

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026



WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Fr. David B. Rude, Presiding

SILENT PROCESSION

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;
People **His mercy endures for ever.**

THE DECALOGUE

Hear the commandments of God to his people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.
You shall have no other gods but me.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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.

Celebrant: 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.**

OPENNING HYMN

Please join in singing our opening hymn # 371, Thou whose almighty word” vs. 1 – 3.

GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

The First Reading this morning is from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'"

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Response: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

The Psalm appointed for this morning is Psalm 2532

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
**who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."**

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

THE SECOND READING

The Second Reading this morning is a from the Book of Romans

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin.

For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification.

If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore, just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Response: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

**Please join in singing our gradual hymn # 697,
"My God accept my heart this day" vs. 1 – 2.**

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"
Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the
test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the
kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I
will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away
with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"
Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

Fr. David B. Rude

THE NICENE CREED (*in unison*)

**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



Lord God on this first Sunday in Lent, we remember the trials and temptations of your son Jesus Christ in his journey through the wilderness, and how he triumphed over all. In our prayers we think of the difficult journeys in life encountered by so many people in the world. We pray that in their different times of need, they may find discernment to see their way ahead, and strength to overcome whatever problems they face. We pray that faith may be deepened in this period of Lent, and all may walk in the light of the Lord. Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church, of which we are members, and thank you for the light it provides for our journeys ahead. We pray for those who lead us in our worship, and for all those who enable others to know that light in their lives. We pray for each other, that we may each respond to the challenges that the time of Lent presents to us. Help us to be able to look at ourselves, and to recognize our failings, our inadequacies, and the need for your presence in our journey of life. Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the family of the Church. When we receive the bread and wine at our communion today may we experience a sense of belonging to you and to each other. Bind us together, Lord, as a family, so that we can travel along life's journey helping and supporting one another, overcoming together all the trials and temptations which confront us daily. Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we think of the troubled parts of the world, where there is so much suffering, where darkness prevails and where the light of the Lord seems so far away. We pray for people whose humanity is denied by others, for those without

homes and food, for those suffering from illness and disease, for those living in fear of war and conflict. Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we thank you for our neighbors, our friends and for the people around us with whom we work and share our daily lives. We thank you for all the joys and blessings of family life. forgive us when we quarrel and make us always ready to forgive one another. Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are old and lonely, those isolated because of ill-health, and those who find it difficult to make friends or be accepted. Show us all what we can do to help, and teach us to be good neighbors and true friends. Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We thank you Lord for your miracles of healing, and we pray for all who administer to the sick and infirm. We bring before you in a moment of quietness those we know or love who are ill or in special need at this time, and we name them in our hearts *Joseph, Ben, Silvia and for all those who care for them.* Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who mourn and for those who still miss the companionship and care of loved ones. We pray that as they journey in this part of their life, that the challenges of Lent and the assurances of Easter will bring to them new strength and new purpose. You turn our darkness into light, in your light shall we see light. Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

Lord God our Father as we go out into the world today we remember you're your son was tempted by the forces of evil but chose faithfulness rather than popularity, service instead of fame, sacrifice instead of power. These temptations still come to us Lord and we are far weaker and so we pray for the strength to shun them as he did so that we may be of use to God and to man. Merciful father accept these prayers for the sake of your son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

**If you would like to add a name to the prayer list,
please email the parish office.**





THE PEACE *(Please stand as you are able)*

Celebrant: My brothers and sisters, the peace of the Lord
be always with you!

People: **And also with you!**

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, MILESTONES

Please come forward during the singing if you have a milestone to mark. Please allow us the privilege of sharing your celebrations in this family of faith.



OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice.

OFFERTORY HYMN

**Please join in singing our offertory hymn # 321,
“My God thy table now is spread”, vs. 1 – 2.**

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People **It is right to give God 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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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:

**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.**

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 forever. **AMEN.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to pray (*said*)

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 forever. Amen.

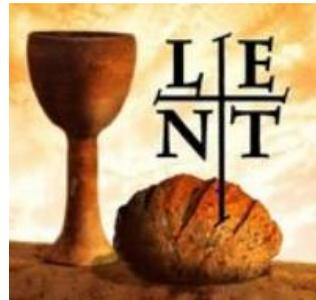
HYMN # 333, "Now the silence"

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.



THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant These are the gifts of God and we are the people of God. Take them in Remembrance that Christ died and rose again for you. And feed on him in your hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION HYMN

Please join in singing our Communion Hymn # 325,
“Let us break bread together” vs. 1 – 2.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(Together)*

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

Father, thank You for calling us together to worship and grow. Keep us united in love, rooted in grace, and focused on the mission You've given us. Let this church be a place where Your light shines and lives are changed. As we go into this week, may we walk in step with Your Spirit and reflect Your heart in everything we do. In the strong name of Jesus, **Amen.**

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

(If you have an announcement to make please come to the microphone)

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Please join in singing our Closing Hymn # 470,
“There is a wideness in God’s mercy” vs. 1 - 3

DISMISSAL Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.



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Faithful Families Intergenerational Programs

11:00 AM Following morning services



1st Lent: Service Sunday

Sunday, February 22nd LENTEN PRAYER BEADS

We welcome you to join us after worship to make your own prayer beads which is an ancient tradition used as a tool for contemplative prayer. Make your own set of prayer beads to use throughout Lent.



2nd Lent: Pretzels for Lent

Sunday, March 1st We welcome you to join us after worship to make your own pretzels. Praying is another way to draw closer to God and pretzels remind us of prayer, too.



3rd Lent: Resurrection Garden

Sunday, March 8th Families are invited to make a Resurrection Garden centerpiece for their home. Please watch the Weekend Update for registration information. You will need to pre-register for this event. Please email the parish office if you have any questions.



4th Lent: Girl Scout Sunday, Sunday, March 15th.

Immediately following the service, we will join to put together toiletry bags to be donated to men and women living in shelters. This will be in place of our March Service Night. All are welcome to join us!



5th Lent: Church clean up and Palm Cross Making

After our 10 AM Service on Sunday, March 22nd we will work together to make palm crosses to be handed out on Palm Sunday. We will also tidy the church up for Easter.



Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 29th.

Holy Week Scavenger Hunt following the 10 AM Service for the youth. Fun for all! Also, we will set up and plant some flowers (weather permitting) around the grounds outside the church as we prepare for Easter. Please bring some gardening gloves and a rake and join us. Many hands make light work!



***This schedule is subject to change. Please keep an eye on the weekend update.**