

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“SECOND” SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026



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



Welcome to St. Alban's!

Your prayers and presence today 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.

Worship

Everything you need to worship can be found in this bulletin and in your own heart. We may suggest traditional times when we sit or stand or kneel, and it's all optional. Please feel free to speak, sing and move in ways that draw you into joyful life with each other and God. If you need help finding the bathrooms, a changing table, or the water fountain, please ask an Usher.

Children

Children of all ages are welcome. Wiggles, noises, wandering, cries and conversation are the stuff of the Holy Spirit and enhance the joy of our time together. We also have special space where our children like to hang out. We call it the Playground and it's in the rear balcony. Please feel free to hang out there, or bring stuff to your seats.

Communion

Sharing in the bread and wine is the heart of our Sunday service. Please join in the feast (or just come forward for a blessing)! Ask if you would like gluten-free bread. If you want healing prayer, please see Pastor Stephen after the service.

Learning More

Ask one of us! And fill out a "Welcome" card, so we can stay in touch. They're on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary, or ask an usher. You can also visit our website or find us on Facebook. Please always feel free to contact Pastor Stephen if you have any questions or needs. See back page for all our contact info.

Donating

During our service today, Ushers will pass offering plates for your monetary gifts. On 2nd Sundays, the cash donations will go to the rector's discretionary fund, which is used to support urgent needs of parishioners and the wider community. We also invite your donations through our website (stalbanssimsbury.org, click "Donate").

Cover art: *Parable of the Sower* (1973), by JESUS MAFA. From *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by Mafa Christian communities in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

WELCOME

THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN *Standing or seated. This is the day (see additional verses below)* LEVAS 219

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made, that the

Lord hath made, we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be

glad in it, and be glad in it; This is the day that the

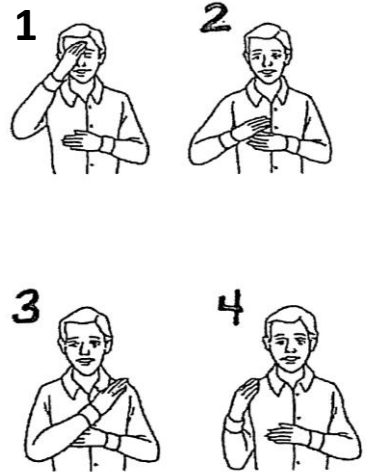
Lord hath — made, we will re-joice and be glad in — it;

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made.

- 2) This is the day, this is the day, that he rose again, that he rose again.
 We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it,
 This is the day that he rose again, we will rejoice and be glad in it;
 This is the day, this is the day that he rose again.
- 3) This is the day, this is the day, when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came.
 We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it;
 This is the day when the Spirit came, we will rejoice and be glad in it;
 This is the day, this is the day when the Spirit came.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

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



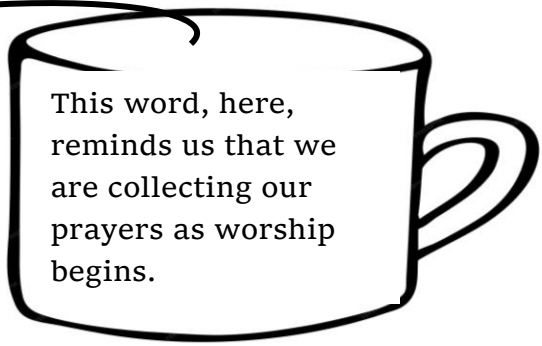
Do you see people making cross signs on their chests?
 You can too ---- Check out this dude!
 Look for the + symbol as we follow along in the
 bulletin for other places you might cross yourself!

GLORY TO GOD

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us. (3x)

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.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

A Reading from Isaiah (55:10-13)

As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.

Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.

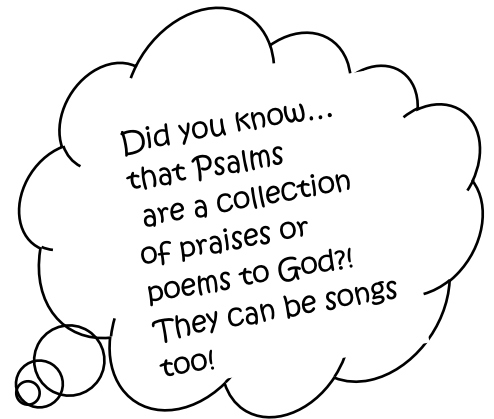
This will be for the LORD's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm (65:9-14)

- 9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; *
the river of God is full of water.
- 10 You prepare the grain, *
for so you provide for the earth.
- 11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.
- 12 You crown the year with your goodness, *
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- 13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *
and the hills be clothed with joy.
- 14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *
let them shout for joy and sing.





