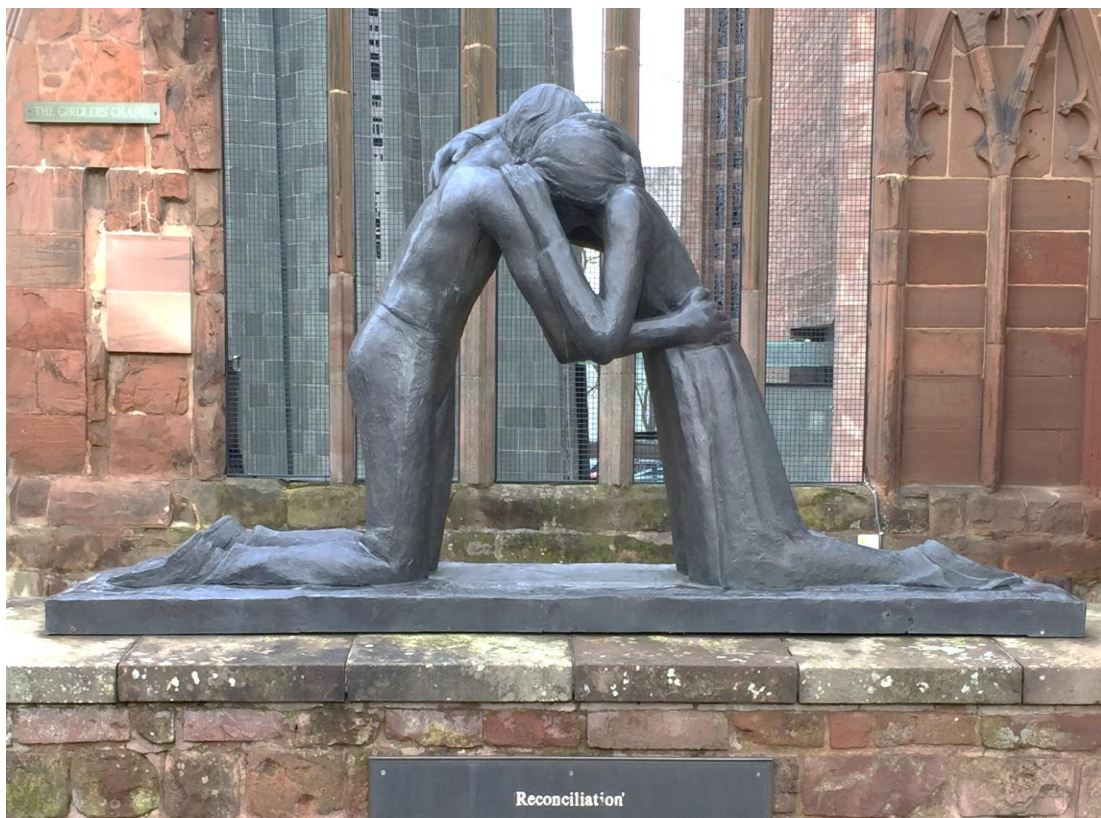


FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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 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

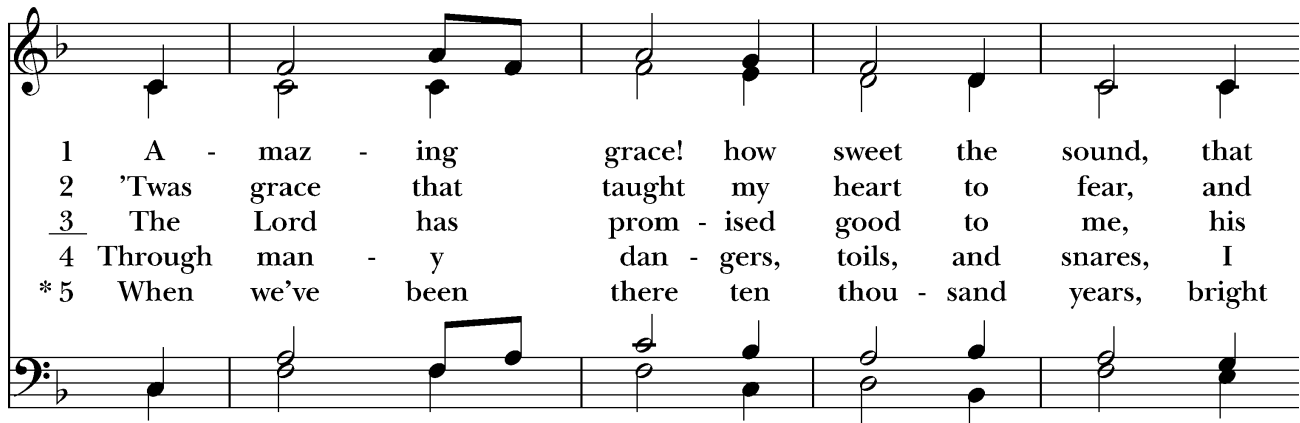
During our service today, Ushers will pass offering plates for your monetary gifts. On 2nd Sundays, the cash donations will go to the rector's discretionary fund, which is used to support urgent needs of parishioners and the wider community. We also invite your donations through our website (stalbanssimsbury.org,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

