

St. Alban's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

welcomes you



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

December 22, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Welcome to St. Alban's! Thank you for worshiping with us today. In order to allow for private prayer, we ask that you refrain from loud conversation upon entering the nave. Page numbers in the bulletin refer to The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), the book with the cross on the cover. Hymnals and Prayer Books can be found beneath the seats. If you choose to kneel for parts of the service, please use the kneeler beneath your own chair. Children of all ages are always welcome in worship. Crayons and a Bible story coloring page are available on the table just outside the doors to the nave. If desired, our nursery is available for children age three and under, and is located downstairs. Sunday School for ages four-12th grade takes place from 10:15-11:00 a.m., with the children returning to the nave at the Exchange of the Peace. *The congregation is invited to stand as able when indicated by an asterisk.

The Word of God

The Prelude: Savior of the Nations, Come!

arr. Paul Manz

***The Processional Hymn: 56 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, stanzas 7 & 8 VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL**

***The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

***The Opening Acclamation**

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355

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

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

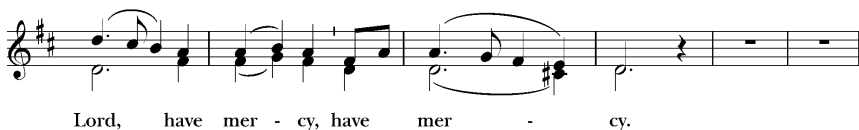
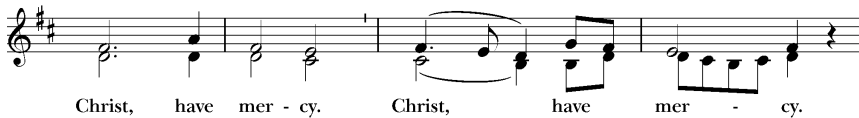
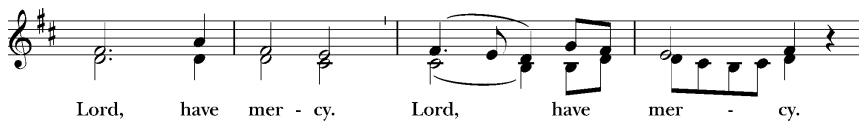
***The Collect for Purity**

BCP p. 355

***The Kyrie: S 96**

Lord, Have Mercy

Schubert/Proulx



*The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7 *Read responsively by half verse.*

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *

shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *

stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, *

how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; *

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Lesson

Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He

abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***The Sequence Hymn: 438 Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord!** WOODLANDS

Stanzas 1 & 2 are sung before the Gospel, stanzas 3 & 4 are sung after.

***The Gospel**

Luke 1:39-55

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

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Leslie Nuñez Steffensen

***The Nicene Creed**

BCP p. 358

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**

The congregation is invited to stand or kneel as able. Please read together the names on our prayer list, when prompted.

Deacon

In this Advent season, as we await the coming of Christ, let our expectant souls join with Mary, rejoicing in God our Savior, for the Almighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God's name.

Intercessor

God of hope, magnify the faith of your Church so that all flesh shall see your salvation in us and through us. Empower us to reach out to a world in desperate need of your goodness. We thank you for sending your Son to be with us, for you have done great things for us, **and holy is your name.**

God of peace, magnify the wisdom of the leaders of our nation and world. Protect all your children who face the perils of war, violence, or persecution. We thank you for the witness of your Son and his commitment to justice, for you have done great things for us, **and holy is your name.**

God of joy, magnify our gratitude for all our blessings. Help us take holy pauses in this busy season. We thank you for the gift of this community, for you have done great things for us, **and holy is your name.**

God of love, magnify our compassion for ourselves and our neighbors. You have lifted up the lowly, filled those who are hungry, and comforted all who are in need of healing. We pray especially for...Be with us as we mourn for all those who dwell with you in eternity. We thank you for the mercy you bestow upon us all, for you have done great things for us, **and holy is your name.**

Celebrant

Almighty One, hear these prayers of your people. Hasten the coming of your kingdom, and grant that we your servants may rejoice to behold your Son at his birth and his return. **Amen.**

The Confession & Absolution

BCP p. 360

The congregation is invited to kneel as able.

Deacon

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence is kept.*

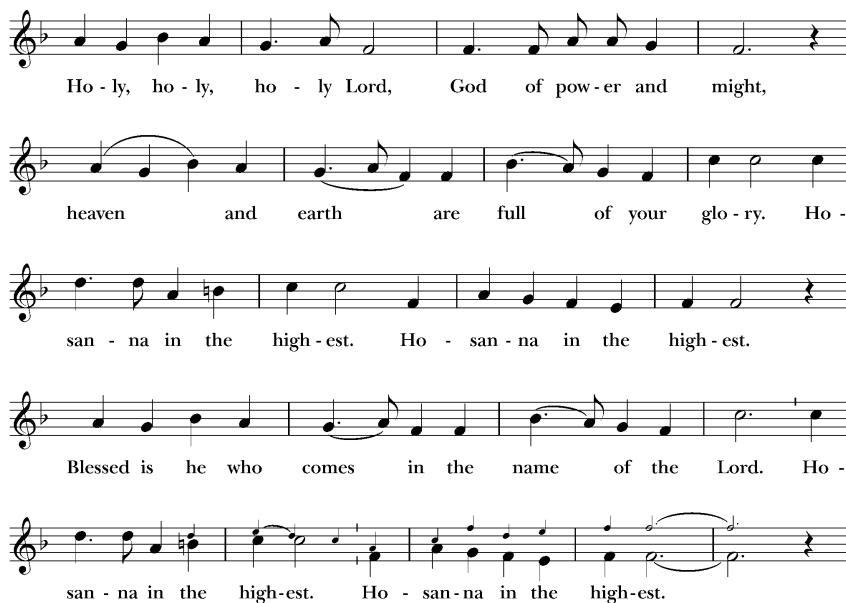
Celebrant and People

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.

***The Sanctus: S 125**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Richard Proulx



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues. The congregation is invited to stand or kneel as able.

Celebrant: Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

People: we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues.



Celebrant *People*
A - men.

***The Lord's Prayer**

BCP p. 364

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.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Ministration of Communion

BCP p. 365

All are welcome to gather at the Lord's table. At the appropriate time, you may come forward to the altar rail, filling in from right to left. Kneeling is optional. 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 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 Anthem: Unexpected and Mysterious

Lindholm & Hampton

Unexpected and mysterious is the gentle word of grace.
 Ever-loving and sustaining is the peace of God's embrace.
 If we falter in our courage and we doubt what we have known,
 God is faithful to console us as a mother tends her own.

In a momentary meeting of eternity and time,
 Mary learned that she would carry both the mortal and divine.
 Then she learned of God's compassion, of Elizabeth's great joy,
 and she ran to greet the woman who would recognize her boy.

We are called to ponder mystery and await the coming Christ,
 to embody God's compassion for each fragile human life.
 God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth,
 while we watch with joy and wonder for the promised savior's birth.

The Communion Hymn: 60 Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

***The Post Communion Prayer**

BCP p. 366

The congregation is invited to stand or kneel as able.

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.

***The Blessing**

***The Recessional Hymn: 66 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

STUTTGART

***The Dismissal**

BCP p. 366

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Johann Crüger

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, Sarah Hicks, James Kennedy, Annamarie Klemm, Allison Kratt, Mike McDonnell, Cheryl Nealy, Dave Pylipow, Mike Sass, Joseph Torok



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