

ST ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



THEY WILL SING OF THE WAYS OF THE LORD
THAT **GREAT IS THE GLORY OF THE LORD.**

(Psalm 138:5)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026
9:00AM

THE REV. DR. RICHARD VEVIA, JR.
PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

JUSTIN HANSEN
ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
490 Farragut Circle
El Cajon, CA 92020
Phone: 619-444-8212
E-mail: generalbusiness@stalbanschurch.info
Website: www.st-albans-church.org

Welcome Newcomers!

We are blessed to have you with us today. Please sign our newcomer's book at the back of the church, introduce yourself to the priest, and join us for coffee hour in the Parish Hall immediately after the service, just across the courtyard.

Our hope is that you find a home among us, in a place where the love of God is shared, the mystery of grace is experienced, and the joy and laughter of the Christian life is taught.

To learn more about St. Alban's call the office at (619) 444-8212 or email us at: generalbusiness@stalbanschurch.info. Also, check out our website at www.st-albans-church.org.

To the Parents of Young Children

We are so glad you are here! We know how challenging it can be to get a family out the door to come to church. We hope you can relax and receive the gifts of God that are here for you today. Please don't worry about squirming children or crying babies. All are welcome here. If you feel you must leave the service with your child, please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." We want them to know they are at home in this house of worship.

To All Worshippers

The presence of those with special needs is a gift to us and the Church. Please welcome all children and give their parents a smile of encouragement. Please greet those with special needs and their families, helping them to know they are valued and accepted in our community. Please introduce yourself to someone you do not know.

Thank you for being the welcoming Body of Christ!

PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers: Ahlam Westeen, Amal, Amanda & family, Angelynn Than & family, Bernice & Grace, Branda Moua, Chris Miller & family, Christine Peters, friends & family of David Hensen, friends & family of David Webb, Diaa, Don Mitchell, Dyvid Elias, friends & family of Edwin Anderson, Eileen McMillen, Fatin, Gavin Bishop, George Elia & Ibtisam Bashee, Georgina & Phil Loveless, Grizzley Ressler, Helen Molanphy, Hilda Ro & family, Jacque Swerdfeger, Jamal Shorees, Jason Longsworth, Jennifer Airy, Jennie French & family, Josh P, Judith Taylor, Judy Brown, Kent Crothers, Laurie Ibanez, Linda Fairweather, Marion Weist & family, Mike & Molly, Mike & Penny Park, Mishael, Mu Tay, friends & family of Nanajan, Pa Lae, Raida Nooh, Ricardo, friends & family of Rick Williams, the Rodriguez family, Roger & Chris, the Romeo family, Rose Williams, Samir Matta, Shae Paw & Lily, Victoria Mayor, and Vivien.

Pray for those serving in the military: Barnes, Christopher Ibanez, Joshua Ibanez, Clarence Thompkins, David Longsworth, Donovan Burns, Jacob Swerdfeger, Lindzy Macias, Phoenix Locken, Riley McMillen, Travis Warner, and Xavier Arthurs.

We pray for peace in the Holy Land most especially for our Christian brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Haiti, Myanmar (known as Burma), Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Pakistan, Tunisia, Eritrea, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia, Israel and Palestine, and all places on the earth where people are in danger and treated unfairly, who are suffering deprivation, torture, and death for confessing Christ as their Lord.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer: We give thanks today for the clergy and people of St. Dunstan's in San Diego. And, for Agape House, its ministries, and the students of SDSU and UCSD.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we give thanks today for The Church of the Province of West Africa.

Prayer Requests: To make a request or to update requests, please call the St Alban's office: 619-444-8212, or email: generalbusiness@stalbanschurch.info. You are also invited to add a prayer request in the narthex to be read in our Sunday public prayers. We can also receive prayer requests through our website: www.st-albans-church.org



ACCESIBLE RESTROOMS ARE LOCATED IN THE PARISH HALL ACROSS THE COURTYARD.
Please ask the usher if you need assistance.

The Word of God

Prelude

Welcome

Please rise in body or spirit.

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 525, “The Church’s One Foundation”

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be His kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Gloria – S280



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day –

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that Your Church, being gathered together in unity by Your Holy Spirit, may show forth Your power among all peoples, to the glory of Your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

A period of silence is kept.

