



Welcome to St Alban's

Lent 3

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 *Martin J. Nystrom ©1984 Restoration Music Ltd*

**As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.**

***You alone are my strength, my shield,
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.***

**2 I want you more than
gold or silver,
only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.
*You alone are my strength...***

**3 You're my friend and
you are my brother,
even though you are a king.
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything.
*You alone are my strength...***

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,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 55.1–9

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Corinthians 10.1–13

GRADUAL HYMN *©Ateliers et Presses de Taizé*

**Bless the Lord my soul,
and bless his holy name,
Bless the Lord my soul,
who leads me into life.
*Repeat***

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 13.1–9

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 *Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)*

**1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.**

**2 This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.**

**3 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

**4 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.**

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 Publishing Co Ltd

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.

**1 In Christ alone my hope is found
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**2 In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied -
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.**

**3 There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine -
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me:
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand:
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

Prayer after Communion

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
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.

CLOSING HYMN *Melody Green, based on Scripture ©1982*

**1 There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.**

***Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit
till the work on earth is done.***

**2 Jesus, my Redeemer,
name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain.**

**3 When I stand in glory,
I will see his face,
and there I'll serve my King for ever,
in that holy place.**

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heart of the community*

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