

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2026



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



Welcome to St. Alban's!

We're glad that you've chosen to be with us this morning! Your prayers and presence for today's worship are a gift to this community; and we invite you to journey with us at whatever point you find yourself on the path. 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) 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, 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 Enriching Our Worship and The Book of Common Prayer (BCP).
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!

Cover art: Michelangelo's Jeremiah in the Sistine Chapel, Vatican Palace, Vatican City; and the character Joy from the movie *Inside, Out*.

THE WORD OF GODPROCESSIONAL HYMN *standing or seated.* – *Surely it is God who saves me* – H679 – (See page 12)

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed by God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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 Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

READING: *Jeremiah 20:7-13*

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

O LORD, you have enticed me,

and I was enticed;

you have overpowered me,

and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughing-stock all day long;

everyone mocks me.

For whenever I speak, I must cry out,

I must shout, 'Violence and destruction!'

For the word of the LORD has become for me

a reproach and derision all day long.

If I say, 'I will not mention him,

or speak any more in his name',

then within me there is something like a burning fire

shut up in my bones;

I am weary with holding it in,

and I cannot.

For I hear many whispering:

'Terror is all around!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!

All my close friends

are watching for me to stumble.

'Perhaps he can be enticed,

and we can prevail against him,
and take our revenge on him.’
But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.
O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous,
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.
Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 69: 8-11, 18-20

Salvum me fac

- 8 Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach, *
and shame has covered my face.
9 I have become a stranger to my own kindred, *
an alien to my mother's children.
10 Zeal for your house has eaten me up; *
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.
11 I humbled myself with fasting, *
but that was turned to my reproach.
18 Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind; *
in your great compassion, turn to me.
19 Hide not your face from your servant; *
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.
20 Draw near to me and redeem me; *
because of my enemies deliver me.

READING: *Romans 5:20-6:11*

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also
grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN *Standing or seated.* – *I have decided to follow Jesus – LEVAS 14 (See page 13)*

THE GOSPEL: *Matthew 10:24-39*

The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—
a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.’

“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.”

The Gospel of our Savior.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Stephen Nagy, Rector

THE NICENE CREED

Standing or seated

**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

Intercessor

In Christ, God reveals to us steadfast love and invites us into mercy. With grateful hearts, let us respond in prayer, saying: O gracious God, hear our prayer.

That we and all men and women of faith, and especially the leaders of the church, may know when propriety and order are overruled by the Spirit and may see the outcast and

in insignificant as the true bearers of the word: O gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

For the capacity to endure the lashes of God's ruthless love, and for the patience to be conformed to the pattern of Christ's suffering, that we may know and proclaim the power of the resurrection: O gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

For the world's people in their brokenness and suffering, and for those who make peace and do justice, that they may be strong and courageous in the face of discouragement and opposition: O gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer, especially, Tim, Kathy, Amanda, Margi, Monica, Jeff, Jason, Kassandra, Maryann, Mary Lou, Val, Meredith H., Tom M., T.J., Gail and Chris Schultz, Gilbert III, Mike B. and family, Nick, and all we name silently or aloud; for the sick, for the lonely, for the hungry, for victims of political oppression, that mercy and compassion may transform their sorrow into joy: O gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

For the unemployed and for those demeaned or victimized by their work, that they may find new opportunities for joy and satisfaction: O gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

For all who have died, especially those whose witness has strengthened and encouraged us along the way: O gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant

God of steadfast love and mercy, hear our prayers, and receive the secret yearnings of our hearts. Grant our petitions in ways that are best for us and for those for whom we pray, and deepen within us an awareness of your mercy and a willingness to follow Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Standing, seated or kneeling

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

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 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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *instrumental*

*The gifts are lifted up at the table.
Then my be said:*

All things come from thee, Creator God.
And of thine own have we given thee.

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 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. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
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.**

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:*

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

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 HYMN *standing or seated.* – *Christ for the world we sing!* – H537 – (See page 14)

THE POST COMMUNION 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

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Will you come and follow me – The Summons (See page 15&16)

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Andrew King, Pianist

Thank you to our ministers today –

Musician: Andrew King

Usher: Julie Adams

Readers: Julie Adams, Bryan Adams, Mike Bailey

Acolyte: Jon Lynch

Tech: Geoff Mather

Altar Guild chair: Sharon Braden

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *standing or seated.*

Surely it is God who saves me

H82 679



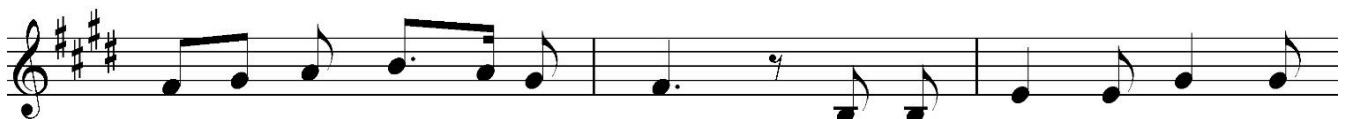
1 Sure - ly it is God— who saves me; trust-ing him, I shall not
2 Make his deeds— known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed



fear. For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing
Name. Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his



help is near. So re - jice as you draw wa - ter from sal -
might pro - claim. Zi-on, lift your voice in sing-ing; for with



va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the day of your de -
you has come to dwell, in your ve - ry midst, the



liv - erance thank the Lord, his mer - cies sing.
great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

1. I have de - cid - ed _____ to fol - low Je - sus, _____
 2. Though no one join me, _____ still I will fol - low, _____
 3. The world be - hind me, _____ the cross be - fore me, _____

1. _____ I have de - cid - ed _____ to fol - low Je - sus, _____
 2. _____ Though no one join me, _____ still I will fol - low, _____
 3. _____ The world be - hind me, _____ the cross be - fore me, _____

1. _____ I have de - cid - ed _____ to fol - low Je - sus, _____
 2. _____ Though no one join me, _____ still I will fol - low, _____
 3. _____ The world be - hind me, _____ the cross be - fore me, _____

_____ No turn - ing back, _____ no turn - ing back! _____
 (no turn - ing back,)

1 Christ for the world we sing! The world to
 2 Christ for the world we sing! The world to
 3 Christ for the world we sing! The world to
 4 Christ for the world we sing! The world to

Christ we bring with lov - ing zeal; the poor, and
 Christ we bring with fer - vent prayer; the way - ward
 Christ we bring with one ac - cord; with us the
 Christ we bring with joy - ful song; the new - born

them that mourn, the faint and o - ver - borne,
 and the lost, by rest - less pas - sions tossed,
 work to share, with us re - proach to dare,
 souls, whose days, re - claimed from er - ror's ways,

sin - sick and sor - row - worn, whom Christ doth heal.
 re - deemed at count - less cost from dark de - spair.
 with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.
 in - spired with hope and praise, to Christ be - long.

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

6 Csus C F C⁷ Dm

your name? Will you go where you don't know and
 your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and
 your name? Will you set the pris - oners free and
 your name? Will you quell the fear in - side and
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low you and

nev - er be the same? Will you let my love be
 nev - er be the same? Will you risk the hos - tile
 nev - er be the same? Will you kiss the lep - er
 nev - er be the same? Will you use the faith you've
 nev - er be the same. In your com - pa - ny I'll

19

B \flat Am⁷ B \flat Csus C

shown; will you let my name be known; will you
stare should your life at - tract or scare? Will you
clean, and do such as this un - seen, and ad -
found to re - shape the world a - round, through my
go where your love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll

20

let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
move and live and grow in you and you in me.