

The First Sunday in Lent

The Liturgy of the Word



St. Alban's Episcopal Church

333 South Drexel Avenue

Bexley, OH 43209

Fr. J. Devin Rodgers, Presiding

The Rev. Craig Foster, Deacon, Preaching

March 6, 2022

Our Vision for

St. Alban's is to be a spiritual home to share God's grace through worship, service, faith, and love. We welcome all and strive to promote justice, peace, and love in our communities by following Jesus. Come! Worship, Learn, Care, Connect with us!

The Word of God

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST...

WELCOME AND DIGITAL WORSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Presider says

People Blessed be the God of our salvation:
 Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Presider may say

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.*

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 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

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.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

*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.*

ABSOLUTION

The priest says:

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*

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider May God be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Presider Let us pray.

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.*

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES AND PRAY...

FIRST READING: *Deuteronomy 26:1-11*

A Reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall

set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM *Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16*

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, *
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 He shall say to the LORD,
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust."

9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,

10 There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.

12 They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under
your feet.

14 Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.

SECOND READING: *Romans 10:8b-13*

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the church in Rome.

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Reader	Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>

GOSPEL *Luke 4:1-13*

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

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

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Craig Foster

SERMON SHARING

Following the sermon a longer period of silence is kept for reflection.

Presider: The Word is Very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart. –
Deuteronomy 30:14

We complete the sermon together. If something you have heard this morning brings to mind a personal experience we invite you to raise your digital hand to share. Listen to one another and listen to the silence. God speaks to us in both.

The Preacher offers additional instructions and assistance through sermon sharing. Please keep reflections centered on something you or your own community have experienced. We will hear from 2-3 individuals during sermon sharing.

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:¹
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.*

¹ At the following words it is appropriate to bow as an act of reverence for the Incarnation.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE²

Deacon Have mercy on us, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion, hear our prayers.

Intercessor We pray for the whole church, all leaders and ministers, and all the holy people of God.

Wash us through and through,
And cleanse us from our sin.

We pray for our nation, for all the nations of the earth, and for all who govern and judge. We pray for all who are serving in the military especially Greg, Abbey, Sean, & Tyler. We pray for Partners in Ministry in Liberia, our Caring & Sharing partner this month.

Purge us from our sin,
And we shall be pure.

We pray for those who hunger, those who thirst, those who cry out for justice, those who live under the threat of terror, and those without a place to lay their head. We pray for the people of Ukraine and other countries now under attack and at war. We pray for all people who live in fear and danger. We pray for those serving in places of danger especially Steven, Anne, Sam, Ben & Maria.

Make them hear of joy and gladness,
that those who are broken may rejoice.

²The Prayers of the People are written by Rev. Rick Morley, rector of St. Mark's, Basking Ridge, NJ, and adapted with permission for use in worship.

We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, and those who are lonely including Naomi, Jill, Lucie, Karen, Robert, Chuck, Mary, Charlie, Linda, Penny, the Evans Family, Brad & Irene, Kimm, Kyle, Daryl & the Graham Family, Mike, Rollin, Kristi, Khadijah, Garth, Carolyn, Logan, P. Alexander, Linda, Louis, Maria, Gary, Edward & Mary, Gretchen, Emily, Mort, Pete & Linda, Mary & Mike, Nancy Maturo, Perry & Nancy, Ben Dysart, all others on the parish prayer list.

Give them the joy of your saving help,
and sustain them with your bountiful Spirit.

In this season of Lent we pray for those who prepare for baptism, and we pray that we all might be given the grace and strength to repent and grow closer to you, O God.

Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.

We pray for those who have died, Bailey and who have entered into the land of eternal Light and your abiding peace.

Cast them not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from them.

We especially pray in thanksgiving for Josh, Baby Leon & Christy.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week.

We pray for guidance and wisdom as our search team discerns and interviews candidates to be our next parish administrator and colleague in mission. May God lead us to finding and hiring the right person. May God bless the candidates in their own search for new and life-giving work and also bless our search team who has been charged with this act of service and discernment.

