

St. Alban's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

welcomes you



The Great Vigil of Easter

Holy Eucharist: Rite II with Holy Baptism

April 4, 2026

8:00 p.m.

The Service of Light

**The congregation is invited to stand as able when indicated by an asterisk.*

*The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

The service will begin in the Memorial Garden, weather permitting. In the darkness, the Paschal fire is kindled.

Celebrant

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Procession

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Deacon bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

At the second and third pause, the Versicle and Response is sung successively a step higher.

Members of the congregation have their candles lighted from the Paschal Candle at this time. The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.

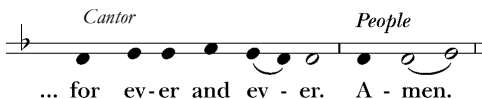
*The Exsultet

Cantor

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King. Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me: O God Almighty grant us grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,



... for ev-er and ev - er. A - men.

The Service of Lessons

Celebrant

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The people are seated and extinguish their candles.

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

***Hymn: 648, When Israel was in Egypt's land,** *stanzas 1 & 3*

GO DOWN, MOSES

Let us pray. O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Salvation Offered Freely to All

Isaiah 55:1-11

***Hymn: 679, Surely it is God who saves me**

THOMAS MERTON

Let us pray. O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Valley of Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14

***Hymn: 508, Breathe on me, breath of God,** *stanzas 1 & 4*

NOVA VITA

Let us pray. Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The candles at the Altar are now lighted from the Paschal Candle.

*The Easter Acclamation

BCP p. 299

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Ringing of the Bells

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.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation: Easter Fanfare *(sung by the Choir)*

E. E. Ferguson

*The Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Rev. Carmen Germino

The Holy Baptism

The Presentation and Examination of the Candidate

BCP p. 301

***The Baptismal Covenant**

BCP p. 304

***The Prayers for the Candidate**

BCP p. 305

The Thanksgiving Over the Water

BCP p. 306

The Baptism

BCP p. 307

***The Exchange of the Peace**

BCP p. 308

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Eucharist

The Offertory Anthem: He is Not Here!

Russell Nagy

***The Presentation of Gifts**

***The Festival Doxology**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

***The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A**

BCP p. 361

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
 there - fore let us keep the feast.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Ministration of Communion

BCP p. 365

All are welcome to gather at the Lord's table. At the appropriate time, you may come forward to the altar rail, filling in from right to left. Kneeling is optional. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the clergy. Wine is available either by sipping from the common cup (silver chalice) or by intinction (dipping the wafer into the pottery chalice). If you are choosing the common cup, it will be stationed in front of the altar rail in the center – please make your way there after consuming your wafer at the rail. If you choose to intinct, please remain where you are and hold your wafer visibly to indicate that is your preference. Please take utmost care to keep your fingers from touching the wine as you dip. You may choose to receive only the bread or the wine, as either one alone is a full Communion. Please tell an usher if you need Communion brought to you. In the Episcopal Church, it is customary that those receiving Communion have been baptized in any Christian tradition, and no one who comes to the altar in faith is turned away. If you would like to learn more about Baptism at St. Alban's, please be in touch with the clergy. If you are not receiving Communion, we hope you will come forward and cross your arms over your chest, so that we might share a blessing with you.

The Communion Hymn: 208, The strife is o'er

VICTORY

***The Post Communion Prayer**

BCP p. 365

The congregation is invited to stand or kneel as able.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, 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.

***The Easter Blessing**

Celebrant

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

***The Recessional Hymn: 210, The day of resurrection!**

ELLACOMBE

***The Dismissal**

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Postlude: I Know that My Redeemer Lives

Robert A. Hobby

All are invited to enjoy festive refreshments in the narthex following the service, provided by the Ministry of Fun.

Thank you to Lois Buesser, our Interim Organist and Choir Director, and to the Parish Choir
for their lovely musical offerings this evening.

Thank you to the members of the St. Alban's Altar Guild and Flower Guild for their tireless efforts
beautifying the church and enriching our worship experience.

Copyright Notices: Hymns are from *The Hymnal 1982*, © 1985 The Church Pension Fund: 508 *Breathe on me, breath of God*; 648 *When Israel was in Egypt's land*; 679 *Surely it is God who saves me*; 208 *The strife is o'er*; 210 *The day of resurrection!*. Prelude: *O Sacred Head*, Don Hustad/Hope Publishing; *Ave Verum*, Edward Elgar/Hope Publishing. Gospel Acclamation: *Easter Fanfare*, E. E. Ferguson. Offertory Anthem: *He is Not Here!*; Postlude: *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*, Robert A. Hobby/Augsburg Publishing. Sanctus: S 128 *Holy, holy, holy Lord*, William Mathias; Fraction Anthem: S 154 *Christ our Passover*, David Hurd. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed under OneLicense.net #A-735692

Easter Schedule

Sunday, April 5 | Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

This simple, joyful service includes Easter hymns.

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

This is our most family-friendly service, with music led by the Children's Choir and Parish Choir. Overflow seating will be available in the Parish Hall.

10:15 a.m. Children's Easter Egg Hunt, outside if weather permits

No Sunday School. Rain location: preschool lobby. Each child may find up to 5 eggs. They get to keep the contents, then use the eggs to "vote" for how we allocate our 2026 Easter offering to Episcopal Relief & Development.

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II with Parish Choir

This service includes music led by the Parish Choir. Overflow seating will be available in the Parish Hall.

Welcome to St. Alban's!

Together We...*Gather to Worship, Scatter to Serve, Love Like Jesus*



We pray that your worship with us will bring you the grace, peace, and joy of Christ. If you are new to our faith community, we would love to connect with you. Please fill out a purple sheet located on the Welcome Center table in the narthex or scan the QR code to the left with the camera on your smart phone which will direct you to an online newcomer form.

St. Alban's is a Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

The Right Reverend Samuel Sewall Rodman, III, Bishop of North Carolina

The Right Reverend Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop

The Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Carmen Germino, Rector

The Reverend Kevin Lloyd, Associate Rector

Davidson College Campus Minister

The Reverend Leslie Nuñez Steffensen, Priest Associate

Bob Beckham, Facility Manager

Jessica Ewell, Parish Administrator and Communications Director

Courtney Fossett, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Erin Garrett, Director of Finance

Matt Presson, Director of Children's Choir and Stream Team

Nadia Rahaim, Preschool Director


The Vestry of St. Alban's

Denise Badgett, Sandy Beetner, Zee Berl, Elaine Carmann, Gordon Garrett, Sarah Hicks, Mike Kingsley, Mike McDonnell, Kaitlin Mollenkopf, Dave Pylipow, Michael Spivey, Jim Turner



301 Caldwell Lane, Davidson, NC 28036

Office: 704-892-0173 | Preschool: 704-892-8955 | www.saintalbansdavidson.org

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