



## The Feast of St. Alban: Sunday, June 21, 2020

### The Collect

Almighty God, by whose grace and power your holy martyr Alban triumphed over suffering and was faithful even to 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 First Lesson

Wisdom 3:1-9 (CEB)

The souls of those who do what is right are in God's hand. They won't feel the pain of torment. To those who don't know any better, it seems as if they have died. Their departure from this life was considered their misfortune. Their leaving us seemed to be their destruction, but in reality they are at peace. It may look to others as if they have been punished, but they have the hope of living forever. They were disciplined a little, but they will be rewarded with abundant good things, because God tested them and found that they deserve to be with him. He tested them like gold in the furnace; he accepted them like an entirely burned offering. Then, when the time comes for judgment, the godly will burst forth and run about like fiery sparks among dry straw. The godly will judge nations and hold power over peoples, even as the Lord will rule over them forever. Those who trust in the Lord will know the truth. Those who are faithful will always be with him in love. Favor and mercy belong to the holy ones. God watches over God's chosen ones.

### Psalm 31:1-5

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- <sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.
- <sup>2</sup> Incline your ear to me; \* make haste to deliver me.
- <sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- <sup>4</sup> Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.
- <sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.

## The Second Lesson

1 John 3:13-16 (MSG)

So don't be surprised, friends, when the world hates you. This has been going on a long time. The way we know we've been transferred from death to life is that we love our brothers and sisters. Anyone who doesn't love is as good as dead. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know very well that eternal life and murder don't go together.

## Gospel

Matthew 10:34-42 (MSG)

"Don't think I've come to make life cozy. I've come to cut—make a sharp knife-cut between son and father, daughter and mother, bride and mother-in-law—cut through these cozy domestic arrangements and free you for God. Well-meaning family members can be your worst enemies. If you prefer father or mother over me, you don't deserve me. If you prefer son or daughter over me, you don't deserve me.

"If you don't go all the way with me, through thick and thin, you don't deserve me. If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me.

"We are intimately linked in this harvest work. Anyone who accepts what you do, accepts me, the One who sent you. Anyone who accepts what I do accepts my Father, who sent me. Accepting a messenger of God is as good as being God's messenger.

Accepting someone's help is as good as giving someone help. This is a large work I've called you into, but don't be overwhelmed by it. It's best to start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice. You won't lose out on a thing."

## Prayers of the People

Reader: Let us pray;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**