

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SECOND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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 (that's today!), 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").

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn

*Let us build a house/ All are welcome**Author: Marty Haugen*

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be -
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their

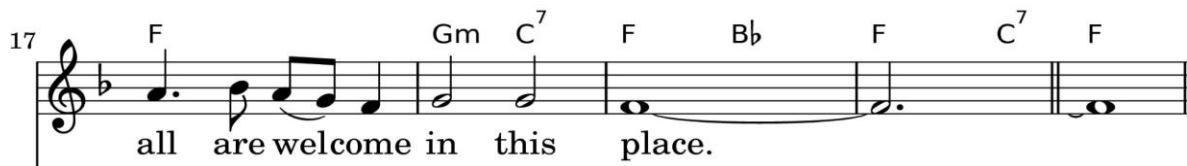
all can safe - ly live, a place where saints and
 words are strong and true, where all God's chil - dren
 wa - ter, wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone to heal and strength-en,
 songs and vi - sions heard and loved and trea-sured,

chil - dren tell how hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek to dream God's reign a -
 ho - ly ground where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, and live the Word they've
 taught and claimed as words with - in the

give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi-sions, rock of
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit-ness and as
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus, is re-
 known. Here the out - cast and the strang-er bear the
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh-ter, prayers of

faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall
 sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we claim the
 vealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the
 im - age of God's face; let us bring an end to
 faith and songs of grace; let this house pro-claim from

end di - vi - sions:
 faith of Je - sus:
 feast that frees us: all are wel-come; all are wel-come;
 fear and dan - ger:
 floor to raf - ter:



Opening Prayer

+ 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!



Song of Praise *sung 2x*

This is the day

LEVAS 219

This is the day, this is the day
 That the Lord hath made, that the Lord hath made,
 We will rejoice, we will rejoice
 and be glad in it, and be glad in it;

This is the day that the Lord hath made,
 we will rejoice and be glad in it;
 This is the day, this is the day
 that the Lord hath made.

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

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; 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 Philippians (4:1-9)

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work

of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Hymn

The King of love my shepherd is

H82 645



1	The	King	of	love	my	shep-herd	is,	whose	good-ness
2	Where	streams	of	liv-ing	wa-ter	flow,	my	ran-somed	
* 3	Per-verse	and	fool-ish	oft	I	strayed,	but	yet	in
* 4	In	death's	dark	vale	I	fear	no	ill	with
5	Thou	spread'st	a	ta-ble	in	my	sight;	thy	unc-tion
6	And	so	through	all	the	length	of	days	thy
									good-ness



1	fail-eth	nev-	er;	I	noth-ing	lack	if
2	soul	he	lead-	eth,	and	where	the
3	love	he	sought	me,	and	on	his
4	Lord,	be-	side	me;	thy	rod	and
5	grace	be-	stow-	eth;	and	oh,	what
6	fail-eth	nev-	er:	Good	Shep-herd,	may	I



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev - er.
2 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
3 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
4 com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.
5 of de - light from thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!
6 sing thy praise with - in thy house for ev - er.

Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877); para. Psalm 23

The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew (22:1-14)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Stephen Nagy, Rector

Reflection on Stewardship

Ann Hall and Jim Lewis, Vestry Members

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

Celebrant

Jesus said, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." Trusting in God's abundance and welcome, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all creation.

Leader

Gracious God, you have made plenty good room for us in your household. Inspire your church to be a place of welcome, generosity, and love. We thank you for the resources you have entrusted to us, and we pray for wisdom to use them in service of your mission.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of community, you bind us together in relationships of care and compassion. Strengthen the bonds within this congregation, and guide us to extend hospitality to our neighbors near and far.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of abundance, you invite us to respond with gratitude for all your gifts. Bless this stewardship campaign, that our pledges of time, talent, and treasure may be faithful signs of our trust in you.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of creation, you have made a world with plenty good room for all living things. Teach us to care for the earth and to share its resources with justice and joy.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of mercy, your dwelling place has room for all who suffer. Be present with those who are sick, lonely, grieving, or in any kind of need Kathy, Mary Lou, Meredith H., Tom M., T.J., Gilbert III, Christina, Amanda, Christena and family, Mary, Robert, Jane, Brad, Bob B., David, Larry, Benjamin, and all those we name silently or aloud. Surround them with your healing and your peace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of hope, you prepare a place for us in your eternal home. We remember before you those who have died, confident that they now rest in your embrace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Celebrant