1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed up - on the ground,
 2 Let not our self - ish - ness and hate this ho - ly seed re - move,
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant des - troy,



now let the dew of heaven de - scend and right - eous fruits a - bound.
 but give it root in ev - ery heart to bring forth fruits of love.
 but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.

The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew (13:1-9,[10-17],18-23)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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

That same day Jesus left the house and went to the lakeside, where he sat down to teach. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it, while the crowd stood on the shore. He used parables to tell them many things.

“Once there was a man who went out to sow grain. As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some of it fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. The seeds soon sprouted, because the soil wasn't deep. But when the sun came up, it burned the young plants; and because the roots had not grown deep enough, the plants soon dried up. Some of the seed fell among thorn bushes, which grew up and choked the plants. But some seeds fell in good soil, and the plants bore grain: some had one hundred grains, others sixty, and others thirty.”

And Jesus concluded, “Listen, then, if you have ears!”

[Then the disciples came to Jesus and asked him, “Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?”]

Jesus answered, “The knowledge about the secrets of the Kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. For the person who has something will be given more, so that he will have more than enough; but the person who has nothing will have taken away from him even the little he has. The reason I use parables in talking to them is that they look, but do not see, and they listen, but do not hear or understand. So the prophecy of Isaiah applies to them:

*‘This people will listen and listen, but not understand;
 they will look and look, but not see,
 because their minds are dull,
 and they have stopped up their ears
 and have closed their eyes.
 Otherwise, their eyes would see,*

*their ears would hear,
their minds would understand,
and they would turn to me, says God,
and I would heal them.'*

“As for you, how fortunate you are! Your eyes see and your ears hear. I assure you that many prophets and many of God's people wanted very much to see what you see, but they could not, and to hear what you hear, but they did not.”

“Listen, then, and learn what the parable of the sower means. Those who hear the message about the Kingdom but do not understand it are like the seeds that fell along the path. The Evil One comes and snatches away what was sown in them. The seeds that fell on rocky ground stand for those who receive the message gladly as soon as they hear it. But it does not sink deep into them, and they don't last long. So when trouble or persecution comes because of the message, they give up at once. The seeds that fell among thorn bushes stand for those who hear the message; but the worries about this life and the love for riches choke the message, and they don't bear fruit. And the seeds sown in the good soil stand for those who hear the message and understand it: they bear fruit, some as much as one hundred, others sixty, and others thirty.”

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

SERMON

The Rev. Stephen Nagy, Rector

THE CHILDREN'S CREED

**We believe in God above.
We believe in Jesus' love.
We believe God's Spirit, too,
comes to teach us what to do.**

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; and 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 Bob, 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, Miriam, Christina, and anyone you 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.
(Please add your 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.
(Please add your 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.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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. On 2nd Sundays, cash plate donations will go to the rector's discretionary fund which is used to support urgent needs of parishioners and the wider community. Please place cash or checks in the Offering Plate; or use the QR code on the cards found in the rear of the Sanctuary, or in the Narthex to make an online donation. We are grateful that you've chosen to share your gifts with us today.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Standing or seated.** *Spirit of the Living God* LEVAS 115

Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me,

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me,"

Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me.

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me."

Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.

The third system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me."



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.

If you're having any trouble hearing  or seeing  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

**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.

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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be said:

God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.

Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

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*

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

FAREWELL PRAYER

Dear friends in Christ, we and Nick Mason have traveled together many years as fellow disciples of Jesus. Now his time with us is drawing to a close. And so we send him forth as he continues his journey of faithful love.

O Lord, we give thanks for Nick's time among us and for his contribution to our common life. Bless him as he goes forth. Be with those who leave and with us who stay. Grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask in the love of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING



