

The Third Sunday in Lent
Holy Eucharist
Rite I



St. Alban's Episcopal Church
333 South Drexel Avenue
Bexley, OH 43209

Mother Abby Flemister, Presiding
The Rev. Craig Foster, Deacon, Preaching

March 20, 2022
9:00 a.m.

At St. Alban's Episcopal Church we seek to be transformed by the Holy Spirit by welcoming the stranger, striving for justice, loving God and neighbor, and promoting peace.

PRELUDE *Jesus, keep me near the cross* Hugh S. Livingston

The Word of God

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST...

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

1982Hymnal#150

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;
2 Should not we thy sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5 Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy side;

1 for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
2 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain?
3 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!
4 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.
5 that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains five verses of lyrics, and the second system contains five verses. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear harmonic structure. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with each line of music corresponding to a line of text. The score is presented in a clean, professional format, suitable for a church service or hymn book.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.
People *His mercy endureth forever.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY AND TEN COMMANDMENTS

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

God spake these words, and said:

I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Honor thy father and thy mother.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt do no murder.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not steal.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not covet.

Lord have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

KYRIE

Cantor: Together, let us pray to Christ our Lord, who intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father:

Response:



Cantor: 1. Lord Jesus Christ, you were sent to heal the contrite, have mercy on us.

Response: Kyrie...

Cantor: 2. Lord Jesus Christ, you came to call all sinners, have mercy on us.

Response: Kyrie...

Cantor: 3. Lord Jesus Christ, you intercede for us at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

Response: Kyrie...

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES AND PRAY...

FIRST READING: *Exodus 3:1-15*

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations."

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
People	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>

PSALM: *Psalms 63:1-8*

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Church in Corinth.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

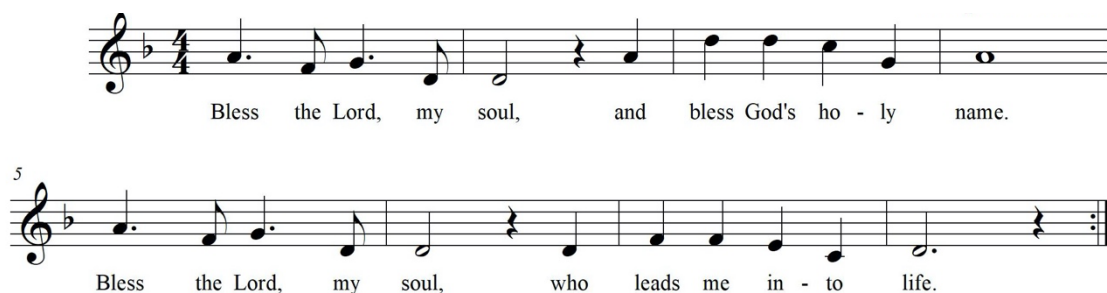
Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All stand (as able) and sing together to make a joyful noise to the Lord.



GOSPEL: *Luke 13:1-9*

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

THE SERMON

The Rev. Craig Foster

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.*

¹ At the next words it is appropriate to bow as a show of reverence.

*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

Deacon: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Leader: Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Wayne, our Bishop; Craig, our Deacon and Devin, our Rector; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. Pray for the Church.

(Silence. Here the congregation may offer intercessions either silently or aloud.)

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We pray for Partners in Ministry in Liberia, our Caring and Sharing partner this month. Pray for Christian witness, evangelism and ministry.

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.

(Silence. Here the congregation may offer intercessions either silently or aloud.)

We ask your blessing on all those serving in the military including Jake, Aaron, Peter, Greg, Abbey, Sean & Tyler. We pray for the people of countries currently engaged in war especially Ukraine and all places where people live in fear and danger. We pray for victims of gun violence, those suffering because of COVID19, their caretakers & medical providers and all those suffering from depression. We pray for Steven, Anne, Sam, Ben, Maria and all those serving in places of danger throughout the world. We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. Pray for sound government, your creation and social justice.

(Silence. Here the congregation may offer intercessions either silently or aloud.)

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Laura, Ricky, Barbara, Peter, Tasha, Naomi, Jill, Luci, Karen, Robert, Chuck, Mary, Charlie, Linda, Penny, Evans Family, Brad & Irene, Kimm, Mike, Rollin, Kristi, Khadijah, Garth, Carolyn, P. Alexander, Linda, Louis, Maria, Gary, Edward & Mary, Gretchen, Emily, Mort, Pete & Linda, Mary & Mike, Nancy Maturo, Perry & Nancy, Ben Dysart, all those on our parish prayer list, and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those whom we name aloud and in our hearts. *(Silence)* Pray for the sick, those in any grief or trouble, our friends and our enemies.