THE WORD OF GOD

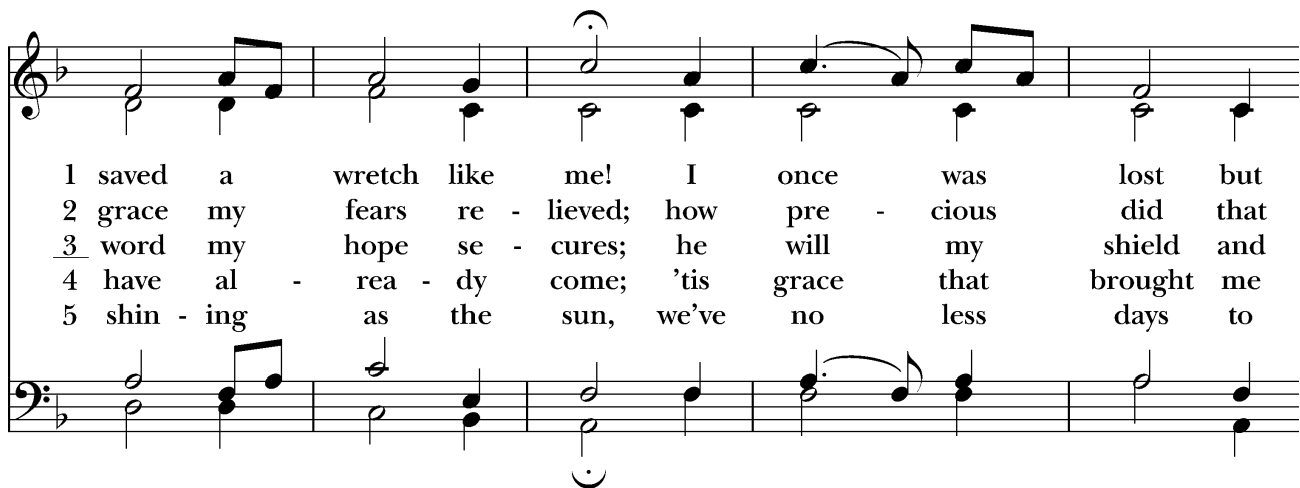
Hymn

Amazing Grace

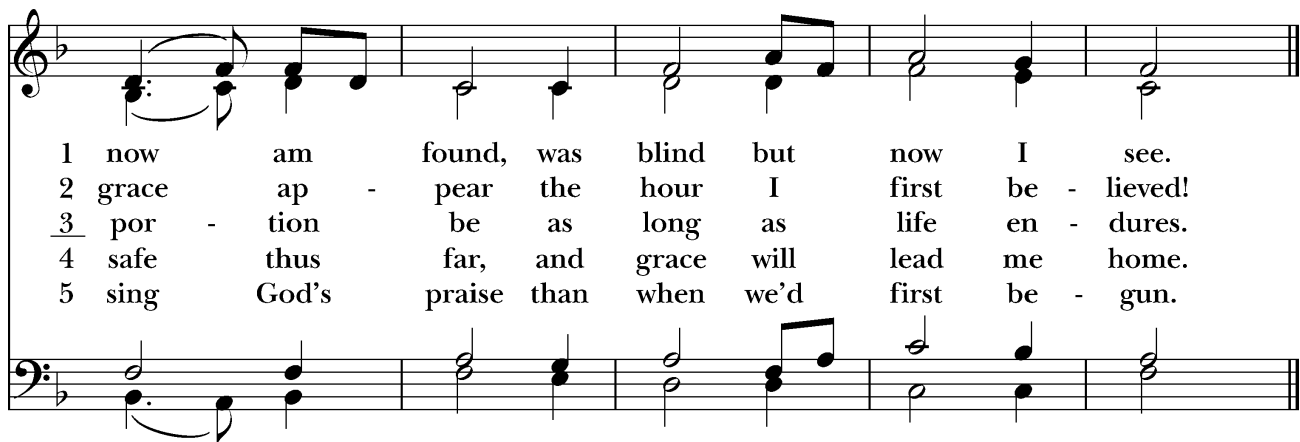
H82 671



1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 *5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, John Rees (19th cent.)

