



St. Alban's Episcopal Church \* May 2, 2021

Our service follows Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer  
and the New Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible.  
The 1982 Hymnal is our primary music source.  
If you are a visitor, thank you for joining us for worship.

Prelude Jesus is Lord Corl  
Chorale Prelude Wagner

Processional O Love, How Deep H448  
vs. 1,5,6

Priest: Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Priest: 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.

Gloria S280

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.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray...

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First Lesson: Acts 8: 26-40

Lay Reader: A reading from the Book of Acts...  
An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go

toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea...The Word of the Lord...

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22: 24-30

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly;  
\*I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:

**\*"May your heart live for ever!"**  
26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
**\*and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.**  
27 For kingship belongs to the Lord;  
**\*he rules over the nations.**  
28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;  
**\*all who go down to the dust fall before him.**  
29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him;  
**\*they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**  
30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn  
**\*the saving deeds that he has done.**

**The Second Lesson: 1 John 4: 7-21**

Lay Reader: A reading from the First Letter of John... Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also....The Word of the Lord...

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn	In Christ	H529
	<i>vs. 1,2,3</i>	

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**All: Glory to you Lord Christ.**

**Gospel: John 15: 1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." The Gospel of the Lord...

**All: Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Sermon	The Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolosi
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**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 worshipped 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.**

**Prayers of the People –Form VI**

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;

**People: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Leader: For this community, the nation and the world;

**People: For all who work for justice, freedom and peace.**

Leader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

**People: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression.**

Leader: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Leader: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**People: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Leader: For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Jennifer our Bishop, Fr. Gary our Priest, Debra our Deacon and for all bishops and other ministers;

**People: For all who serve God in his Church.**

Leader: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, and especially in the calling of a new Vicar. Hear us, Lord;

**People: For your mercy is great.**

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *(The People may add their own thanksgivings.)*  
We will exalt you, O God our King;

**People: And praise your name for ever and ever.**

Leader: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. You may add your own petition. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**People: Who put their trust in you.**

Leader: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**All: 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.**

Priest: Almighty God have mercy upon you, for-

give 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.**

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE**

Offertory Sentence

Offertory	Like the Murmur	<b>H513</b>
	<i>vs. 1,2,3</i>	

**Eucharistic Prayer A** **BCP 361**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

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

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Priest proceeds:

It is a right, and a good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. 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:

**Sanctus**

**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.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

The Priest continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

The Priest continues:

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Priest: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**All: 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 in to temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Priest: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

**Priest:** The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

Priest: The Body of Christ.  
The bread of heaven.

**Response: Amen.**

Communion Hymn Let Us Break Bread **H325**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Priest: Let us pray.

**All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with the spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn Thou Art the Way **H457**  
*vs. 1,4*

Deacon: Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth  
in the name of Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude Trumpet Tune Wagner



Please remain in your seat until the Postlude ends and the cameraman raises his arm to indicate that the recording has ended.



*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*



