

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — MORNING PRAYER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 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.

On Second Sundays, we take an even less formal approach, with a special eye toward welcoming all who may be exploring what God is up to here. Enjoy!

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 this 2nd Sunday, 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: **The Red Vineyard / Red Vineyard at Arles (Montmajour)**, Painted by **Vincent Van Gogh (1853–1890)**, Painted in Arles on 4 November 1888, Oil on canvas © Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow.

Welcome

Prelude

Peg Hunt, Pianist

Hymn

Give praise and glory to the Lord

H82 375

Unison or harmony



1 Give praise and glo - ry un - to God, the Fa - ther of all bless - ing;
2 The host of hea - ven prais - eth thee, O Lord of all do - min - ions;
3 What God hath wrought to show his power he ev - er - more sus - tain - eth;

his might - y won - ders tell a - broad, his gra - cious - ness con -
and mor - tals then, on land and sea, be - neath thy sha - dowing
he watch - es o'er us ev - ery hour, his mer - cy nev - er

fess - ing. With balm my in - most heart he fills, his
pin - ions, ex - ult in thy cre - a - tive might that
wan - eth. Through all his king - dom's wide do - main, his

com - fort all my an - guish stills. To God be praise and glo - ry.
do - eth all things well and right. To God be praise and glo - ry.
right - eous - ness and jus - tice reign. To God be praise and glo - ry.

The Officiant says

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2

The Confession of Sin

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 earth is the Lord's, for he made it: **Come let us adore him.**

Jubilate (Psalm 100)

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;*
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: the Lord himself is God; ***

he himself has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Names.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Psalms 145:1-8

- 1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- 2 Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.
- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- 8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

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.

A Reading from the book of Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a

booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Here ends the Lesson.

Canticle 10: The Second Song of Isaiah *Quaerite Dominum*
Isaiah 55:6-11

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways *
and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, *
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.

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.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Here ends the Lesson.

Canticle 9: *Ecce, Deus*

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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.

The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew (20:1-16)

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw

others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Here ends the Lesson.

Homily

Jon Lynch

The Apostles' Creed

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 B *V = versicle (Officiant); R = response (People)*

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.
V. Day by day we bless you;
R. We praise your name for ever.
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
R. For we put our trust in you.
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Collect of the Day

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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 Peace

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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 Chris, Kathy, Margi, Mary Lou, Meredith H., Miriam, Tom M., T.J., Gilbert III, Christina, Amanda, Christena and family, Mary, Robert, Jane, Brad, Bob B., and anyone we name now silently or aloud. *(At this time, we invite your intercessions and thanksgivings silently or out loud.)* All for thy love's sake. **Amen.**

Officiant

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Announcements

Offertory Anthem

Instrumental

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.

Hymn *Standing or seated.*

O Master, let me walk with thee

H82 660

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a focus on the lyrics. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line and a treble line with chords. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me thy pa - tience; still with thee in clos - er,
4 in hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice free; tell me thy se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - ening way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
thou canst give, with thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

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 Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Postlude

Peg Hunt, Pianist