The Lessons

The First Lesson – Isaiah 51:1-6

Lector: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;

for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

For the LORD will comfort Zion;
He will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;

joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to Me, My people,
and give heed to Me, My nation;
for a teaching will go out from Me,
and My justice for a light to the peoples.

I will bring near My deliverance swiftly,
My salvation has gone out
and My arms will rule the peoples;

the coastlands wait for Me,
and for My arm they hope.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;

but My salvation will be forever,
and My deliverance will never be ended.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

1 I will give thanks to You, O LORD, with my whole heart; * before the gods I will sing Your praise.	6 They will sing of the ways of the LORD, * that great is the glory of the LORD.
2 I will bow down toward Your holy temple and praise Your Name, * because of Your love and faithfulness;	7 Though the LORD be high, He cares for the lowly; * He perceives the haughty from afar.
3 For You have glorified Your Name * and Your word above all things.	8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You keep me safe; * You stretch forth Your hand against the fury of my enemies; Your right hand shall save me.
4 When I called, You answered me; * You increased my strength within me.	9 The LORD will make good His purpose for me; * O LORD, Your love endures forever; do not abandon the works of Your hands.
5 All the kings of the earth will praise You, O LORD, * when they have heard the words of Your mouth.	

The Second Reading – Romans 12:1-8

Lector: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Music – LEV 154, “Taste and See”

Taste and see.
Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
O taste and see.
Taste and see the goodness of the Lord,
of the Lord.

The Gospel —Matthew 16:13-20 (Reading in Arabic)

Sequence Music – LEV 154, “Taste and See”

The Gospel – Matthew 16:13-20 (Reading in English)

Celebrant: The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then He sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Sequence Music – LEV 154, “Taste and See”

Sermon – The Rev. Dr. Richard Vevia, Jr.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Lord Christ, You became flesh and dwelled among us and through Your Holy Spirit You dwell among us still.
Use Word and Sacrament this day to help us know this truth more deeply in our hearts
and live its reality more fully in our lives. **Amen.**

Sequence Music – LEV 154, “Taste and See”

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Please rise in body or spirit and join me in saying the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed

All say together.

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:
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.
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 worshipped 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

Intercessor: Father, we pray for Your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Intercessor: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve You;

People: That Your Name may be glorified by all people.

Intercessor: We particularly pray for our brothers and sisters in Rwanda;

People: That they would have freedom to worship Christ.

Intercessor: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, particularly Sean our presiding bishop, Susan our bishop, and Richard our priest-in-charge;

People: That they may be faithful ministers of Your Word and Sacraments.

Intercessor: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, particularly President Donald Trump, Governor Gavin Newsom, and Mayor Bill Wells;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Intercessor: Give us grace to do Your will in all that we undertake;

People: That our works may find favor in Your sight.

Intercessor: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

Ahlam Westeen Amal Amanda & family Angelynn Than & family Bernice & Grace Branda Moua Chris Miller & family Christine Peters friends & family of David Hensen friends & family of David Webb Diaa Don Mitchell Dyvid Elias friends & family of Edwin Anderson Eileen McMillen Fatin Gavin Bishop George Elia & Ibtisam Bashee Georgina & Phil Loveless Grizzly Ressler Helen Molanphy Hilda Ro & family Jacque Swerdferger Jamal Shorees Jason Longsworth Jennifer Airy	Jennie French & family Josh P Judith Taylor Judy Brown Kent Crothers Laurie Ibanez Linda Fairweather Marion Weist & family Mike & Molly Mike & Penny Park Mishael Mu Tay friends & family of Nanajan Pa Lae Raida Nooh Ricardo friends & family of Rick Williams the Rodriguiz family Roger & Chris the Romeo family Rose Williams Samir Matta Shae Paw & Lily Victoria Mayor Vivien
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Pause for additional petitions, spoken aloud or silently in your heart.

Intercessor: And those not named here but known to You.

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Intercessor: Watch over those serving in the military, particularly:

Barnes Christopher Ibanez Joshua Ibanez Clarence Thompkins David Longsworth Donovan Burns	Jacob Swerdfeger Lindzy Macias Phoenix Locken Riley McMillen Travis Warner Xavier Arthurs
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Intercessor: And we give thanks for all our veterans:

People: **Thank You good and gracious God.**

Intercessor: Give to the departed eternal rest.

People: **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Celebrant: We praise You for Your saints who have entered into joy; particularly **Bernard of Clairvaux**, Monastic and Theologian, and all who have died in the hope of the resurrection,

People: **May we also come to share in Your heavenly kingdom.**

Celebrant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of Your people and strengthen us to do Your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is kept.

