

# THE SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025



## SECOND SUNDAY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
Simsbury, CT  
*Celebrate. Inspire. Serve.*



Welcome to St. Alban's!

Your prayers and presence for today's worship are a gift to this community. We are grateful that you are here. We pray that you sense the love of Christ, the holy stirring of the Spirit, and God's presence here this morning.

### **Worshipping with children**

We invite you to visit our Playground in the rear balcony. Please feel free to bring books or an activity bag to your seats; or, sit in the balcony and allow your children to explore the space during worship. And please don't worry about wiggles, conversation, crying, laughing – all of it is welcome in this space and to the glory of God! If you need help finding the bathrooms, a changing table, or the water fountain, please ask an Usher.

### **Learning more about St. Alban's**

We invite you to fill out one of the "Welcome" cards you can find on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary. This allows you to receive mailed materials from St. Alban's and our weekly e-news. You can also visit our website ([stalbanssimsbury.org](http://stalbanssimsbury.org)) or find us on Facebook.

### **Donating to St. Alban's**

During our service today, Ushers will pass Offering plates. You are welcome to place cash or check donations directly into the plate. We also invite your donations through our website ([stalbanssimsbury.org](http://stalbanssimsbury.org), click "Donate").



You can find your way to that link with the QR code here and on the donation card in the Narthex.

**If you need a gluten-free wafer at communion** please let the priest know when you approach the altar for communion. You can also receive a blessing instead of bread by crossing your arms over your chest.

As you settle in to worship today, take the time and the moments of quiet you need to make the transition from getting here, to being here.

*Our service comes from [Enriching Our Worship](http://www.enrichingourworship.com) and we make use of all hymnal resources approved by The Episcopal Church. Everything you need to worship fully today can be found in the bulletin.*

### ***\*A note about standing, kneeling, sitting rubrics***

*One of the spaces that has received more attention during the pandemic is around ableism. Our society, in large part, functions as though everyone has nearly full use of their bodies. Where a "standing" rubric might have been added alone, we're adding "seated", as well, as an invitation for you to listen and respond to the needs of your own body. You are invited to remember that our bodies are created by God and intended for worship, just like our voices. How ever you feel comfortable doing that, God sees that it is good!*

HYMN *Standing or seated.\**

*How firm a foundation*

H82 636



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
 4 "When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,



1 is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
 2 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
 3 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;  
 4 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
 5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



1 What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
 2 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
 3 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
 4 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
 5 that soul, though all hell shall en - deav - or to shake,



1 to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 2 up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.  
 3 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 4 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

+ Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
**Glory to God for ever and ever.**



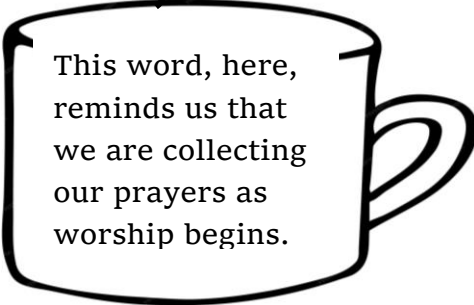
Do you see people making cross signs on their chests?  
 You can too ---- Check out this dude!  
 Look for the + symbol as we follow along in the  
 bulletin for other places you might cross yourself!

This is the day, this is the day  
 That the Lord hath made, that the Lord hath made,  
 We will rejoice, we will rejoice  
 and be glad in it, and be glad in it;

This is the day that the Lord hath made,  
 we will rejoice and be glad in it;  
 This is the day, this is the day  
 that the Lord hath made.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
 Let us pray.



This word, here,  
 reminds us that  
 we are collecting  
 our prayers as  
 worship begins.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

READING: *Isaiah 43:1-7*

Thus says the LORD,  
 he who created you, O Jacob,  
 he who formed you, O Israel:  
 Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
 I have called you by name, you are mine.  
 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
 when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
 and the flame shall not consume you.  
 For I am the LORD your God,  
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
 I give Egypt as your ransom,  
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