(Silence. Here the congregation may offer intercessions either silently or aloud.)

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life, in thy faith and fear beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service especially Bob Monsarrat. Grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Alban and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Pray for the dead and those who mourn.

(Silence. Here the congregation may offer intercessions either silently or aloud.)

Presider: Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

*Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.*

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, **(+)** pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

THE PEACE

All stand.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

WE WELCOME, CELEBRATE & ANNOUNCE...

The Holy Communion

WE GATHER AND ARE FED AT CHRIST'S TABLE...

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Presider says

Walk in Love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to god. *Ephesians 5*

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](#)

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow*

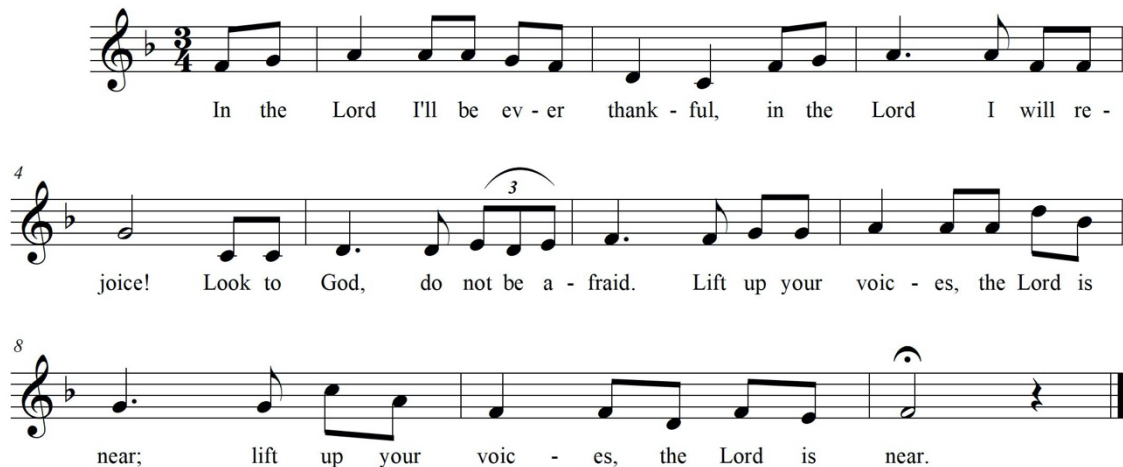
Arlen Clarke

St. Alban's Choral Scholars

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

Taize
Jacques Berthier



The Great Thanksgiving *(Eucharistic Prayer 2)*

SURSUM CORDA

The People remain standing.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is meet and right so to do.*

Facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose

again. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,

SANCTUS

Sanctus: Holy is the name of God

Jacques Berthier
Taizé

Sing 3 times:

Ho - ly is the name of God. Sing out my soul, — prais-ing God ev-er-more.

5
Ho - ly is the name of God. Sing out my soul, giv-ing praise — to God.

The People Stand or Kneel.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption.

(The Presider Continues...)

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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,
forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev-er be hun - gry.

⁵
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.

INVITATION

The Presider says

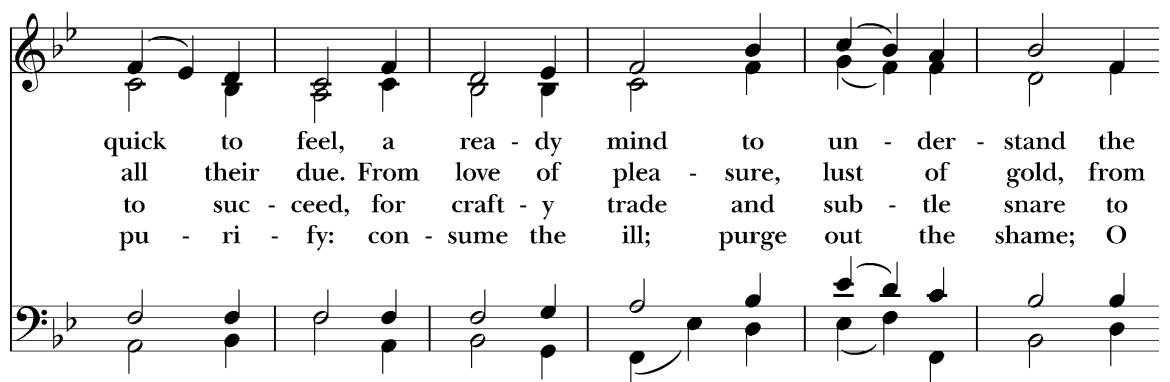
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION MUSIC *Before thy throne, O God, we kneel*