All say together:

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

Absolution

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep You **+** in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

At this time you are invited to greet others with a handshake, a wave or hug in peace as you are comfortable.

Announcements

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*
All things come from You O Lord.
People: And of Your own we have given You.

Offertory Solo – “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”, Tracy Vevia

Offertory Response – “Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The image shows a musical score for a five-part setting of the offertory response. It is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The score consists of five staves, each with a line of music and corresponding lyrics. The lyrics are: 'Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.', 'Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.', 'When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,', 'warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.', and 'Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.'

The Holy Communion

Please stand in body or spirit.

The Great Thanksgiving

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

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of His true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith and giving to Your Church the power to serve You as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

Therefore, we praise You, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of Your Name:

Sanctus S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, _____ Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, _____ hea - ven and earth are full, _____
full _____ of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes _____ in the name of the Lord. _____
_____ Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In Your infinite love You made us for Yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, You, in Your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, Your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to You, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to Your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night He was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when He had given thanks to You, he broke it, and gave it to His disciples, and said,

"Take, eat: This is My Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me."

After supper He took the cup of wine; and when He had given thanks, He 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of Me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling His death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer You these gifts. Sanctify them by Your Holy Spirit to be for our people the Body and Blood of Your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve You in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all Your saints into the joy of Your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through Your Son Jesus Christ. By Him, and with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is Yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer – *(Arabic/English - please see pew card)*

A moment of reverence is kept.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Invitation

Celebrant: This is the table, not of the church but of Jesus Christ.
It is made ready for those who love Him and who want to love Him more.
So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;
you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time;
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed;
come, not because the church invites you;
it is Christ, and He invites you to meet Him here.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymn – *Hymnal 337, “And Now, Oh Father”*

Please stand in body or spirit.

Celebrant: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

People: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Eternal God, heavenly Father

People: You have graciously accepted us as living members
of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and You have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve You with gladness
and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn – *Hymnal 388, “O, Worship the King”*

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Participants in Today's In-Person and Online Worship

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Richard Vevia, Jr.

Assisting: Postulant Mary Zori

Cantor: Samir Matta

Lectors/Intercessors: Colette Hurd, Joanne Bishop, Tracy Vevia

Organist/Choirmaster: Justin Hansen

Streaming Tech: Lily Airy

Gospel Readers: Arabic - Nawal Yousif, Mary Zori, Samir Matta, Jamil Shorees, Ibtisam Bashee, Nahrien Patak,
Intissar Razoq, & Musa

Karen - Angelynn Than

Ushers: Sharon Hathaway and Lisa Hilliker

Altar Guild: Lisa Hilliker, Ibtisam Bashee, Intissar Razoq

VOICE OF THE MARTYRS

There are books in the narthex which can be borrowed for 1 week.

Christianity in Rwanda

Though the population of Rwanda is 89 percent Christian, the Rwandan government has become increasingly restrictive of Christian activity in recent years. Front-line workers reported that 5,000 churches were shut down in 2024 alone for failure to comply with government standards. Christians in Rwanda are concerned that growing government control of churches will negatively affect their ability to teach the Scriptures from a sound biblical worldview. Front-line workers are also concerned that developments in Rwanda may spread to surrounding East African nations.

Prayer Requests For Rwanda

Pray that the government officials who monitor churches and ministries will hear the gospel and come to faith in Christ.
Pray that the thousands of churches closed by the government will find ways to continue in worship and fellowship.
Pray that pastors will have the boldness and courage to continue sharing the gospel despite government pressure.
Pray that God will replace any fear in Christians with "a spirit ... of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:7).
Pray that Rwandan Christians will stand firmly on the truth of Scripture as they face government monitoring.

Report Misconduct: The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego considers the reporting and investigation of misconduct to be of critical importance. Reporting enables the diocese to protect the complainant, the respondent, and the larger community. It also allows the diocese to assist with the spiritual, psychological, and emotional needs of all concerned during and after the report of misconduct.

Intake Officers: The Rev. Willy Crespo, fcrespo@gmail.com, Ms. Betsy Vaughn, betsy.vaughn6@gmail.com, and Ms. Meredith Hardy, mlh8180@gmail.com <https://edsd.org/safe-church-safe-communities/reporting-misconduct>

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