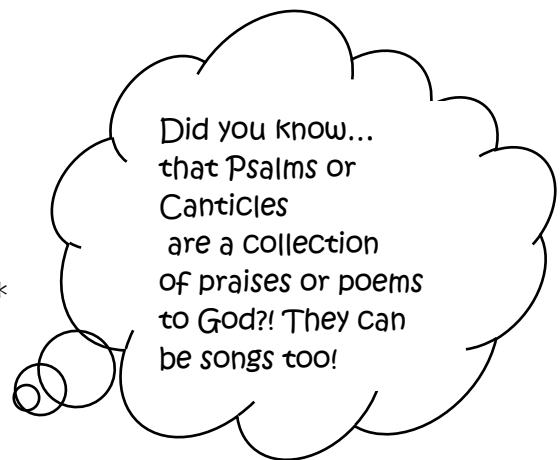
Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth--  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 29

### *Afferte Domino*

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, \*  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; \*  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; \*  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD \*  
all are crying, "Glory!"



10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.

11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; \*  
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

HYMN *standing or seated\**

*This Little Light of Mine*

LEVAS 221

1. This lit - tle light of mine, \_\_\_\_\_ I'm gon - na let it  
2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, \_\_\_\_\_ I'm gon - na let it  
3. Je - sus gave it to me, \_\_\_\_\_ I'm gon - na let it

Oh\_\_\_\_\_

1. shine, \_\_\_\_\_ This lit - tle light of mine,  
2. shine, \_\_\_\_\_ Ev - 'ry - where I go,  
3. shine, \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus gave it to me,

Oh\_\_\_\_\_

1. I'm gon - na let it shine; \_\_\_\_\_ This lit - tle light of  
2. I'm gon - na let it shine; \_\_\_\_\_ Ev - 'ry - where I  
3. I'm gon - na let it shine; \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus gave it to

Oh\_\_\_\_\_

1. mine, \_\_\_\_\_ I'm gon - na let it shine, \_\_\_\_\_ Let it  
2. go, \_\_\_\_\_ I'm gon - na let it shine, \_\_\_\_\_ Let it  
3. me, \_\_\_\_\_ I'm gon - na let it shine, \_\_\_\_\_ Let it

Oh\_\_\_\_\_

1. shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 2. shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 3. shine, let it shine, let it shine.

THE GOSPEL: *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel readings  
 are stories about  
 Jesus's life on earth.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

*The Rev. John Van Sicken*

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?

**People** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.

*Celebrant* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People** I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the Virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.

**He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

***People* I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

*Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

***People* I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

***People* I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

***People* I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

***People* I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

***People* I will, with God's help.**

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*



For all people in their daily life and work;  
**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Sean Rowe our Presiding Bishop; Jeff and Laura our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;  
**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray especially for Britt, Jocelyn, Pete, and anyone we name now silently or aloud. *(The People may add their own petitions).*

*Silence*

Hear us, Lord;  
**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.  
*(The people may add their own thanksgivings)*

*Silence*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.  
*(The people may add their own petitions)*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;**

and so uphold us by your Spirit  
 that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
 to the honor and glory of your Name;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

The peace of the Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The mission and ministry of St. Alban's depends on the financial and prayerful generosity and gifts of members of our congregation and community. We welcome your one-time or ongoing donation today. Please place cash or checks in the Offering Plate; or use the QR code on the cards found in the rear of the Sanctuary, in the Narthex, or on page 2 of this bulletin to make an online donation. We are grateful that you've chosen to share your gifts with us today.*

OFFERTORY HYMN *Standing or seated.\**

*Baptized in Water*

LEVAS 121

1. Bap - tized\_ in wa - ter, — sealed by the Spi - rit, — Cleansed by the  
 2. Bap - tized\_ in wa - ter, — sealed by the Spi - rit, — Dead in the  
 3. Bap - tized\_ in wa - ter, — sealed by the Spi - rit, — Marked with the

1. blood of Christ — our King: Heirs of sal - va - tion, —  
 2. tomb with Christ — our King: One with his ris - ing, —  
 3. sign of Christ — our King: Born of one Fa - ther, —

1. trust - ing his prom - ise, — Faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
 2. freed and for - giv - en, — Thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
 3. we are his child - ren, — Joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.



**And also with you.**


Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

If you're having any trouble  
 hearin'  or seein'  or  
 you just want to get closer,  
**come right up to the altar!**

And, if you want,  
**you can copy the**  **priest's movements** as  
 he prays the Eucharistic  
 Prayer!