Loving God, you call us into your abundant life and promise that there is plenty good room for all your children. Hear our prayers and accept the offerings of our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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 Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Break thou the bread of life

LEVAS II 146

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 2/2 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, each corresponding to a different verse of the hymn. The first line of lyrics is: '1. Break thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me, 2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, To me, to me, 3. Teach me to live, dear Lord, On - ly for thee,'. The second line of lyrics is: '1. As thou didst break the loaves Be - side the sea; 2. As thou didst bless the bread By Gal - i - lee; 3. As thy dis - ci - ples lived in Gal - i - lee;'. The third line of lyrics is: '1. As thou didst break the loaves Be - side the sea; 2. As thou didst bless the bread By Gal - i - lee; 3. As thy dis - ci - ples lived in Gal - i - lee;'. The musical notation includes treble and bass staves with various note values (half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes) and rests. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding musical staves.

1. Break thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me,
2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, To me, to me,
3. Teach me to live, dear Lord, On - ly for thee,

1. As thou didst break the loaves Be - side the sea;
2. As thou didst bless the bread By Gal - i - lee;
3. As thy dis - ci - ples lived in Gal - i - lee;

1. Be - yond the sa - cred page I seek thee, Lord;
 2. Then shall all bond - age cease, All fet - ters fall,
 3. Then, all my strug - gles o'er, Then, vic - t'ry won,

1. My spir - it pants for thee, O liv - ing word!
 2. And I shall find my peace, My all in all.
 3. I shall be - hold thee, Lord, The liv - ing one.

Text: Mary A. Lathbury (1841-1913) Music: William F. Sherwin (1826-1888)

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

All things come from you Creator God.

Out of the abundant gifts you have given us, we pledge to you our time, our energy, and the fruits of our labor. May these gifts strengthen the Body of Christ that is St. Alban's parish, so that we may deepen our love for you and each other, and reach out to joyfully serve our neighbors who hunger for your saving Hope. May we ever Celebrate, Inspire and Serve in the saving name of Jesus your Son our Lord. Amen.

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 their 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:

**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.

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:

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Communion of the People

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

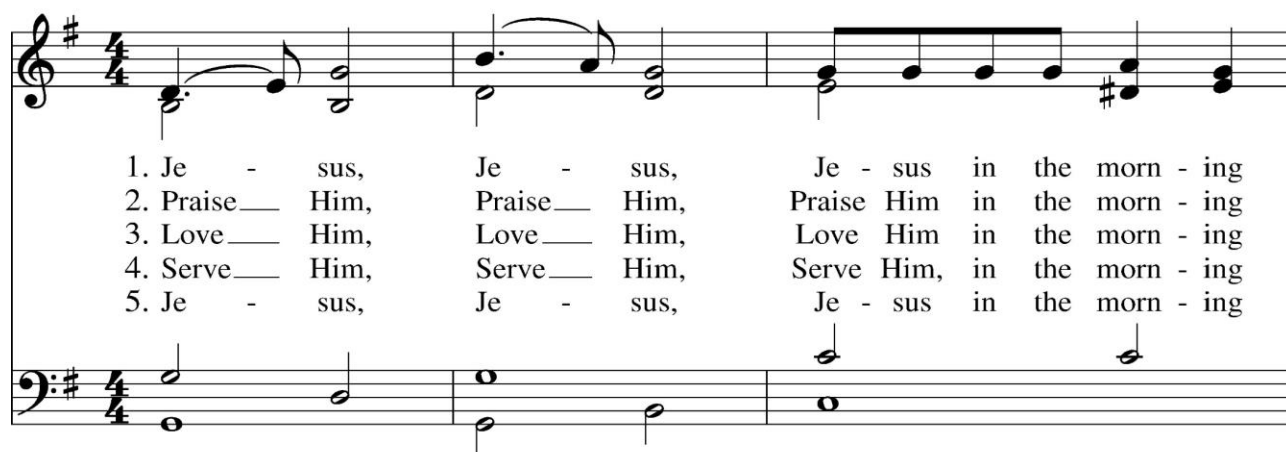
Stand or kneel in a semi-circle around the holy table in whatever way is comfortable for you. The sacrament is offered as bread (ask for gluten free) and/or wine. If you need the sacrament brought to you, please let us know and we will be honored to do so.

