

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - MORNING PRAYER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 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").

Cover Art: An artwork capturing the essence of Matthew 22:37-39 without any text or words. The image should depict themes of compassionate spirituality and selfless love, reflective of Christian devotion. The scene should comprise gentle, flowing, watercolor-style visuals, with symbols that suggest loving one's God wholeheartedly and loving one's neighbor equally. This representation should be respectful and inspirational, exuding a sense of sanctity and devotion inherent to Christianity.

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru - ler of all na - ture, O thou of
 2 Fair are the mea - dows, fair - er still the wood - lands, robed in the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light, and all the

God and man the Son; thee will I cher - ish,
 bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 twink - ling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,

thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." *Psalms 122:1*

The Confession of Sin *Standing, seated or kneeling**

The Officiant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Officiant 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.

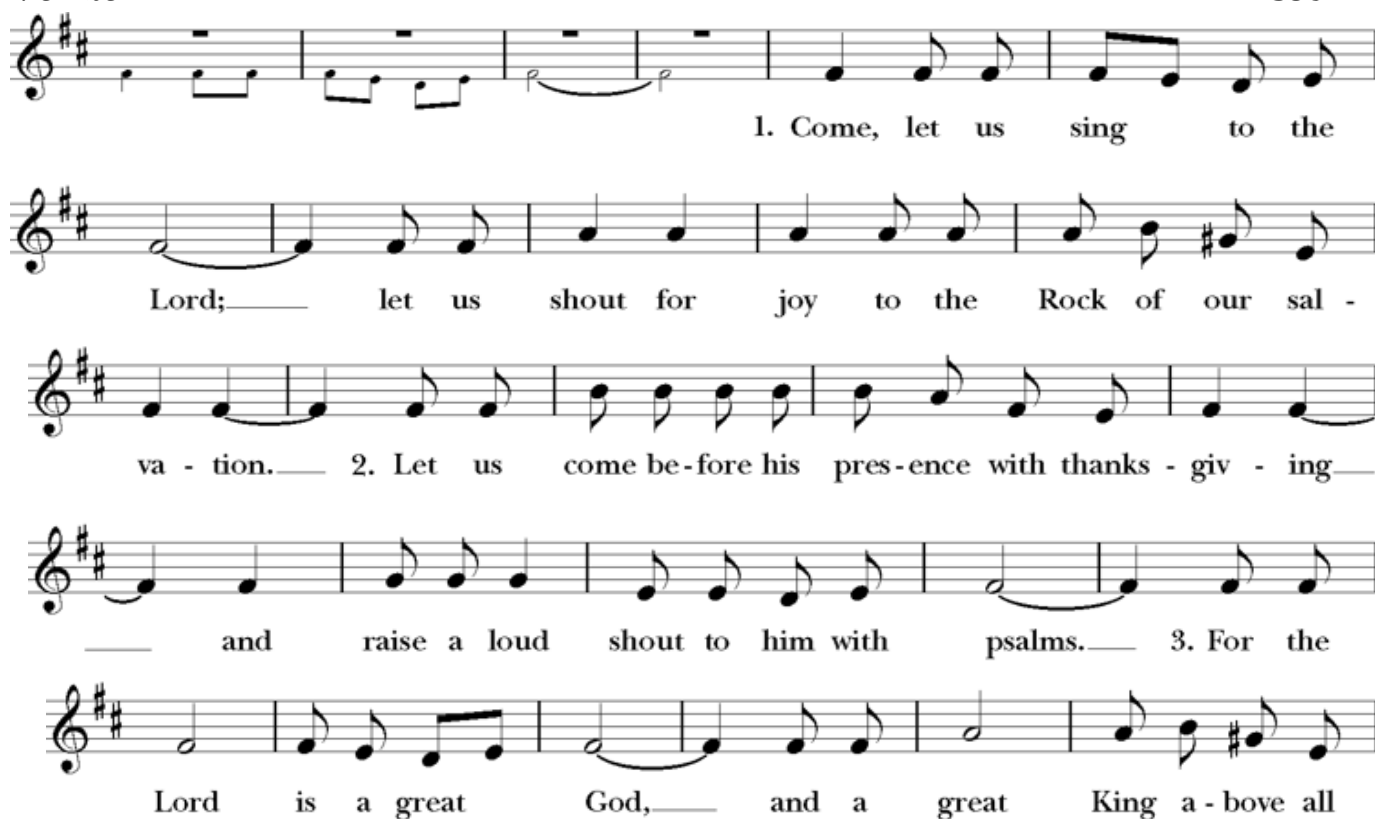
Officiant Lord, open our lips.
 And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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!

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: **Come let us adore him.**

Venite

S35



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

pas - ture _____ and the sheep of his hand. _____

_____ Oh, that to - day you would heark-en to his voice! _____

Psalm 1

Beatus vir qui non abiit

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

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: *Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18*

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy,
for I the LORD your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to
the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a
slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I
am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or
you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of
your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Here ends the Lesson.

Canticle 9: *The First Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 12:2-6)*

Ecce, Deus

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.

Reading: *1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8*

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Here ends the Lesson.