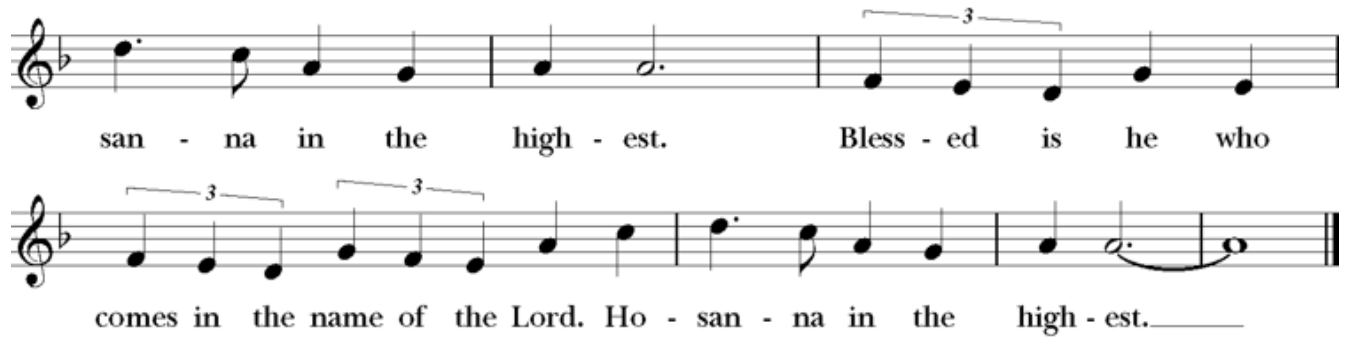
We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moons, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a parent cares for children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

*Celebrant and people*

### SANCTUS

*S129*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



*The Celebrant continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Alban and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

#### FRACTION ANTHEM

God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.  
**Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.**

#### THE INVITATION

#### THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Anyone of any age and tradition is invited to receive Holy Communion, and no one who comes to the altar with outstretched hands will be turned away. To receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, approach the altar and cross your arms over your chest.*

*To receive Holy Communion, you may stand or kneel at the altar rail; or stand in the space between the altar rails, in front of the altar. If you need the sacrament brought to you, please let someone know and we will be honored to bring it to you. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please let the priest know at the altar.*

*Remember, that communion "in one kind" (bread only) is a sufficient manifestation of the sacrament. If you'd like, you can simply hold the cup while the chalice bearer offers the words of reception, without drinking from the chalice.*

#### COMMUNION ANTHEM *Instrumental*

#### POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and people*

**Loving God,  
We give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth a people,  
forgiven, healed, renewed;**

that we may proclaim your love to the world  
 and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior.  
 Amen.

THE BLESSING

God's Blessing be with you,  
 Christ's peace be with you,  
 the Spirit's outpouring be with you,  
 now and always. **Amen.**

HYMN *standing or seated*

*We are marching in the light of God*

WLP 787

We are march - ing in the light of God, we are  
 Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya -  
 Mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios, Mar - cha -

march - ing in the light of God, We are march - ing in the  
 hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -  
 re - mos en la luz de Dios. Mar - cha - re - mos en la

light of God, we are march - ing in the light of, the  
 nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen, kha -  
 luz de Dios mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de, la

light of God. We are march - ing, march - ing, we are  
 nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -  
 luz de Dios. Mar - cha - re - mos re - mos mar - cha -

— Oo — we are march - ing in the light of God —  
 — Oo — si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos' —  
 — Oo — mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios. —

march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of, the  
 ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen, kha -  
 re - mos re - mos mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de la

light of God. We are march - ing, march - ing, we are  
 nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -  
 luz de Dios. Mar - cha - re - mos re - mos mar - cha -

— Oo —  
 — Oo —  
 — Oo —

march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of God. —  
 ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. —  
 re - mos re - mos mar - cha - re - mos en la luz do Dios. —

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Fountain Reverie by Percy Fletcher*

*Mary Delibero, Music Director & Organist*

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH *is a community of faith  
whose mission is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.  
Toward this end, we CELEBRATE, INSPIRE and SERVE.  
By God's grace, we are here to share our joy, to lead by example, and to care for others.*

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