Music: New Britain, from Virginia Harmony, 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919)

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

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 - might - y 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.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Ezekiel (33:7-11)

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

“Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’ Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:33-40

- 33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.
- 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.
- 35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.
- 36 Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.
- 38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.
- 39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans (13:8-14)

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Jesu, Jesu

LEVAS II 74

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh - bors we have from you. **Fine**

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
2. Neigh - bors are rich and poor, neigh - bors are black and
3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we are
5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

D.C.

1. feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 2. white, neigh - bors are near and far a - way.
 3. love; all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
 4. slaves, this is the way we should live with you.
 5. feet, this is the way we should live with you.

Words: John 13:1-17; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1969

Music: Ghana Folk Song; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1969; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988. © 1969 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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 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.

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.

The Confession of Sin

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 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

Lord Jesus think on me

H82 641

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, with care and woe op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is passed,
from harm - ful pas - sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.
let me thy lov - ing ser - vant be, and taste thy prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point thou the heaven - ly way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see, and share thy joy at last.

Words: Synesius of Cyrene (375?-414?); tr. Allen William Chatfield (1808-1896), alt.
Music: *Southwell*, from *Daman's Psalter*, 1579; adapt.

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.

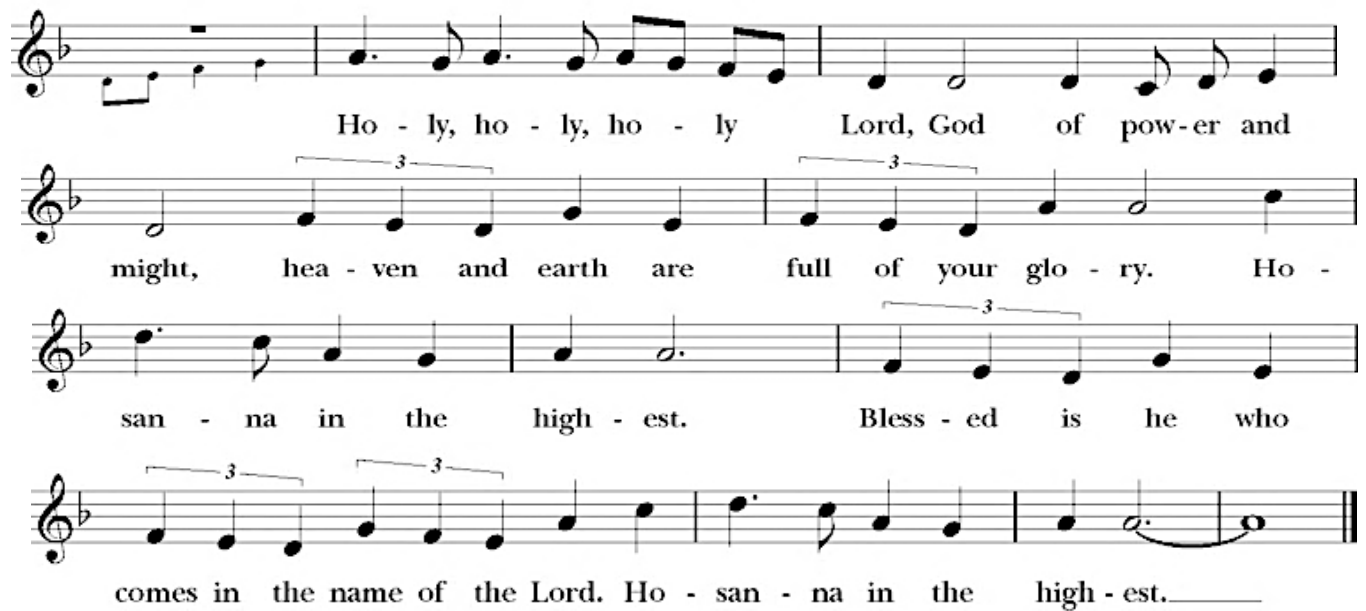
Lift up your hearts.