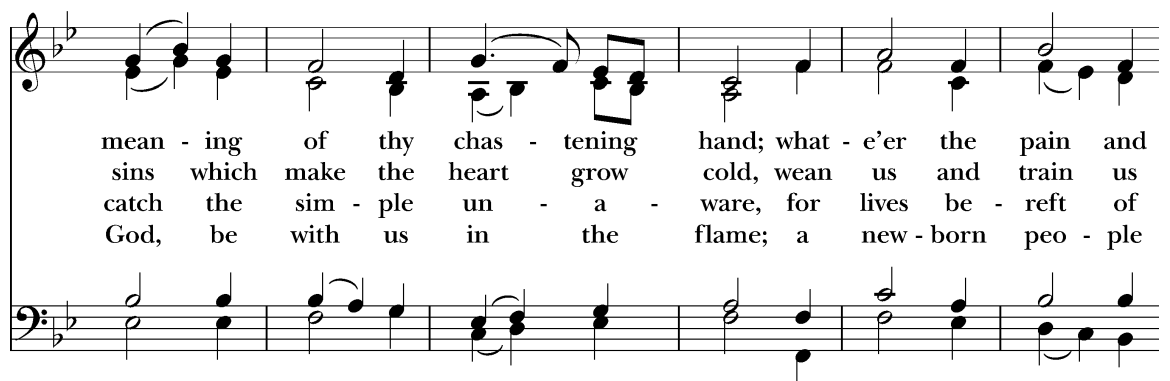
1982HYMNAL#574



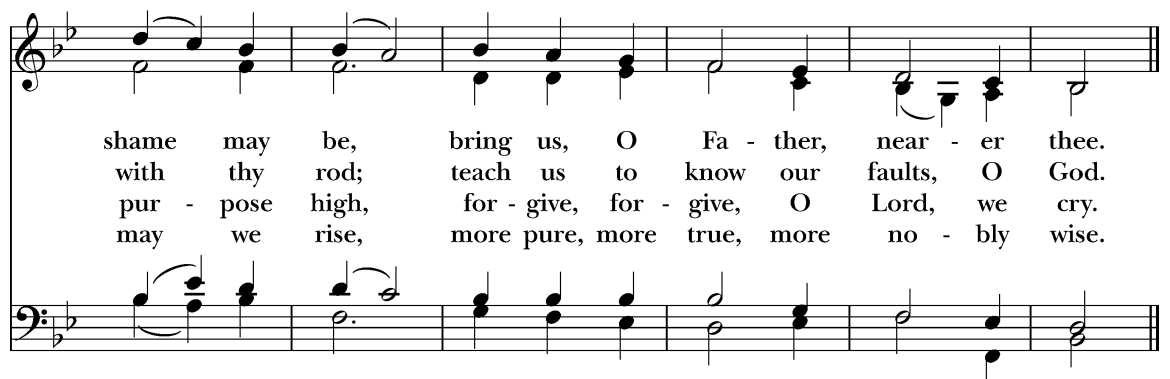
1 Be - fore thy throne, O God, we kneel: give us a con - science
2 Search out our hearts and make us true; help us to give to
3 For sins of heed - less word and deed, for pride am - bi - tious
4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try, our in - most spi - rits



quick to feel, a rea - dy mind to un - der - stand the
all their due. From love of plea - sure, lust of gold, from
to suc - ceed, for craft - y trade and sub - tle snare to
pu - ri - fy: con - sume the ill; purge out the shame; O



mean - ing of thy chas - tening hand; what - e'er the pain and
sins which make the heart grow cold, wean us and train us
catch the sim - ple un - a - ware, for lives be - reft of
God, be with us in the flame; a new - born peo - ple



shame may be, bring us, O Fa - ther, near - er thee.
with thy rod; teach us to know our faults, O God.
pur - pose high, for - give, for - give, O Lord, we cry.
may we rise, more pure, more true, more no - bly wise.

