



# Welcome to St Alban's

## Lent 2

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*Before the children leave for Children's Church we pray together....*

**Dear God, this church is a family.  
Help us to learn together, to worship together,  
to share together and to pray together.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *John Bunyan (1628-88) Percy Dearmer*

**1 He who would valiant be  
'gainst all disaster,  
let him in constancy  
follow the Master.  
There's no discouragement  
shall make him once relent  
his first avowed intent  
to be a pilgrim.**

**2 Whoso beset him round  
with dismal stories  
Do but themselves confound –  
his strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay his might;  
though he with giants fight,  
he will make good his right  
to be a pilgrim.**

**3 Since, Lord, Thou dost defend  
us with Thy Spirit,  
we know we at the end  
shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away!  
I'll fear not what men say,  
I'll labour night and day  
to be a pilgrim.**

*We are gathered together as one body...*

† 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.**

## CONFESSION

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love,  
and marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.**

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.**

## THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted  
    into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things  
    that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 15.1–12,17–18

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Philippians 3.17 – 4.1

GRADUAL HYMN *Estelle White ©McCrimmon*

**1 Oh, the love of my Lord is the essence  
Of all that I love here on earth.  
All the beauty I see, He has given to me,  
And his giving is gentle as silence.**

**2 Every day, every hour, every moment,  
Have been blessed by the strength of His love.  
At the turn of each tide, He is there at my side,  
And his touch is as gentle as silence.**

**3 There've been times when I've turned from his presence,  
And I've walked other paths, other ways,  
But I've called on his name, in the dark of my shame  
And his mercy was gentle as silence.**

*We stand for the Gospel reading and sing...*

**Hear us O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have sinned against thee.**

THE GOSPEL

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Today's Gospel: Luke 13.31–35

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**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;  
he 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 meet in the name of Christ and we share his peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Richard Gillard©1977 Scripture in Song*

**1 Will you let me be your servant  
Let me be as Christ to you  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too**

**2 We are pilgrims on the journey  
We are trav'lers on the road;  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load**

**3 I will hold the Christ light for you  
In the night time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you  
Speak the peace you long to hear.**

**4 I will weep when you are weeping  
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
Till we've seen this journey through.**

**5 When we sing to God in heaven  
We shall find such harmony  
Born to all we've known together  
Of Christ's love and agony**

**6 Will you let me be your servant  
Let me be as Christ to you  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.**

#### 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.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

*New People's Mass, A Gregory Murray © 1975, 1987 McCrimmon Publishing Co Ltd.*

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.**

*New People's Mass, A Gregory Murray © 1975, 1987 McCrimmon*

*Invitation to communion*

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

**Jesus Christ is holy;**

**Jesus Christ is Lord;**

**to the glory of God the Father.**

*All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are welcome to receive communion. Any member of the congregation may receive a blessing.*

COMMUNION HYMN ©1980 Stephen Dean. OEP Publications

***Water of Life, cleanse and refresh us:  
raise us to life in Christ Jesus.***

**1 All you who thirst come to the waters  
And you will never be thirsty again.**

***Water of Life...***

**2 As rain from heav'n, so is God's word,  
Waters the earth and brings forth life.**

***Water of Life...***

**3 Dying with Christ, we shall rise with Him  
Death shall have no more pow'r over us.**

***Water of Life...***

**4 Turn to the Lord, cast off your wickedness  
You will find peace in his fatherly love.  
*Water of Life, cleanse and refresh us:  
raise us to life in Christ Jesus.***

*Prayer after Communion*

Lord God,  
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and strengthen our love:  
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,  
and enable us to live by every word  
    that proceeds from out of your mouth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**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

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts.

And the blessing....

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**1 How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him  
who brings good news, good news,  
announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness;  
our God reigns, our God reigns.**

***Our God reigns, our God reigns,  
our God reigns, our God reigns.***

**2 You watchmen lift your voices joyfully as one,  
shout for your King, your King!  
See eye to eye, the Lord restoring Zion:  
our God reigns, our God reigns.**

***Our God reigns ...***

**3 Waste places of Jerusalem, break forth with joy!  
We are redeemed, redeemed.  
The Lord has saved and comforted His people:  
our God reigns, our God reigns.**

***Our God reigns ...***

**4 Ends of the earth, see the salvation of our God!  
Jesus is Lord, is Lord!  
Before the nations, he has bared his holy arm:  
our God reigns, our God reigns.**

***Our God reigns ...***

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*Celebrating God's love in the  
heart of the community*