

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026



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 feel 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 follow 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: *Domine, quo vadis?* Annibale Carracci, c.1601-02

Peter is depicted fleeing Rome to avoid crucifixion and has a vision of meeting Christ bearing his Cross. Peter asks Jesus "Domine, quo vadis?" "Lord, where are you going?" to which Jesus replies, "Romam vado iterum crucifigi" ("I am going to Rome to be crucified again"). Peter returns to Rome to face his martyrdom. The story is told in a popular Medieval work *The Golden Legend - Lives of the Saints*.

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn

Standin' in the Need of Prayer

LEVAS II 177

It's me, it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer;—

— It's me, it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer. **Fine**

1. Not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's me, O Lord,
 2. Not the preach - er, not the dea - con, but it's me, O Lord,
 3. Not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's me, O Lord,
 4. Not the stran - ger, not my neigh - bor, but it's me, O Lord,

1. Stand-in' in the need of prayer, Not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's
 2. Stand-in' in the need of prayer, Not the preach - er, not the dea - con, but it's
 3. Stand-in' in the need of prayer, Not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's
 4. Stand-in' in the need of prayer, Not the stran - ger, not my neigh - bor, but it's

1. me, O Lord, Stand - in' in the need of prayer.
 2. me, O Lord, Stand - in' in the need of prayer.
 3. me, O Lord, Stand - in' in the need of prayer.
 4. me, O Lord, Stand - in' in the need of prayer. **D.C.**

Words: Traditional

Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Hollywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*, ©1992.

Opening Prayer

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

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

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

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah (15:15-21)

LORD, you understand;
remember me and care for me.

Avenge me on my persecutors.

You are long-suffering—do not take me away;
think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

When your words came, I ate them;
they were my joy and my heart's delight,
for I bear your name,
LORD God Almighty.
I never sat in the company of revelers,
never made merry with them;
I sat alone because your hand was on me
and you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unending
and my wound grievous and incurable?
You are to me like a deceptive brook,
like a spring that fails.

Therefore this is what the LORD says:

“If you repent, I will restore you
that you may serve me;
if you utter worthy, not worthless, words,
you will be my spokesman.
Let this people turn to you,
but you must not turn to them.
I will make you a wall to this people,
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you
but will not overcome you,
for I am with you
to rescue and save you,”
declares the LORD.
“I will save you from the hands of the wicked
and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 26:1-8

- 1 Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; *
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
- 2 Test me, O LORD, and try me; *
examine my heart and my mind.
- 3 For your love is before my eyes; *
I have walked faithfully with you.
- 4 I have not sat with the worthless, *
nor do I consort with the deceitful.
- 5 I have hated the company of evildoers; *
I will not sit down with the wicked.
- 6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, *
that I may go in procession round your altar,

- 7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving *
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
- 8 LORD, I love the house in which you dwell *
and the place where your glory abides.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans (12:9-21)

