

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026



-OR-?



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 Prayground 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").

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 \(BCP\)](#) 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!

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Andrew King, Pianist

OPENING HYMN *standing or seated.* – *Love divine, all loves excelling* – H82 657– (See page12)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. *Psalm 19:14*

THE CONFESSION OF SIN *Standing, seated or kneeling**

The Officiant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and people

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name.
Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

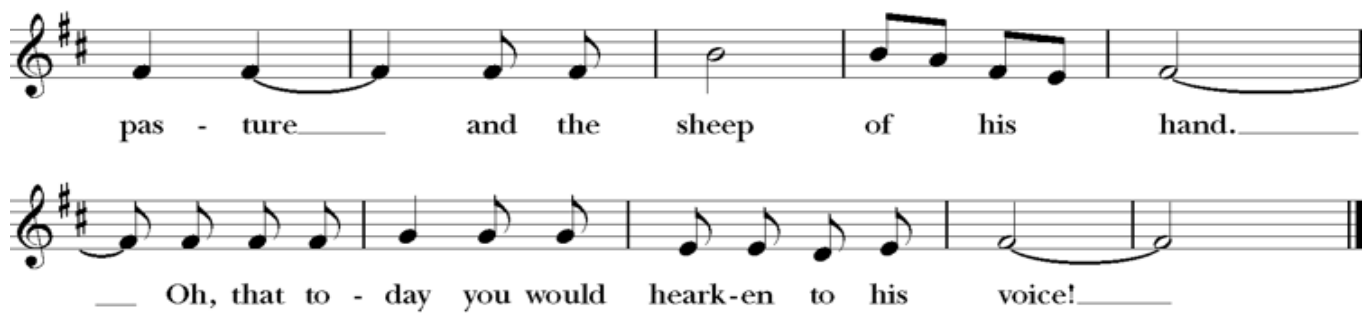
Officiant Lord, open our lips.
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting: **Come let us adore him.**

1. Come, let us sing to the
 Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal -
 va - tion. 2. Let us come be - fore his pres - ence with thanks - giv - ing —
 — and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. 3. For the
 Lord is a great God, — and a great King a - bove all
 gods. 4. In his hand are the cav - erns of the earth, —
 — and the heights of the hills are his al - so. 5. The
 sea is his, for he made it, — and his hands have
 mold - ed the dry land. 6. Come, let us bow down, and bend the
 knee, — and kneel be - fore the Lord our Ma - ker. 7. For
 he is our God, — and we are the peo - ple of his



PSALM 145:8-15

Exaltabo te, Deus

- 8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 The LORD is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.
- 10 All your works praise you, O LORD, *
and your faithful servants bless you.
- 11 They make known the glory of your kingdom *
and speak of your power;
- 12 That the peoples may know of your power *
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; *
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
- 14 The LORD is faithful in all his words *
and merciful in all his deeds.
- 15 The LORD upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

READING: *Zechariah 9:9-12*

A reading from the book of the Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Here ends the Lesson.

CANTICLE 16: The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus*
Luke 1: 68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

READING: *Romans 7:15-25a*

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I _____
do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who

do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Here ends the Lesson.

CANTICLE 12: *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*
Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

READING: *Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Here ends the Lesson.

HOMILY

Steve McGrath

THE APOSTLES’ CREED *standing or seated.*

Officiant and People

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

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.

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. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,**

thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

SUFFRAGES A *V* = *versicle* (Officiant); *R* = *response* (People)

- V.* Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. **And grant us your salvation.**
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR SUNDAYS

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this day, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; especially for Bob, Tim, Kathy, Amanda, Margi, Monica, Jeff, Jason, Kassandra, Maryann, Mary Lou, Miriam, Val, Meredith H.,

Tom M., T.J., Gail and Chris Schultz, Gilbert III, Mike B. and family, Nick, and all those we name silently or aloud. *(At this time, we invite your intercessions and thanksgivings silently or out loud.)* All for thy love's sake. **Amen.**

A THANKSGIVING FOR THE NATION *(Book of Common Prayer, p.838)*

Almighty God, giver of all good things:
We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land.
They restore us, though we often destroy them.
Heal us.

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They
make us rich, though we often exploit them.
Forgive us.

We thank you for the men and women who have made this
country strong. They are models for us, though we often fall
short of them.
Inspire us.

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in
this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we
have often hidden from its light.
Enlighten us.

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich
variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless
again and again.
Renew us.

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun.
Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice,
and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when
all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will
glorify your holy Name. **Amen.**

Officiant

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY HYMN *standing or seated.* – *Just as I am, vs. 1 & 2 – LEVAS 137– (See page 13)*

A GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Officiant and People

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Officiant and People

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *standing or seated.* – *O beautiful for spacious skies* – H82 719– (See page14)

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Officiant

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** (*2 Corinthians 13:14*)

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - mighty to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea, But
 2. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With
 3. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight
 4. Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive; Wilt
 5. Just as I am, thy love un - known Has
 6. Just as I am, of thy great love The

1. that thy blood was shed for me,
 2. ma - ny-a con - flict, ma - ny-a doubt;
 3. rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,
 4. wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve,
 5. bro - ken ev - ery bar - rier down;
 6. breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,

1. And that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O
 2. Fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out, O
 3. Yea, all I need in thee to find, O
 4. Be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve, O
 5. Now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone, O
 6. Here for a sea - son, then a - bove: O

Lamb of God, I come, I come.

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
 3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain ma - jes - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!
 who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!
 thine al - a - bas - ter ci - ties gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,

and crown thy good with bro - ther - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.
 and crown thy good with bro - ther - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

POST ON THE REFRIGERATOR

Announcements for July 5, 2026

Welcome to St. Alban's! We're so glad you joined us for worship! Join us in the Parish Hall after worship for coffee hour where we'll enjoy fellowship and refreshments.

Welcome Ministry opportunities:

Coffee hour: Please reach out to

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

Ushers/welcome ministers: If you are an usher or thinking of helping out, please join us on July 12 at 9:15 AM (before the service). Reach out to pastor Stephen if you have any questions.

Bible Study: Come explore **The Letter to the Ephesians - BIBLE STUDY RESUMES JULY 12!**

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 church is always open; drop of donations at your convenience! Please check with Diane Mather on current needs and to make cash contributions. Please make checks payable to the Simsbury Food Pantry.

St. Alban's Book Group is on summer break.

As We Pray Together Today and as you offer your prayers throughout the week, please include the following who we have been asked to pray for: Bob, Tim, Kathy, Amanda, Margi, Monica, Jeff, Jason, Cassandra, Maryann, Mary Lou, Miriam, Val, Meredith H., Tom M., T.J., Gail and Chris Schultz, Gilbert III, Mike B. and family, Nick. 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. Thanks.

Week of July 6 - July 12
<u>Tuesday, July 7</u> Church office open, 11am – 1pm
<u>Thursday, July 9</u> Church office open, 11am – 1pm
<u>Sunday, July 12</u> Holy Eucharist, 10am Bible Study Resumes