Presider Lord Jesus, you were tempted by the Evil One in the wilderness and yet did not succumb. Be present to us who live with temptation day by day, and give us your strength, and your amazing grace. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Presider: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: *And also with you*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

Presider: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.



You may use the camera on your smart phone to access the online giving platform.

Or you may use this link:

[Donations to St Alban's](#)

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that if one is unable to actually consume the consecrated bread and wine due to extreme sickness or disability, the desire is enough for God to grant all the benefits of communion (BCP, p. 457). When being present at a celebration of the Eucharist is absolutely impossible,

this act of prayer and meditation can provide the means by which you can associate yourself with the Eucharistic Action and open yourself to God's grace and blessing.

Presider: IN UNION, BLESSED JESUS, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, we long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

And particularly for the blessings given us. (the people pray in thanksgiving for their blessings silently or aloud) We believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since we cannot at this time receive communion, we pray you to come into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all our hearts, our souls, and our minds. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we are welcomed to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. *Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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*

Presider and People: *Come Lord Jesus and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.*

WE ARE SENT OUT INTO THE WORLD.

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

*Life is short,
And we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who
make the journey with us.
So... be swift to love,
and make haste to be kind.
And the blessing of God,
who made us,
who loves us,
and who travels with us
be with you now and forever. AMEN*

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.
 Thanks be to God!

Servers in Worship Today

Presider

The Rev. J. Devin Rodgers

Deacon

The Rev. Craig Foster

Happening at St. Alban's

Annual Meeting: February 13, 2022

Mark your calendars

One service that day—we are currently planning (hoping!) to hold our meeting in person. But, we will adjust to a Zoom format if needed. Please watch for announcements.

Worship Beginning January 23rd

We will offer 2 worship services.

9:00 am

Rite I In-Person in the church

You are invited to this service if you are fully vaccinated and wear a mask.

10:30 am

Worship via Zoom

We plan for this worship schedule to be ongoing.

As COVID protocols require we will modify our worship practices.

Office Closed January 17th

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Regular Office Hours have resumed though.

Office Hours:

Monday 9-Noon & 1-4

Tuesday-Thursday 10-Noon & 1-3

Friday 9-Noon

Please plan to wear your mask if you are coming into the office.

Caring and Sharing

January's partner is: *She Has A Name*

What is "Caring and Sharing?" --St. Alban's Social Concerns Committee selects an organization to receive the loose plate offering each month on Caring and Sharing Sunday. Contributions can also be made at any time during the month.

Our January Caring & Sharing partner is *She Has a Name* (SHAN), an agency with 13 continuing programs which works to combat human trafficking in Central Ohio. They stage a variety of trainings, in-person and by Zoom, and offer a variety of support to women who have been trafficked as they move away from that life to a better future.

Funding and programs have been deeply affected by COVID and its effects, but the need for SHAN's services has only grown. Many trafficked women have had COVID more than once. Overdoses among trafficked women have risen sharply. Teen runaways, often easy victims for traffickers, have become more numerous due to an increase in domestic violence. SHAN is now well into recovery and working to build new and creative programs, including greater work on labor trafficking.

2 Cents-a-Meal 2022

The 2 Cents-a-Meal Program is designed to remind us of the poor and needy at mealtimes at home. Two pennies per person per meal is collected for hunger ministries as each person or family gives thanks for their own food. It has been our custom for each household to bring their 2 Cents-a-Meal offering to church on a designated Sunday, four times per year (usually in months that have five Sundays).

One half of the money collected is given to a local hunger ministry and the other half is given to the Hunger Network in Ohio.

In 2020, we didn't have a collection due to COVID and only had one in 2021. In 2022, we will try to have two collections:

Sunday, May 29 and Sunday, October 30

Keep collecting your pennies! Hunger is a significant problem in our community.

Healing Service

At this time it is not possible to continue our Healing Service. We are suspending this service for the foreseeable future. As always we continue to offer prayers for healing as needed.

Book Club News

St. Alban's Book Club meets monthly on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7 pm.

Everyone is welcome. Upcoming dates and books are:

February 14, 2022: *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan

March 14, 2022: *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present* by David Treuer
Contact Rachel Barnes or Laura Piazza for more information.