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

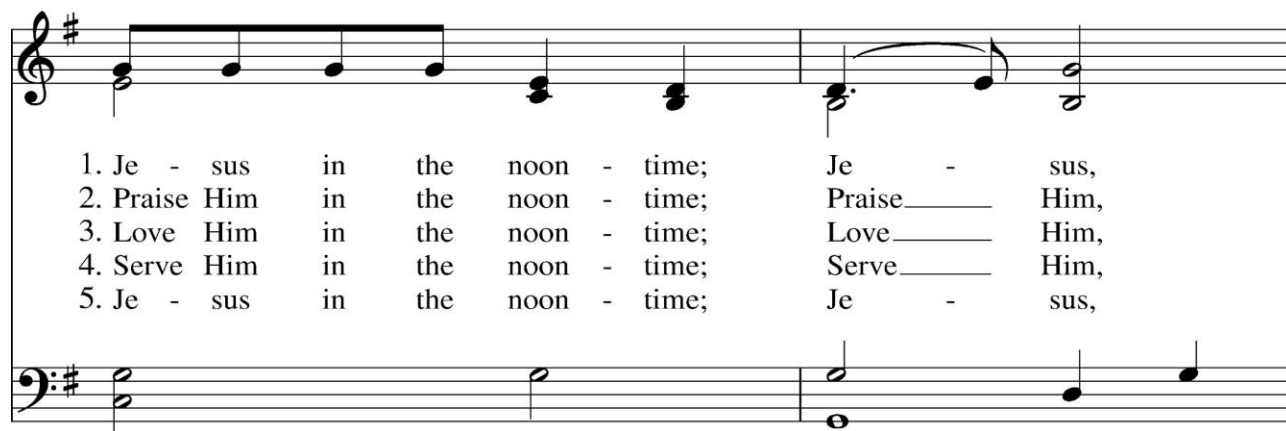
Communion

Jesus in the morning

LEVAS II 76



1. Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus in the morn - ing
2. Praise___ Him, Praise___ Him, Praise Him in the morn - ing
3. Love___ Him, Love___ Him, Love Him in the morn - ing
4. Serve___ Him, Serve___ Him, Serve Him, in the morn - ing
5. Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus in the morn - ing



1. Je - sus in the noon - time; Je - sus,
2. Praise Him in the noon - time; Praise___ Him,
3. Love Him in the noon - time; Love___ Him,
4. Serve Him in the noon - time; Serve___ Him,
5. Je - sus in the noon - time; Je - sus,



1. Je - sus, Je - sus when the sun goes down!
2. Praise___ Him, Praise Him when the sun goes down!
3. Love___ Him, Love Him when the sun goes down!
4. Serve___ Him, Serve Him when the sun goes down!
5. Je - sus, Je - sus when the sun goes down!

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.

