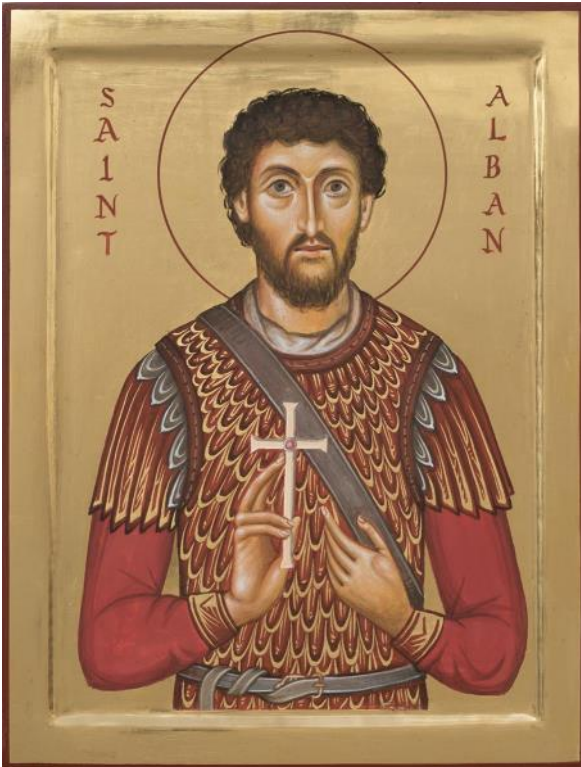




*Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.*

22 June 2022 9:30am

## THE FEAST OF ST. ALBAN



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Saint Alban** (/ˈɔːlbən, ˈæl-/; Latin: *Albanus*) is venerated as the first-recorded [British Christian martyr](#),<sup>[1]</sup> for which reason he is considered to be the British [protomartyr](#). Along with fellow Saints [Julius and Aaron](#), Alban is one of three named martyrs recorded at an early date from [Roman Britain](#) ("[Amphibalus](#)" was the name given much later to the priest he was said to have been protecting). He is traditionally believed to have been beheaded in [Verulamium](#) (modern [St Albans](#)) sometime during the 3rd or 4th century, and his cult has been celebrated there since ancient times.

Hagiography

Alban lived in [Roman Britain](#), but little is known about his religious affiliations, socioeconomic status, or citizenship. According to the most elaborate version of the tale found in [Bede's \*Ecclesiastical History of the English People\*](#), in the 3rd or 4th century (see dating contro-



**Opening Acclamation:**

**Presider** Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

**People** **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

**Gloria**

**1982 Hymnal #S236**

**Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers;**  
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

**Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name;**  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

**Glory to you in the splendor of your temple;**  
on the throne of you majesty, glory to you.

**Glory to you, seated between the cherubim;**

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

**Glory to you, beholding the depths; in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.**

**Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;**

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

**Salutation**

**Presider** God be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

**Presider** Let us pray

**Collect of the Day:**

**Almighty God, by whose grace and power your holy martyr Alban triumphed over suffering and was faithful even unto death: Grant us, who now remember him in thanksgiving, to be so faithful in our witness to you in this world that we may receive with him the crown of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Word of God** *(please be seated)*

**The First Lesson - A Reading from 1 John 3:13–16**

Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Psalm - Psalm 34:1-8**

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; \*  
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.**
- 2 I will glory in the Lord; \*  
let the humble hear and rejoice.**
- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; \*  
let us exalt his Name together.**
- 4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me \*  
and delivered me out of all my terror.**
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, \*  
and let not your faces be ashamed.**
- 6 I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me \*  
and saved me from all my troubles.**
- 7 The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him, \*  
and he will deliver them.**
- 8 Taste and see that the Lord is good; \*  
happy are they who trust in him!**

### **Gospel Lesson:**

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to

**Matthew 10:34–42**

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;  
and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find

their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Deacon:       The Gospel of the Lord  
People:       **Thanks be to you, Lord Christ**

## **Sermon**

**Nicene Creed** *All say together* (CONTEMPORARY VERSION)

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped 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 the People**

Leader: Holy God, by your spirit you gave birth to your church: may our many members be the one Body of Christ in this World, and then lead us by your Holy Spirit in the ways of truth and love. Come, Spirit of Truth,

**People: Come, Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Holy God, you gave your disciples the ability to speak in languages of the people: may we also speak about your deeds of power and grace throughout the world, that all may know of your loving-kindness and saving mercy. Come, Spirit of Truth,

**People: Come, Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Holy God, the earth is full of your creatures: may all who look to you be given their food in due season. Open your hand in the desolate places and fill the hungry with good things. Come, Spirit of Truth,

**People: Come, Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Holy God, you poured out your Holy Spirit in your holy city Jerusalem: pour out your Spirit in our own towns and cities. Raise up modern day prophets and visionaries to call us to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Come, Spirit of Truth,

**People: Come, Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Holy God, you give the gift of healing by your Spirit: bring healing and wholeness to all those on our hearts and minds this day, especially (the people add their petitions for prayers)..... In your might and compassion, renew the face of the Earth. Bring renewal to those in need. Come, Spirit of Truth,

**People: Come, Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Holy God, you adopt us as your children, joint heirs with your Christ. In your unending loving-kindness we lift up to you:

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: *The Diocese of Makurdi – The Church of Nigeria*

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer: *All Saints of the Desert in Sun City*.  
And we pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache peoples who called this area home.

May we continue to support one another in love and empathy.  
Come, Spirit of Truth,

**People: Come, Holy Spirit.**

## Confession of Sin

Deacon: Let us confess our sins to God.

