

# EASTER

*The Sunday of the Resurrection*

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026



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



## Easter Blessings & 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. Easter gives God's people a chance to celebrate hope and new life; and God welcomes your longing for both. 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").

**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 The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 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. However you feel comfortable doing that, God sees that it is good!*

## THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

*Jesus Christ is risen today*

H82 207

*Descant*

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en-dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

S280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
 King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

READING: *Acts 10:34-45*

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That

message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24 *Confitemini Domino*

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; \*  
his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, \*  
"His mercy endures for ever."
- 14 The LORD is my strength and my song, \*  
and he has become my salvation.
- 15 There is a sound of exultation and victory \*  
in the tents of the righteous:
- 16 "The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! \*  
the right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"
- 17 I shall not die, but live, \*  
and declare the works of the LORD.
- 18 The LORD has punished me sorely, \*  
but he did not hand me over to death.
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
I will enter them;  
I will offer thanks to the LORD.



20 "This is the gate of the LORD; \*  
he who is righteous may enter."

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*  
and have become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the LORD's doing, \*  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 On this day the LORD has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

READING: *Colossians 3:1-4*

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

### The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

*The strife is o'er, the battle done*

H82 208

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Ped.* ↑

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -  
2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
\*3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es  
4 He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell, the bars from  
5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph  
 2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly  
 3 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our  
 4 heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his  
 5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

THE GOSPEL: *Matthew 28:1-10*

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE NICENE CREED

**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 worshipped 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

### *Intercessor*

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! At this the heavenly choirs of angels rejoice, the earth exults, and mother church is glad. Therefore I ask you, who praise the loving-kindness of almighty God, to join in prayer for all of God's people, and for all people everywhere according to their needs. That all may know the benefits of the paschal victory of Christ, we pray saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty and merciful God, we give you thanks for those who have come through the waters of rebirth into the promised land of your eternal kingdom. Guide all your baptized people who struggle to know and to do your will in the kingdoms of this world, that by their lives they may show forth the new life in Christ to all nations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for those who struggle for peace and justice in the world. Guide their efforts, that they may act with prudence and vision to plant the signs of your dominion in the earth.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for all who found healing in their encounter with the risen Christ. Give wholeness and peace to all those in need: the sick, the unloved and the forgotten, the poor and the hungry, the dying and the bereaved; and especially: Tim, Kathy, Amanda, Margi, Monica, Jeff, Jason, Kassandra, Maryann, Mary Lou, Mike, Val, Meredith H., Jon, Tom M., T.J., and those we name before you aloud and in our hearts.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for the abiding presence of your Son in word and sacrament. As we feast this Easter Day on the true bread from heaven, set our minds on things above, that we may gain a new perspective on the things that are on earth.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith, who now rest from their labors awaiting the resurrection to eternal life. May we, like them, remain faithful to the end and share in the fruits of the victory of Christ, the paschal lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant concludes*

Lord God, heed the prayers we lay before you; hasten the fulfillment of our new life in the resurrection of your Son; and grant that we your servants, now living by faith, may with joy behold our Savior at his coming in glorious majesty; through Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

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

## 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 and in the Narthex to make an online donation. We are grateful that you've chosen to share your gifts with us today.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Andrew King, Pianist*

### 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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### SANCTUS

*S129*



might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
 We proclaim his resurrection,  
 We await his coming in glory.**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite

us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Alban and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*The Celebrant then continues*

*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.**

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Then may be said Alleluia.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

#### THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Anyone of any age and tradition is invited to receive Holy Communion. 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. You may receive just the bread or both the bread and the wine.*

*Let the ministers know if you would like gluten-free bread. If you need the sacrament brought to you, please let someone know and we will be honored to bring it to you.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM *Instrumental*

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*Let us pray.*

**Almighty and ever living 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.**

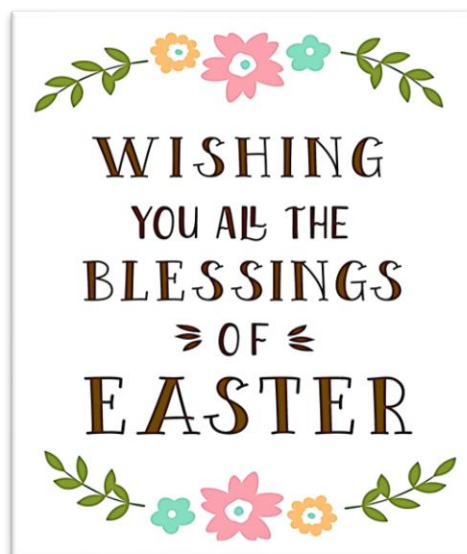
THE BLESSING

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**



*Descant*

3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin,

1 The day of re - sur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;  
 2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin,

the round world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.  
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of re - sur - rec - tion light;  
 the round world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

let all things seen and un - seen their notes to - geth - er blend,

From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,  
 and, lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear so calm and plain  
 let all things seen and un - seen their notes to - geth - er blend,

for Christ the Lord is ris - en, our joy that hath no end.  
 our Christ hath brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 his own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.  
 for Christ the Lord is ris - en, our joy that hath no end.

HALLELUJAH CHORUS *from "The Messiah" G.F. Handel*

*All are invited to sing along!*

|: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! :|

|: For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.  
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! :|

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.  
 |: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! :|

The kingdom of this world  
 Is become the kingdom of our Lord,  
 And of His Christ, and of His Christ;  
 And He shall reign for ever and ever,  
 For ever and ever, forever and ever,

King of kings, and Lord of lords,  
 |: King of kings, and Lord of lords, :|  
 And Lord of lords,  
 And He shall reign,  
 And He shall reign forever and ever,  
 King of kings, forever and ever,  
 And Lord of lords,  
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And He shall reign forever and ever,  
 |: King of kings! and Lord of lords! :|  
 And He shall reign forever and ever,  
 King of kings! and Lord of lords!  
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!



THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**