The Blessing

God's Blessing be with you,

Christ's peace be with you,

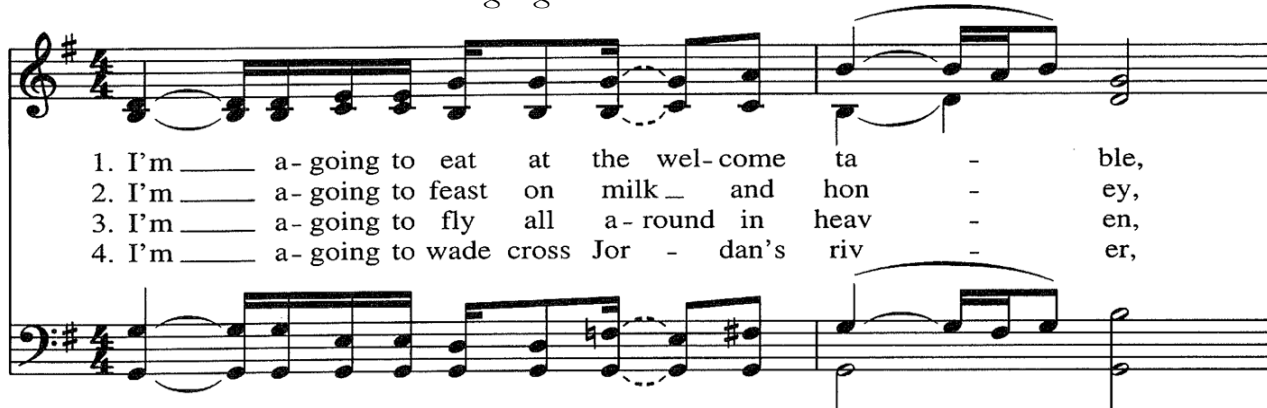
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,

now and always. Amen.