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:



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.

Communion Hymn

Ubi caritas

WLP 831

Descant

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

A

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

B

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i ³ - bi est.
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

Translation: Where true charity and love abide, God is there.

Words: Latin, 8th c., tr. Malcolm Naea Chun

Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) © Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

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

You will eat the fruit
 of your labor;
 blessings and
 prosperity will be
 yours.

iBelieve ...Psalm 128:2



Recessional Hymn

If I had a hammer

Chords: C, Em, F, G, C, G, F, G, C, Em

If I had a ham-mer, I'd ham-mer in the morn - ing, I'd ham-mer in the eve - ning

Chords: F, G, G7, C, Am

All o - ver this land. I'd ham-mer out dan - ger, I'd ham-mer out warn - ing,

Chords: G, F, C, F, C, F, C

I'd ham-mer out love be - tween my broth - ers and my sis - ters All,

Chords: G, C, Em, F, C, F, C

all o - ver this land. land.

2. If I had a bell, I'd ring it in the morning, I'd ring it in the evening all over this land;
I'd ring out danger, I'd ring out warning,
I'd ring out love between
my brothers and my sisters
All over this land. Oooo.
3. If I had a song, I'd sing it in the morning, I'd sing it in the evening all over this land;
I'd sing out danger, I'd sing out warning,
I'd sing out love between
my brothers and my sisters
All over this land. Oooo.
4. Well, I got a hammer and I got a bell,
And I got a song to sing all over this land.
It's the hammer of justice, it's the bell of freedom
It's the song about love between
my brothers and my sisters
All over this land. Oooo.

Words and Music by Lee Hays and Pete Seeger TRO, © 1958 & 1962 Ludlow Music, Inc., New York, NY.

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: Bryan Adams
Readers: Kathleen Canzano, Ann Hall, Eleanor Terrell
Acolyte: Kathleen Canzano
Tech: Judy Duncan
Altar Guild chair: Sharon Braden

+++++

POST ON THE REFRIGERATOR

Announcements for September 6, 2026

Welcome to St. Alban's! – We're so glad you joined us for worship! Join us in the Parish Hall after worship for refreshments and fellowship!

Bible Study: For our next bible study series, we've agreed to look into the Hebrew Scriptures. Let Pastor Stephen know if you have a favorite part of the Old Testament – either one of the shorter books, or a portion of a larger one. **Stay tuned!**

Coffee hour: 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. **Thank you** to those who have already signed up! Please reach out to:

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

Feed A Friend (People & Pets): Drop off your donations any time at the Feed a Friend wagon in the Narthex. There's also a "most needed" shopping list there. Cash contributions can be given to Diane Mather (see above) or place checks payable to the *Simsbury Food Pantry* in the offering plate. **Canned cat food and canned or dry dog food are always needed. Donations will be blessed Sunday, September 13th. Thank you for donating!**

St. Alban's Book Group: will resume meeting Tuesday September 8th. Our first book is *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon, a work of historical fiction based on a real-life murder mystery in 18th-century Maine. **We welcome new members!** Please contact Diane Mather (see above) for more info.

As We Pray Together Today: This week, please include the following people we have been asked to pray for: Chris, Kathy, Margi, Mary Lou, Meredith H., Miriam, Tom M., T.J., Gilbert III, Christina, Amanda, Christena and family, Mary, Mary Ann A., Ronnie. If you would like prayers for yourself or for someone else, please contact Pastor Stephen (see below) or the Parish Office (office@stalbanssimsbury.org).

What are your favorite songs?

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:19)

Sing to the LORD a new song. (Psalm 149:1)

How do you praise God? Share your favorite music with Pastor Stephen, Andrew or Peg. Help us spread the joy!

Save the Date.....



RSVP Sign-up Sheet
on the table in the Narthex!

Week of September 7 - September 13

Tuesday - September 8

Church office open, 11am – 1pm

Book Group - 1:30pm

Thursday - September 10

Church office open, 11am - 1pm

Sunday, September 13

Holy Eucharist, 10am

You can always reach Pastor Stephen
at 203-710-1306 or
revsrnagy@stalbanssimsbury.org