DISTRIBUTION

This is the Lord's Table, and we are his guests. In communion we are fed with his body and blood and believe that Christ is truly present. If you desire to receive the sacrament, come to the communion rail. Standing or kneeling, extend your hands and you will receive the host (wafer). If you desire to receive wine, please follow the guidelines provided by the Diocese. The recommendation is to drink from the chalice; it is recommended that we do not dip the wafer into the wine and then consume it. If you desire to receive a blessing, cross your hands over your heart and the priest will provide a blessing.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *The People stand or kneel.*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

WE ARE SENT OUT INTO THE WORLD.

BLESSING

The priest blesses the people, saying

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart. *Amen.*

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds. *Amen.*

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Be with you now and remain with you always. **(+)** *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN *When Israel was in Egypt's Land*

LEVASII²#228

1. When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo-ple go;
2. The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple go;
3. They jour - neyed on at his com - mand, let my peo-ple go;
4. Oh, let us all from bond - age flee, let my peo-ple go;

1. op - pressed so hard they — could not stand, let my peo-ple go.
2. to lead the chil - dren of Is - rael through, let my peo-ple go.
3. and come at length to — Ca - naan's land, let my peo-ple go.
4. and let us all in — Christ be free, let my peo-ple go.

Go down, — Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land; —

tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo-ple go.

² Lift Every Voice and Sing

DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE *Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin*

Johann Christoph Bach

(With Peace and Joy I now depart)

Servers in Worship

Presiding

Deacon

Organist/Choir Director

Eucharistic Minister

Lector/Intercessor

Ushers

Altar Guild

Mother Abby Flemister

The Rev. Craig Foster

Dr. Karen Eckenroth

Ernestine Ujah

Robin Harris

Russ & Dani Rosler

Lain Howarth, Mary Roth

& Nancy Fisher

*The branches on the altar are reflective
of the solemn season of Lent.*

*As each week passes,
we are reminded of the emergence of new life
and hope to us all as spring and Easter arrive.*

Happening at St. Alban's

Strategic Plan

Updated mission statement and more

The St. Alban's strategic planning committee worked with Emily Swanson of Holy Cow! Consulting over three day-long sessions in the summer of 2021 to develop our strategic plan. After we received Emily's report, the committee resumed meeting to refine the plan before presenting it to the vestry and congregation. The eleven-person committee used the input gathered from the entire congregation in the CAT survey as the basis for its work. The vestry has approved the core values, mission statement, and vision statement. The strategic planning committee is continuing its work by refining the strategic targets, goals, and milestones that will guide St. Alban's growth in the coming years. Look for more details to come.

Core Values

The core values represent what is of deep significance to our congregation.

- *Welcoming*
- *Outreach*
- *Faith and Commitment*
- *Holy Spirit*
- *Community and Connection*
- *Worship*

Mission Statement

Our mission statement embodies our theology and our core values. It will guide our entire congregation and help define what we do.

At St. Alban's Episcopal Church we seek to be transformed by the Holy Spirit by welcoming the stranger, striving for justice, loving God and neighbor, and promoting peace.

Vision statement

Our vision statement is our picture of a preferred future in the context of our mission statement.

To be a thriving Episcopal faith community where people feel loved, energized, equipped, and empowered to serve and make disciples.

Fr. Devin Rodgers

Is out of town for several days of rest & relaxation. He will return to preside at services on March 27th and will be back in the office the following week.

If you need pastoral care, please contact Deacon Craig or Ernestine Ujah. Mother Abby Flemister is available should a priest be needed.

Update: Search for Next Parish Administrator

Our search for a new Parish Administrator continues. The closing date for submitting an application was March 15.

We've had over 100 views of our posted job and 27 applications. Fifteen candidates were ruled out because they lacked essential skills; we attempted to schedule initial interviews with the remaining 12 candidates and we were able to interview 6 candidates. We scheduled 3 for 2nd interviews. After all of those 3 interviews are complete we will identify whether we want to recommend that Fr. Devin interview any or all of them. Following his interviews a decision will be made to offer the job to someone.

We anticipate that the new parish administrator will begin his/her work with us sometime in late April. Janet Lewis will continue in a part-time capacity as finance administrator and will assist in training the new parish administrator. Janet's last day as Parish Administrator is March 31st.