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

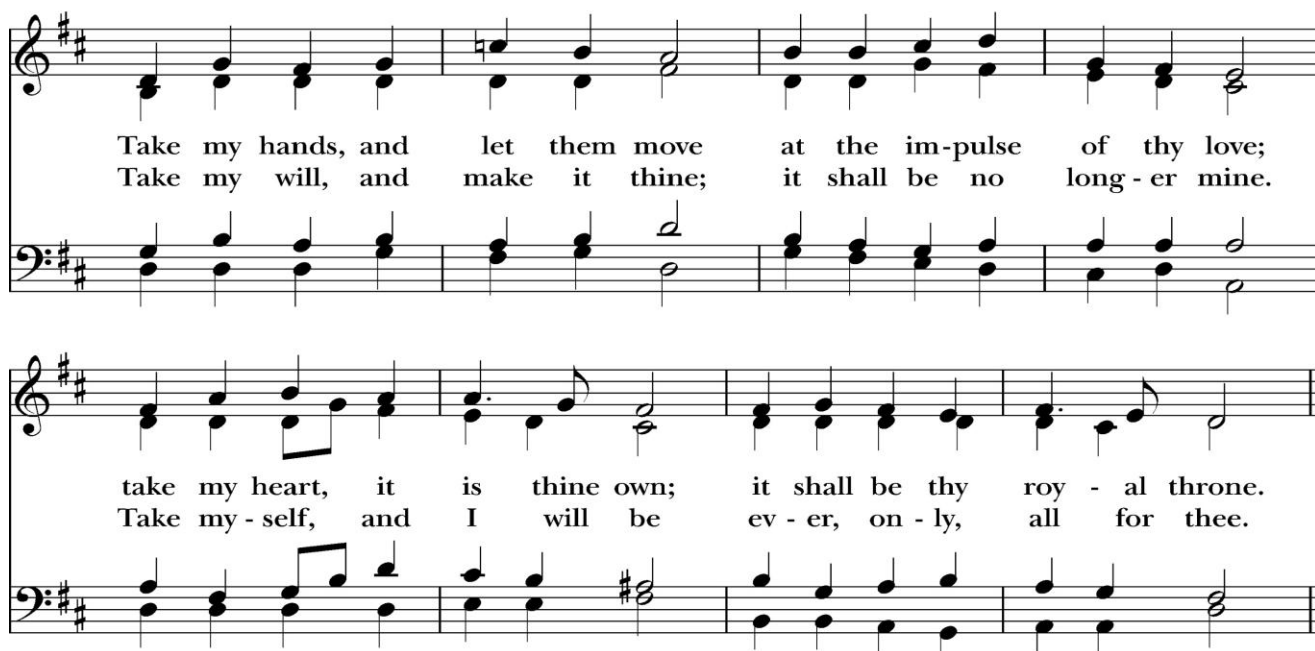
Take my life and let it be

H82 707

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the Treble staff, with the Bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;

take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.



Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879), alt.
Music: *Hollingside*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew (16:21-28)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

The Gospel of our Savior.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Stephen Nagy, Rector

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 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

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."
For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of
all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the
Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this town, village, city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the
Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the
Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us
pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, and for whom our prayers have been requested, especially Bob, Chris, Kathy, Margi, Mary Lou, Meredith H., Miriam, Tom M., T.J., Gilbert III, Christina, Amanda, Christena and family, Mary, Mary Ann A., Ronnie, and all those we name silently or aloud; for the dying victims of incurable disease, for those changed by depressions, fear, and addiction, and for those who minister to them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. We pray especially for Andrew Mason.

Lord, have mercy

In the communion of Alban and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Love & Mercy

words and music by Brian Wilson

I was sittin' in a crummy movie
With my hands on my chin
All the violence that occurs
Seems like we never win

Love and mercy, that's what you need tonight
So love and mercy to you and your friends tonight

I was lying in my room
And the news came on TV
A lotta people out there hurtin'
And it really scares me

Love and mercy, that's what you need tonight
Love and mercy to you and your friends tonight

I was standing in a bar
And watching all the people there
Oh, the loneliness in this world
Well it's just not fair

Hey, love and mercy, that's what we need tonight

So love and mercy to you and your friends tonight
Love and mercy, that's what you need tonight
Love and mercy tonight
Love and mercy tonight

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 generosity of our congregation and community. We welcome your donation of cash or checks in the offering plate; or use the QR code on the cards available from an usher.
We are grateful that you've chosen to share your gifts with us today.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn

What wondrous love is this

H82 439



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll



caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Words: American folk hymn, ca.1835

Music: *Wondrous Love*, from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835

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

All things come from thee, O Lord.

And of thine own have we given thee.

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._____

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,

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

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

*You are invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion.
No one who comes to the altar with outstretched hands will be turned away.*

Stand or kneel in a semi-circle around the holy table in whatever way is comfortable for you. The sacrament is offered as bread (ask for gluten free) and/or wine. If you need the sacrament brought to you, please let us know and we will be honored to do so.

To receive a blessing instead, let us know by crossing your arms over your chest.

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

Take up your cross

H82 675



1	Take	up	your	cross,	the	Sa - vior	said,	if
2	Take	up	your	cross,	let	not	its	weight
3	Take	up	your	cross,	heed	not	the	shame,
4	Take	up	your	cross,	then,	in	his	strength,
5	Take	up	your	cross,	and	fol - low	Christ,	nor



1	you	would	my	dis -	ci - ple	be;	take	up	your	cross	with
2	your	weak	spi -	rit	with	a -	larm;	his	strength	shall	bear
3	let	your	fool -	ish	heart	be	still;	the	Lord	for	you
4	calm -	ly	ev -	ery	dan -	ger	brave;	it	guides	you	to
5	think	till	death	to	lay	it	down;	for	on -	ly	those



1	will -	ing	heart,	and	hum -	bly	fol -	low	af -	ter	me.
2	spi -	rit	up,	and	brace	your	heart,	and	nerve	your	arm.
3	cept -	ed	death	up -	on	a	cross,	on	Cal -	vary's	hill.
4	bun -	dant	life	and	leads	to	vic -	tory	o'er	the	grave.
5	bear	the	cross	may	hope	to	wear	the	glo -	rious	crown.

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: Mike Bailey, Julie Adams, Jon Lynch

Acolyte: Jeannie Crabtree

Tech: Meredith Jacob

Altar Guild chair: Sharon Braden