**All: God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

## Absolution

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## Exchange of the Peace

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you

**All And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

The Presider: *I appeal to you, friends, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

## Offertory

## Doxology

(Hymn #380 v. 3)

♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow**  
**Praise him all creature here below**  
**Praise Him above ye heavenly host**  
**Praise, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen ♪**

# The Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving

*EOW 2*

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Presider *Lift up your hearts.*

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

People: **You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.**

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

*Presider and People:*

*Hymnal #S128*

♪ **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 ♪**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

**Living among us, Jesus loved us.**

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

**He yearned to draw all the world to himself; yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.**

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

**Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.**

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new Creation (+), the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

**In the fullness of time bring us, with St. Stephen and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.**

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever. **AMEN**

And now as Jesus taught us, we pray: (*Contemporary Lord's Prayer*)

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**

**Now and forever. Amen.**



## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*(Presider breaks the consecrated bread)*

Fraction Anthem

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia  
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us,  
Therefore let us keep the feast,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

### **Invitation to Communion:**

Presider: These are the gifts of God for the People of God.

**People: Christ invites us all to be known and fed here.**

*Everyone is welcome and invited to come forward and receive the bread and wine in this church. Our bread is gluten/nut free. It is real wine. Please kneel or stand at the altar rail, and extend your hand to receive the bread. Because of ongoing Covid concerns we are intincting/dipping the bread only. No drinking from the chalice/cup. When the chalice comes to you, dip the bread in the wine, and consume it. If you prefer, you can eat the bread without the wine. You may receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine also; indicate your desire to have a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.*

### **Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, and Gratitude**

#### **Post Communion Prayer**

Presider: Let us pray:

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.**

**Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world, and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **Benediction:**

Presider: And now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. And the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with all of you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Deacon: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

**People: We are called to love and serve.**

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (*Alleluia!*)**

versy below), Christians began to suffer "cruel persecution", and Alban was living in [Verulamium](#).<sup>[2]</sup> However, [Gildas](#) says he crossed the Thames before his martyrdom, so some authors place his residence and martyrdom in or near London.<sup>[3]</sup> Both agree that Alban met a Christian priest fleeing from persecutors and sheltered him in his house for a number of days. The priest, who later came to be called [Amphibalus](#), meaning "cloak" in Latin, prayed and "kept watch" day and night, and Alban was so impressed with the priest's faith and piety that he found himself emulating him and soon converted to Christianity. Eventually, it came to the ears of an unnamed "impious prince" that Alban was sheltering the priest. The prince gave orders for Roman soldiers to make a strict search of Alban's house. As they came to seize the priest, Alban put on the priest's cloak and clothing and presented himself to the soldiers in place of his guest.<sup>[2]</sup>

Alban was brought before a judge, who just then happened to be standing at the altar, offering sacrifices to "devils" (Bede's reference to pagan gods). When the judge heard that Alban had offered himself up in place of the priest, he became enraged that Alban would shelter a person who "despised and blasphemed the gods,"<sup>[2]</sup> and, as Alban had given himself up in the Christian's place, Alban was sentenced to endure all the punishments that were to be inflicted upon the priest, unless he would comply with the pagan rites of their religion. Alban refused, and declared, "I worship and adore the true and living God who created all things." (The words are still used in prayer at St Alban's Abbey). The enraged judge ordered Alban to be [scourged](#), thinking that a whipping would shake the constancy of his heart, but Alban bore these torments patiently and joyfully. When the judge realized that the tortures would not shake his faith, he gave orders for Alban to be beheaded.<sup>[2]</sup>

Alban was led to execution, and he presently came to a fast-flowing river that could not be crossed (believed to be the [River Ver](#)). There was a bridge, but a mob of curious townspeople who wished to watch the execution had so clogged the bridge that the execution party could not cross. Filled with an ardent desire to arrive quickly at martyrdom, Alban raised his eyes to heaven, and the river dried up, allowing Alban and his captors to cross over on dry land. The astonished executioner cast down his sword and fell at Alban's feet, moved by divine inspiration and praying that he might either suffer with Alban or be executed for him.<sup>[2][4]</sup>

The other executioners hesitated to pick up his sword, and meanwhile, Alban and they went about 500 paces to a gently sloping hill, completely covered with all kinds of wild flowers, and overlooking a beautiful plain. (Bede observes that it was a fittingly beautiful place to be enriched and sanctified by a martyr's blood.)<sup>[2]</sup>

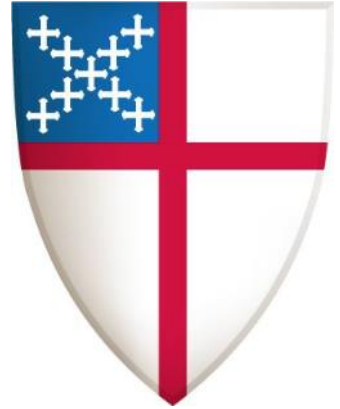
When Alban reached the summit of the hill, he began to thirst and prayed God would give him water. A spring immediately sprang up at his feet. It was there that his head was struck off, as well as the head of the first Roman soldier who was miraculously converted and refused to execute him. However, immediately after delivering the fatal stroke, the eyes of the second executioner popped out of his head and dropped to the ground, along with Alban's head, so that this second executioner could not rejoice over Alban's death.<sup>[2]</sup>

In later legends, Alban's head rolled downhill after his execution, and a well sprang up where it stopped.<sup>[5]</sup> Upon hearing of the miracles, the astonished judge ordered further persecutions to cease, and he began to honour the saint's death.<sup>[2]</sup>

[St Albans Cathedral](#) now stands near the believed site of his execution,

[Continued online](#)

*Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.*



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### Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update    Giving Envelopes     Mail News Letter   

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (first) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mid.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last)

Hm: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Anv. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Adrs: \_\_\_\_\_ BrthDate \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_