Updated COVID guidelines from the Diocese:

The Diocesan COVID Medical Task Force met Thursday, March 3, to consider the most recent CDC recommendations and how they might apply to the parishes and communities in the Diocese of Southern Ohio. The Task Force reached a consensus on the following updated guidelines:

- Social gatherings, including coffee hours, shared meals, and receptions, are now allowed. Precautions should include good hand sanitation, cross-ventilation for airflow, and social distancing for indoor events.
- With these precautions in place, congregations may resume food ministries, and outside groups may return to our buildings.
- Wearing masks is optional but often prudent—and always permitted—both at social gatherings and in worship. Everyone may sing, either with a mask or without.
- Congregations may offer the common cup at communion. Each person should decide whether to receive in one kind (the bread only) or also to drink from the cup. Intinction, once so common in the Episcopal Church, contributes to the spread of any communicable disease. The Task Force strongly discourages this practice.

- At-risk groups deserve special attention, and these include the oldest and youngest among us. Young children have not yet had access to vaccines, and planners should consider this fact when planning Sunday School. Masking, hand washing, using larger rooms, and providing cross-ventilation make a safer space for those ages zero to four.
- The past year's data has shown that vaccinations do more than anything else to prevent disease spread and serious illness.
- The Task Force, as it has all along, strongly recommends the vaccine and booster.
- Many of our congregations have grown accustomed to using dual platforms, both in-person and digital media, for much of what we do—worship, education, and meetings. The Task Force encourages the use of both platforms. The capacity of clergy, staff, and unpaid volunteers should be a consideration, however, as the increased demands of providing two platforms has stretched the limits for many of our people and leaders.
- Leaders, lay and ordained, should continue to monitor COVID spread locally, both to assess the larger community and the needs of parish. A trend signaling increased spread of the virus, or the arrival of a troubling new variant, will require a return to stricter guidelines.

The downward trend of infections and hospitalizations may signal a turning point in the pandemic. The way forward is likely not a straight line, but there is reason for hope. Pray God that cause for hope will continue.

*George Wayne Smith, Bishop Provisional
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio*

Sunday Worship In March
We will offer 2 worship services.
9:00 am
Rite I In-Person in the church
10:30 am
Worship via Zoom

Sunday Worship beginning April 3
We will offer 3 worship services
8:00 a.m. Rite I Holy Eucharist
In person in the church

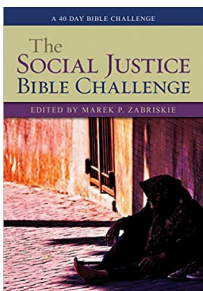
9:30 a.m. Family Service
In person in the Klages Education Building
(upstairs)

10:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist--In
person in the church
.....



Will begin again on March 24th –7:30 p.m.

***Lenten Formation gatherings
Wednesdays in Lent
7:00 - 8:00 pm***



Adult Formation: In person gathering from 7:00-8:00 pm in the living room

We will use "*The Social Justice Bible Challenge*" as our reference for reflection and conversation.

Here are the dates & leaders:

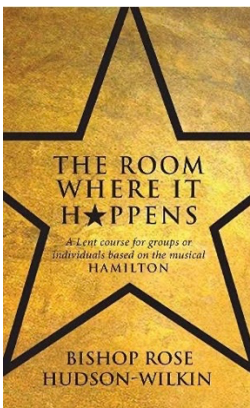
March 23: Carol Kaufman

March 30: Kristen Fout

April 6: Fr. Devin

Books are \$15.00 --please write "Lent Formation" in the memo line of your check--

The books are available at the church.



**Young Adult Formation:
Middle School -- College Adults**

We will be gathering on Wednesday evenings **beginning March 9 at 7-8pm** in the **EYC room in the Ed Building.**

The Room Where It Happens takes us on a Lenten journey exploring identity and belonging, ambition and temptation, forgiveness and redemption, love and sacrifice, and hope and courage through adversity utilizing the musical Hamilton.

We invite all middle school- college age folks to join us for this journey through Lent beginning March 9th.

Caring and Sharing

March's partner is: *Partners In Ministry In Liberia*

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.

