



# Welcome to St Alban's

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent

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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 *Martin Rinkart (1586-1649) Tr. Catherine Winkworth*

**1 Now thank we all our God,  
with hearts and hands and voices;  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mother's arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.**

**2 O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.**

**3 All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son, and him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be ever more.**

*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.**

#### 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.

**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.**

**GLORIA** *George Salazar© 1993 OCP Publications*

**Glory, glory, glory to God. Glory, glory, glory to God.**

**Glory to God in the heights of the heavens,  
peace to God's people, all people on earth.  
Glory, glory, glory to God. Glory, glory, glory to God.**

**Son of the Father, all glory and worship;  
praise and thanksgiving to you. Lamb of God  
Glory, glory, glory to God. Glory, glory, glory to God.**

**You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us, receive our prayer.  
Glory, glory, glory to God. Glory, glory, glory to God.**

**Seated in pow'r at the right of the Father,  
Jesus alone is the Lord, the Most High.  
Glory, glory, glory to God. Glory, glory, glory to God.**

**And with the Spirit of love everlasting,  
reigning in glory for ever. Amen  
Glory, glory, glory to God. Glory, glory, glory to God.**

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

Almighty God,  
give us reverence for all creation  
and respect for every person,  
that we may mirror your likeness  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Old Testament: Genesis 1.1 – 2.3  
New Testament: Romans 8.18–25

*After each reading ...* This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL

*We sing:* **Alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 6.25–34

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE SERMON

## RECEPTION INTO THE COMMUNION OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

### Presentation of the Candidate

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and  
of the Holy Spirit?  
**I have.**

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?  
**I am.**

### **The Decision**

*The president addresses the candidate*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.  
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.  
Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**I come to Christ.**

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ,  
give you the strength to continue in the Way.

**All    Amen.**

*The minister and candidate for reception into the communion of the Church of England gather at the baptismal font.*

### **Profession of Faith**

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess  
together with Deborah the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**All    I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
         creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**All I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Declaration**

*Those who are to be received into the communion of the Church of England stand before the president to make this declaration.*

*The president says*

You are here to be received into the communion of the Church of England.

Do you acknowledge the Church of England as part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church?

**I do.**

Do you accept the teaching, discipline and authority of the Church of England?

**I do.**

Will you take part with us in worship and mission?

**I will.**

*The candidate comes to the font and signs herself with water.*

*Then the president says*

Almighty God,  
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith  
with all who have been baptized into your name.  
Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day  
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All Amen.**

*The president and the candidate stand before the congregation.*

### **Reception into the Communion of the Church of England**

*The president extends her hands towards those to be received and says*

God of mercy and love,  
by one Spirit we have all been baptized into one body  
and made to drink of the one Spirit;  
we thank you for the gifts you have given to these your servants  
for the building up of the body of Christ.  
Grant that they may continue in the life of the Spirit  
and walk with us in the light and obedience of Christ.  
By the same Spirit, fill the whole Church with your overflowing love;  
give us knowledge and discernment of your will,  
and steadfastness in your service,  
until we all come to the unity of the faith,  
to the measure of the full stature of Christ,  
through whom we make our prayer.

**All Amen.**

*The president takes the hand of the person to be received, saying*

*Deborah*, we recognize you as a member of the one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church;  
and we receive you into the communion of the Church of England in  
the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

*The president invites the congregation to pray for those received into the communion of the Church of England*

**All** Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace,  
that they may continue yours for ever,  
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more  
until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

### **Commission**

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.  
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the  
breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil,  
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example  
the good news of God in Christ?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,  
loving your neighbour as yourself?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,  
by prayer for the world and its leaders,  
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

**With the help of God, I will.**

May Christ dwell in your heart through faith,  
that you may be rooted and grounded in love  
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

**All Amen.**



## THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 *Please stand if you are able*

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.**

*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.*

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

**3 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.  
*This is my story...***

#### 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.**

Father, you made the world and love your creation.  
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.  
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.  
And so we gladly thank you,  
with saints and angels 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.**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, 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.  
And 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 sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

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

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

*All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are welcome to receive communion.*

*Any member of the congregation may come up to receive a blessing.*

COMMUNION HYMN *Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart.**

**Give thanks to the Holy One.**

**Give thanks because he's given**

**Jesus Christ, his Son. (Repeat)**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong",  
let the poor say, "I am rich",  
because of what the Lord has done for us.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong",  
let the poor say, "I am rich",  
because of what the Lord has done for us.**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart...**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong",  
let the poor say, "I am rich",  
because of what the Lord has done for us.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong",  
let the poor say, "I am rich",  
because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks.**

#### PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

God our creator, by your gift  
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,  
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:  
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth  
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross  
and enjoy the delights of eternity;  
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**

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.**

#### **CLOSING HYMN** *Daniel L. Schutte © 1991 Daniel L. Schutte*

**1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry;  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me;  
I will hold your people in my heart.***

**2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain;  
I have wept for love of them –  
They turn away.**

**I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone;  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

***Here I am, Lord...***

**3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them –  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts are satisfied;  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

***Here I am, Lord...***

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

Website: [www.stalbansgossopsgreen.co.uk](http://www.stalbansgossopsgreen.co.uk)  
Facebook: St Alban's Gossops Green and Bewbush

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**REGULAR SERVICES AT ST ALBAN'S - *everyone is very welcome***

**SUNDAY SERVICES:**

Sung Eucharist 9:45am weekly

**WEEKDAY SERVICES:**

**Thursday 9:30am** Said Eucharist

*followed by Heart of Welcome Café 10am-12pm*

**Morning Prayer 9am** Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

**Saturday Prayers 9.30am** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month

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