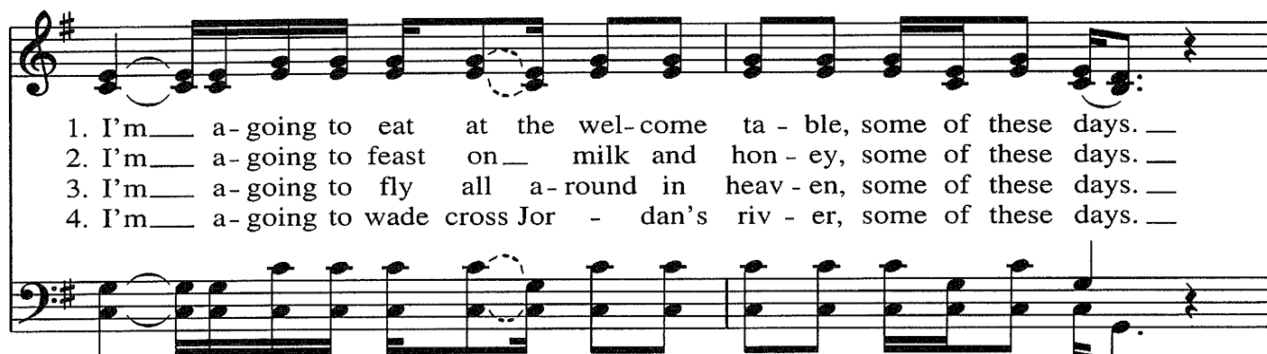
Hymn

I'm a-going to eat at the welcome table

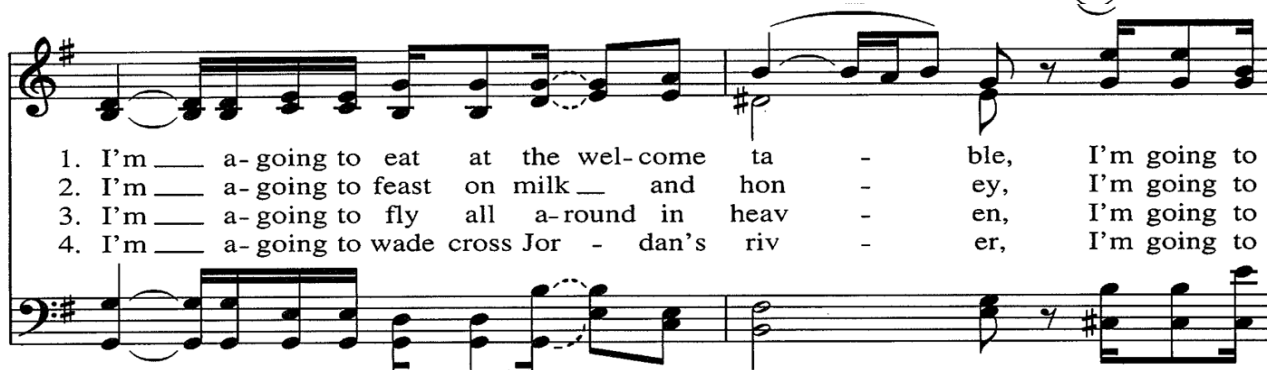
LEVAS II 148



1. I'm _____ a- going to eat at the wel- come ta - ble,
2. I'm _____ a- going to feast on milk _ and hon - ey,
3. I'm _____ a- going to fly all a- round in heav - en,
4. I'm _____ a- going to wade cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



1. I'm _____ a- going to eat at the wel- come ta - ble, some of these days. —
2. I'm _____ a- going to feast on _ milk and hon - ey, some of these days. —
3. I'm _____ a- going to fly all a- round in heav - en, some of these days. —
4. I'm _____ a- going to wade cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days. —



1. I'm _____ a- going to eat at the wel- come ta - ble, I'm going to
2. I'm _____ a- going to feast on milk _ and hon - ey, I'm going to
3. I'm _____ a- going to fly all a- round in heav - en, I'm going to
4. I'm _____ a- going to wade cross Jor - dan's riv - er, I'm going to

1. eat at the wel - come ta - ble, some of these days.
 2. feast on _____ milk and hon - ey, some of these days.
 3. fly all a - round in heav - en, some of these days.
 4. wade 'cross _____ Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

Words: Traditional

Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Diton (1886-1969), from *36 South Carolina Spirituals*

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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

Usher: Adam & Hollyn Reidel

Readers: Jon Lynch, Meredith Jacob

Acolyte: Jeannie Crabtree, Wesley Reidel

Tech: Judy Duncan

Altar Guild chair: Sharon Braden

POST ON THE REFRIGERATOR

Announcements for October 11, 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: The Book of Amos

Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! (Amos 5:24)

The cry of the shepherd-prophet Amos for socio-economic justice resonates across the ages.

Last week we heard Amos' complaint against all Israel and Judah's neighbors. This Sunday, he takes aim first at Judah, and finally, his main concern: The Northern Kingdom of Israel. What a doozy!

Join us on Sundays after worship. Grab some refreshments and meet us in the library. Come even if you've missed a Sunday or two!

Feed A Friend (People & Pets): Donations will be blessed **TODAY**. Thank you for donating!

St. Alban's Book Group: There will be **NO** meeting **Tuesday, October 13th**. (Diane will be away.) When we meet on Tuesday, October 20th we'll watch an interview with Richard Osman, author of The Thursday Murder Club. You are welcome to join us **at any time!** If you are interested in joining us, contact Diane Mather [860-874-6107](tel:860-874-6107); dmather13@me.com.

There is a Vestry Meeting in the Library next Thursday, October 15 at 5:30 PM. Parishioners are welcome to attend!

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. **There are many open Sundays.** Thank you to those who have already signed up!

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

St. Alban's Thanksgiving Tree: What are you thankful for that St. Alban's has provided you? Share it with others and write your thanksgivings on a leaf and add it to the tree. You can do it today, or anytime.

Coming Soon!!

Time, Talent, and Treasure.....

Watch here for weekly reflections from your Vestry.



The Bishop is Coming, the Bishop is Coming!! The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Mello will be visiting us at St. Alban's on November 8th. We will have a little reception after the service and then the Vestry will meet with him in the Library. Mark your calendars for this important event!

Collecting all Photos— We are gathering any and all photos that you have from and about St. Alban's to start a database to help revamp our website. Please share what you have with Tammie at office@stalbanssimsbury.org. Thank you!

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

WEEK OF OCT. 12 - OCT. 18

Tuesday - October 13

Church office open, 11am – 1pm
NO Book Group

Thursday - October 15

Church office open, 11am - 1pm

Sunday, October 18

Holy Eucharist, 10am