Liberia, on the west coast of Africa, has had ties with our country since 1822 when freed slaves from the United States were repatriated to that country in the belief that ex-slaves would have greater freedom and equality in Africa. Slaves freed from slave ships were also sent there instead of being returned to their countries of origin. In 1847, the Republic of Liberia was founded and a government modeled on that of the United States was established. The capital city, Monrovia, was named after James Monroe, the fifth President of the United States and a supporter of the colonization of Liberia.

Modernization followed investment by the United States during World War II. Liberia was a founding member of the United Nations. The 1980s brought a period of political and economic instability followed by two successive civil wars (1989 – 2003) leaving approximately 250,000 people dead and destroying the country's infrastructure and economy. Since a peace agreement in 2003 and democratic elections in 2005, Liberia is recovering from the lingering effects of the civil war and related health, education, and economic problems.

Partners-in-Ministry-in Liberia (PIMIL) was established in 2005 at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Westerville by The Rev. Abeoseh Flemister (whose only brother was killed in the civil conflict) to focus on the education and health needs of the people in Liberia, an effort to rebuild the human resources of the country. St. Albans, guided by the Millennium Development Goals established by the United Nations and adopted by the Episcopal Church, has been a partner in this ministry since its inception. We were the primary sponsor of two nursing students, who have graduated from Cuttington University in Liberia and are now helping others with their health needs. More recently, funding has been directed toward primary education of children. Due to COVID, many of PIMIL's fundraising and promotional activities have not been possible.

The Mission of PIMIL through education:

- Demonstrating God's Love through Jesus.
- Restoring Hope.
- Transforming Lives.
- Enabling Dreams.
- Helping to rebuild Liberia
- Fulfilling the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2015 and adopted by the Episcopal Church at the General Convention 2016. (An extension of the MDGs 2000)**

In 2021, PIMIL paid tuition costs for 206 students and a record number of 26 new students were added to the PIMIL program due to COVID 19. The Ebola outbreak in 2014–2016 left numerous orphans. Many students sponsored by PIMIL are those orphaned or otherwise affected by the Ebola virus. In addition, PIMIL sent rice to help those who were hungry during the Ebola epidemic and the present pandemic and provided for a Christmas celebration for the children that will continue.

Caring and Sharing Sunday is March 13 when Mother Abeoseh (Abby) Flemister will share information About PIMIL with us. Contributions to Partners-in-Ministry-in-Liberia (PIMIL) our Caring and Sharing recipient for March may be made any time during the month of March. A check can be sent to the church payable to *St. Alban's with Caring and Sharing, PIMIL in the memo line.*

Reconciliation

"All may, some should, none must!"

On April 1 & April 8 --all are Friday dates from **9am-11am**, (or by appointment) Fr. Devin will be available for individuals desiring "*The Rite of Reconciliation.*" This sacramental rite, often overlooked, misunderstood, and misnamed "confession" is beneficial to us and our relationship with God and one another as it helps us "let go" of burdens.

If you would like to schedule a time with Fr. Devin or have questions about this practice, please email him at rector@stalbans-bexley.org.

You can learn more about Reconciliation on page 446 in the Book of Common Prayer.



**Volunteers Need to deliver
Easter Flowers
Please contact Ernestine Ujah**

Upcoming Meetings

Choir: practice resumes! March 24th 7:30 pm

Book Club: regular meeting is 1st Monday of each month

Next meeting: April 4 7:00 pm

This meeting will be in person in the library!

Building & Grounds: regular meeting is 1st Tuesday of each month

Next meeting: April 5 -7:00 pm

We will meet in person in the Living Room.

Vestry: regular meeting is 3rd Tuesday of month

Next meeting: April 19 7:00 pm

We will meet in person in the Living Room.

All members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

Creation Care: regular meeting in 3rd Wednesday each month

Next meeting: April 20-7:00 pm

We will meet in person in the Living Room

Social Concerns: regular meeting is 2nd Thursday of each month

Next meeting: May 12 7:00 pm

The April meeting falls on Maundy Thursday;

we will not be meeting then.

The meeting will be in person in the Living Room.

Holy Week Services

April 10 Palm Sunday

8:00 am Rite I Liturgy of the Palms

9:30 am Family Service

10:30 am Rite II Liturgy of the Palms

April 14, Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist w/Foot Washing

& Stripping of Altar

April 15, Good Friday

Noon Good Friday service

7:30 pm Good Friday service

April 17, Easter Day

8:00 Rite I Holy Eucharist

9:30 am Family Service

10:30 am. Rite II Holy Eucharist

