's table. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the clergy. Wine is available either by sipping from the common cup (silver chalice) or by intinction (dipping the wafer into the pottery chalice). If you choose to intinct, please hold your wafer visibly to indicate that is your preference. Please take utmost care to keep your fingers from touching the wine as you dip. You may also choose to receive only the bread or the wine, as either one alone is a full Communion. Please tell an usher if you need Communion brought to you. In the Episcopal Church, it is customary that those receiving Communion have been baptized in any Christian tradition, and no one who comes to the altar in faith is turned away. If you would like to learn more about Baptism at St. Alban's, please be in touch with the clergy. If you are not receiving Communion, we hope you will come forward and cross your arms over your chest, so that we might share a blessing with you.

The Communion Hymn: All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

***Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.***

**Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings** ***Refrain***

**The purple headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.** ***Refrain***

**The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one.** ***Refrain***

**The tall trees in the green wood, the meadows where we play,
the rushes by the water we gather ev'ry day.** ***Refrain***

**God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell,
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.** ***Refrain***

The Post Communion Prayer

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The congregation is invited to stand or kneel as able.


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

The Closing Hymn: All Creatures of Our God and King

LASST UNS ERFREUEN


Verses 1 – 4, & 7



1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voi - ces, let us sing;
2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heav'ns a - loft,
3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear:
4 Dear moth - er earth, you day by day un - fold your bles - sings on our way,
7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble - ness,



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing sun with gold - en beams,
2 O ___ praise him: Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing morn, with praise re - joice,
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in - tense and fierce - ly bright,
4 O ___ praise him: Al - le - lu - ia! All flow'rs and fruits that in you grow,
7 O ___ praise him: Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the Fath - er, praise the Son,



Refrain
1 pale sil - ver moon that gent - ly gleams,
2 stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice;
3 you give to us both warmth and light; O ___ praise him, O ___ praise him:
4 let them his glo - ry al - so show;
7 and praise the Spi - rit, Three - in - One:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Dismissal

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Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude and Blessing of the Animals

During the postlude, please bring your pet (or stuffed animal or pet photo) forward and share their name with clergy.

In Remembrance

Caddy Arnett

Mitchell Mabry

God, the refuge and strength of all who mourn: Hear our prayers for all who grieve the death of a beloved pet. Bring comfort in loneliness, peace in distress, and joy in remembering; and lift their hearts in thanksgiving for the gift of companionship they have known. Amen.

Welcome to St. Alban's!



St. Alban's is a friendly, inclusive, and growing congregation that seeks to honor the Lord Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, and outreach. We pray that your worship with us will bring you the grace, peace, and joy of Christ. If you are new to our faith community, we would love to connect with you. Please fill out a purple sheet located on the Welcome Center table in the narthex or scan the QR code to the left with the camera on your smart phone which will direct you to an online newcomer form.

St. Alban's is a Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

The Right Reverend Samuel Sewall Rodman, III, Bishop of North Carolina

The Right Reverend Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop

The Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Carmen Germino, Rector

The Reverend Kevin Lloyd, Associate Rector

Davidson College Campus Minister

The Reverend Leslie Nuñez Steffensen, Priest Associate

The Reverend Valerie Davis, Deacon

John Bailey, Organist and Choirmaster

Jessica Ewell, Parish Administrator and Communications Director

Courtney Fossett, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

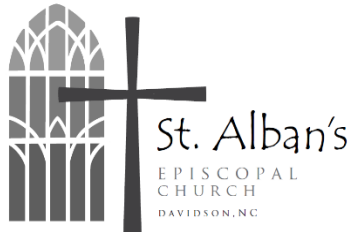
Erin Garrett, Director of Finance

Matt Presson, Director of Children's Choir and Stream Team

Nadia Rahaim, Preschool Director

The Vestry of St. Alban's

Connor Fulton, Matthew Goodson, Martha Hartle, Sarah Hicks, James Kennedy, Annamarie Klemm, Allison Kratt, Mike McDonnell, Cheryl Nealy, Dave Pylipow, Mike Sass, Joseph Torok



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