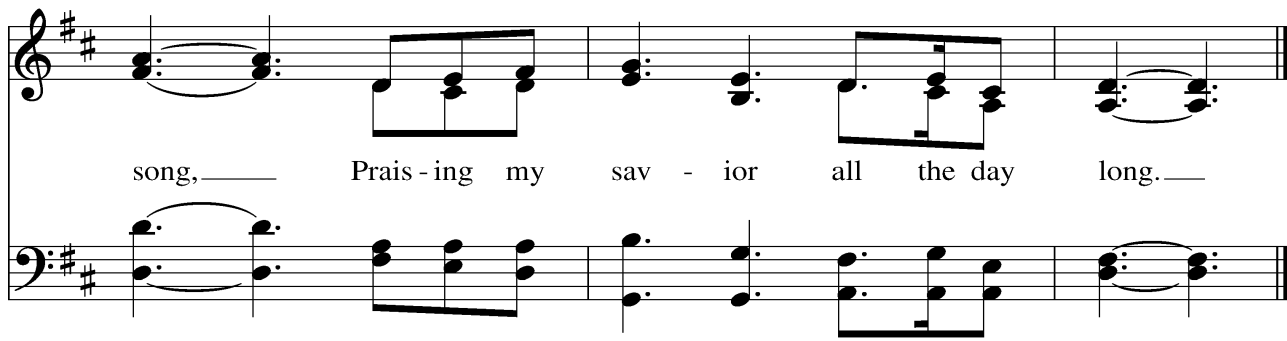
1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! — O what a
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, — Vi - sions of
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, — I in my

1. fore-taste of glo - ry di - vine! — Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
 2. rap - ture now burst on my sight; — An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
 3. sav - ior am hap - py and blest; — Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

1. God, — Born of His spir - it, washed in His blood. —
 2. bove — Ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love. —
 3. bove, — Filled with His good - ness, lost in His love. —

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, — Prais - ing my

sav - ior all the day long; — This is my sto - ry, this is my



THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Peg Hunt, Pianist

Thank you to our ministers today –

Musician: Peg Hunt

Usher: Jim Lewis

Readers: Ann Hall, Jeannie Crabtree

Altar Guild chair: Sharon Braden

Acolyte: Jon Lynch, Wesley Reidel

Tech: Bryan Adams

Intercessor: Judy Duncan

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POST ON THE REFRIGERATOR

Announcements for July 12, 2026

Welcome to St. Alban's! – We're so glad you joined us for worship! Join us in the Parish Hall after worship for our farewell party for Nick.

TODAY:

- † Is Second Sunday, worship for everyone, with young ones in mind!
- † We offer a blessing to any who have a birthday or anniversary this month.
- † Bible Study resumes today after Nick's farewell time.

Welcome Ministry opportunities:

Coffee hour: In our announcement last Sunday, we neglected to mention **Sharon Braden**, who every Sunday sets up the Keurig coffee makers, K-cups, sugar, tea bags, etc. on the shelf in the Parish Hall. Interested in helping in the kitchen or bringing something to share? Please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. There are openings for July 26th and August 2nd. Thank you!

Please reach out to:

- Julie Adams (860-839-0034; JOlsonRun@gmail.com) or
- Diane Mather (860-874-6107; dmather13@me.com)

Ushers: Please see Pastor Stephen if you'd like to help greet folks.

Bible Study: Come explore **The Letter to the Ephesians - RESUMES TODAY!**

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:4-6)

Addressed to a growing church in Asia Minor, Paul's letter shares the Good News of Jesus Christ as it was evolving in the early years of Christianity. We'll discuss topics like:

- What is the Cosmic Christ?
- What is the Body of Christ – the original E Pluribus Unum?
- Who or what is the enemy?
- And the ever popular: How do we live together?

Grab a snack and cup of coffee and join us in the library after Sunday worship!

Feed A Friend (People & Pets): The list of most needed items has changed. Please take an updated list from the holder above the Feed a Friend wagon in the Narthex. Thank you for donating!

St. Alban's Book Group – is on summer break. Meetings will resume in September. We welcome new members! For more information, contact Diane Mather (dmather13@me.com, 860-874-6107) or find her at Fellowship Hour in the Parish Hall after the service. She's there most Sundays.

As We Pray Together Today and as you offer your personal prayers throughout the week, please include the following people who we have been asked to pray for: Kathy M., Charlotte, Tom, Chris, Tim, Kathy, Amanda, Margi, Monica, Jeff, Jason, Julie, Kassandra, Maryann, Mary Lou, Val, Jace, Meredith H., Jon, Tom M., T.J., Gilbert III, Mike B. and family, Nick, Bob, Miriam and Christina. If you would like prayers for yourself or for someone else, please add their name to the "Intercessory Prayer" sheet located at the front of the Sanctuary; or, email the Parish Office (office@stalbanssimsbury.org).

Prayer list clean-up: If you wish to keep any of the above names on our prayer list, please call or email the Parish Office by July 30. If we don't hear from you, we will remove the intended. Thank you.

Week of July 13 – July 19
<i>Tuesday, July 14</i> Church office open, 11am – 1pm
<i>Thursday, July 16</i> Church office open, 11am – 1pm
<i>Sunday, July 19</i> Holy Eucharist, 10am Bible Study, after worship

