



# Welcome to St Alban's

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

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OPENING HYMN *Robert Bridges (1844-1930)*

1. All my hope on God is founded  
he doth still my trust renew.  
Me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown, he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

2. Pride of man and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with lavish care man buildeth,  
tow'r and temple fall to dust.  
But God's pow'r, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tow'r.

3. God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought;  
splendour, light and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore, from his store,  
new-born worlds rise and adore.

4. Still from man to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ his Son.  
Christ doth call one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

† In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

By the mercies of God, let us confess our sins and present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to him, which is our spiritual worship.

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy**

#### ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you, † pardon and deliver you  
from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

#### 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.**

#### THE COLLECT

God of all mercy,  
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,  
release to the captives,  
and freedom to the oppressed:  
anoint us with your Holy Spirit  
and set all your peoples free  
to praise you in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 19.6-10

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,

'Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God  
the Almighty reigns.

<sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and exult  
and give him the glory,  
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready;

<sup>8</sup> to her it has been granted to be clothed  
with fine linen, bright and pure' —  
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

<sup>9</sup> And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' <sup>10</sup> Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

THE GOSPEL  
John 2.1-11

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

<sup>6</sup> Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it.

<sup>9</sup> When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' <sup>11</sup> Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE SERMON

### 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,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who 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 INTERCESSION

*RESPONSE:* Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers we say together:*

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

## THE PEACE

We are the body of Christ.  
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:  
**And also with you.**

## THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human  
hands have made, it will become for us the bread of life.  
**Blessed be God forever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human  
hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.  
**Blessed be God forever.**

## THE EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst.

In the coming of the magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.  
In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us.  
In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.  
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices  
to proclaim the glory of your name  
and say our joyful hymn of praise:

**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 praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name;  
Your kingdom come, your will be done;  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

*The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members.*

*In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.*

An Act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul  
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever. Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

Almighty Father,  
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:  
may your people,  
illuminated by your word and sacraments,  
shine with the radiance of his glory,  
#that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life, perfect in you  
the image of his glory;  
and the blessing ...

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen**

**1. Thanks be to God whose love has gathered us this day;  
thanks be to God who helps and guides us on our way.  
Thanks be to God who gives us voice that we may thank him:  
*Deo gratias, Deo gratias, thanks be to God most high.***

**2. Thanks be to God for all the gifts of life and light;  
thanks be to God whose care protects us day and night.  
Thanks be to God who keeps in mind us who forget him:  
*Deo gratias, Deo gratias, thanks be to God most high.***

**3. Thanks be to God who knows our secret joys and fears;  
thanks be to God who when we call him always hears.  
Thanks be to God our rock and strength ever sustaining:  
*Deo gratias, Deo gratias, thanks be to God most high.***

**4. Thanks be to God who never turns his face away;  
thanks be to God who heals and pardons all who stray.  
Thanks be to God who welcomes us into his kingdom:  
*Deo gratias, Deo gratias, thanks be to God most high.***

**5. Thanks be to God who made our world and all we see;  
thanks be to God who gave his Son to set us free.  
Thanks be to God whose Spirit brings warmth and rejoicing:  
*Deo gratias, Deo gratias, thanks be to God most high.***

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