

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Simsbury, Connecticut

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 15, 2026

Welcome *Pastor Stephen*

Prelude *Peg Hunt, Pianist*

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn *All my hope on God is founded* Hymnal 1982 665

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 Hymnal 1982 S280

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 Zephaniah *(1:7,12-18)*

Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; *
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

10 The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty; *
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

11 Who regards the power of your wrath? *
who rightly fears your indignation?

12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians *(5:1-11)*

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn *Seek ye first the kingdom of God* Hymnal 1982 711

The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew (*25:14-30)*

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five talents more. So also, the one with two talents gained two more. But the man who had received one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"The man with two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"Then the man who had received one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

"'So take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

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, Naomi, Ben, Phyllis, Beth, 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.

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.

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 *Take my life, and let it be* Hymnal 1982 707

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.

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, moon, 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 mother cares for her 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 sing:

Sanctus Hymnal 1982 S129

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

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 *Be thou my vision* Hymnal 1982 488

Post Communion 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

Recessional Hymn *Simple gifts (sung 2x)* Hymnal 1982 554

The Dismissal

Let us go forth carrying the good News of Jesus Christ to a needy world.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Peg Hunt, Pianist*

Thank You to Our Ministers Today

Celebrant: Pastor Stephen
Musician: Peg Hunt
Acolyte: Jon Lynch
Readers: Julie & Bryan Adams
Intercessor: Mike Bailey
Usher: Julie Adams
Tech: Geoff Mather
Altar Guild chair: Sharon Braden

St. Alban's is a community of faith whose mission is
to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.
Toward this end, we Celebrate, Inspire and Serve.
By God's grace, we are here to share our joy, to lead by example, and to care for others.

The Rev. Stephen Nagy, Rector
(revsrnagy@stalbanssimsbury.org)

Judy Duncan, Senior Warden
Bryan Adams, Junior Warden
Meredith Jacobs, Treasurer
Mikaila Reidel, Clerk
Vestry Members: Ann Hall, Jim Lewis, Eleanor Terrell, Kathleen Canzano

Tammie Levy, Parish Administrator (office@stalbanssimsbury.org)
Brian Spooner, Bookkeeper (bookkeeper@stalbanssimsbury.org)

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

The Right Reverend Jeffrey W. Mello, Bishop Diocesan
The Right Reverend Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

Welcome to St. Alban's!

Your prayers and presence are a gift to this community. May you feel the love of Jesus, the holy stirring of the Spirit, and God's presence here this morning.

Worship. Everything you need to join in worship is in your own heart, guided by this bulletin. We may follow traditional times when we sit or stand or kneel, and it's all optional. 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 something, please ask an usher.

Afterwards. Please join us in the parish hall for drinks and snacks. Some of us continue on for a short bible study.

Children of all ages, along with their voices, wiggles and wanderings, are the stuff of the Holy Spirit and enhance the joy of our time together. Some kids like to hang out in the Prayground in the rear balcony. Some like to be in the center of the action, and are welcome to stand around the table during the Eucharist.

Communion. Sharing in the bread and wine is the heart of our Sunday service. Come join in the feast! If you need healing prayer, please see Pastor Stephen after worship.

Learning More. Ask one of us! Or fill out a welcome card that's on the back table, or ask an usher. We have a website (currently under construction) and a Facebook page. Always feel free to reach out to Pastor Stephen with any questions or needs. All our contact info is on the back page.

Donating. During our service today, Ushers will pass offering plates for your monetary gifts. On 2nd Sundays, donations go to the rector's discretionary fund, which supports urgent needs in the community. You can also donate on our website.