Canticle 18: *A Song to the Lamb (Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13)*

Dignus es

Splendor and honor and kingly power *
are yours by right, O Lord our God,
For you created everything that is, *
and by your will they were created and have their being;

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,
From every family, language, people, and nation, *
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *
and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *
for ever and for evermore.

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 22: 24-46*

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love

your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

"The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Here ends the Lesson.

Homily

Geoff Mather

Hymn

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your Love

H82 602

Chorus

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show
us how to serve the neigh - bors we have from you.

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 were

Repeat Chorus

feet, white, love. slaves; Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them. neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way. All___ are neigh-bors to us and you. this is the way we should live with you.

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 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

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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.**

The Prayers of the People

Leader

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.

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, Naomi, 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.

Officiant

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.**

Announcements

Offertory Hymn

Take my life, and let it be

H82-707

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Alto) and two parts of the piano (Right and Left Hand). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with chords in the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with two lines of text corresponding to the two vocal parts.

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.

Take my hands, and let them move at the im-pulse of thy love;
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.



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

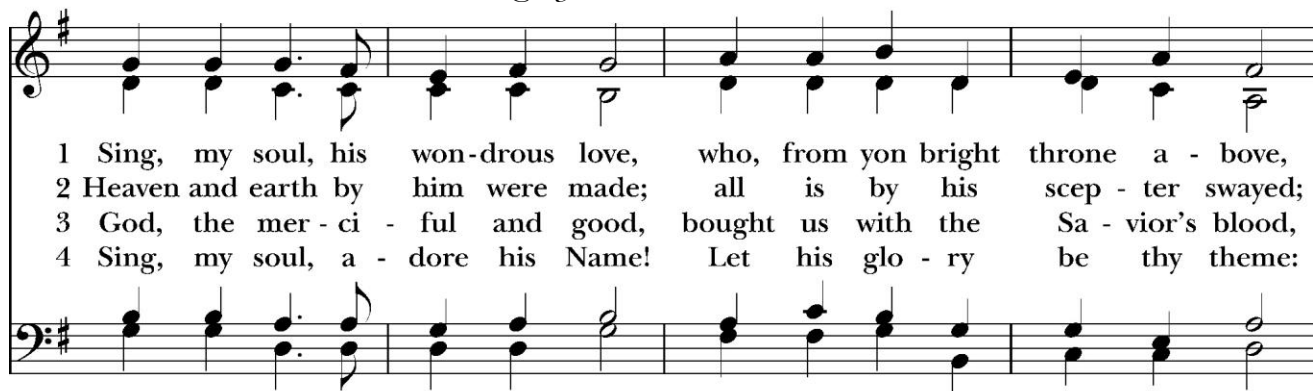
Officiant and People

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.

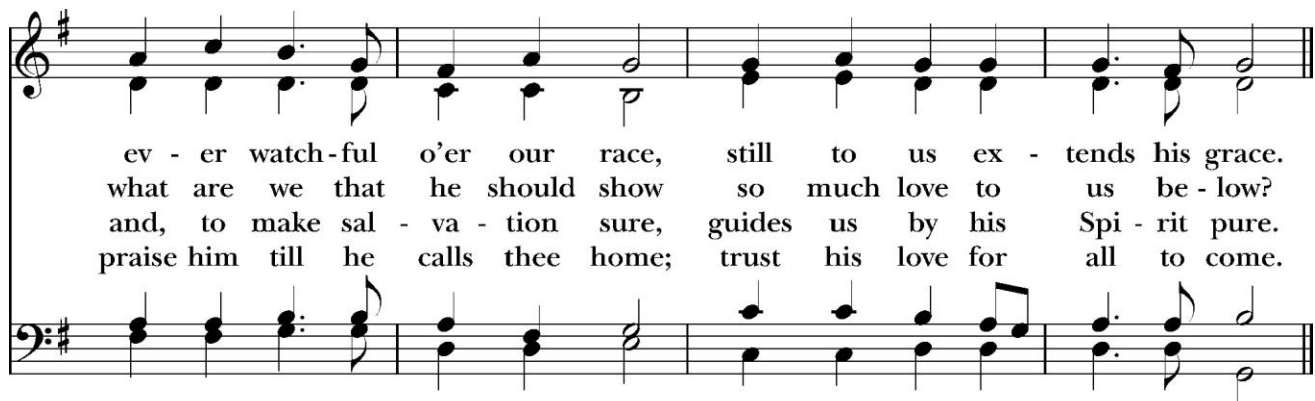
Hymn

Sing my soul, his wondrous love

H82 467



1 Sing, my soul, his won-drous love, who, from yon bright throne a - bove,
2 Heaven and earth by him were made; all is by his scep - ter swayed;
3 God, the mer - ci - ful and good, bought us with the Sa - vior's blood,
4 Sing, my soul, a - dore his Name! Let his glo - ry be thy theme:



ev - er watch-ful o'er our race, still to us ex - tends his grace.
what are we that he should show so much love to us be - low?
and, to make sal - va - tion sure, guides us by his Spi - rit pure.
praise him till he calls thee home; trust his love for all to come.

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