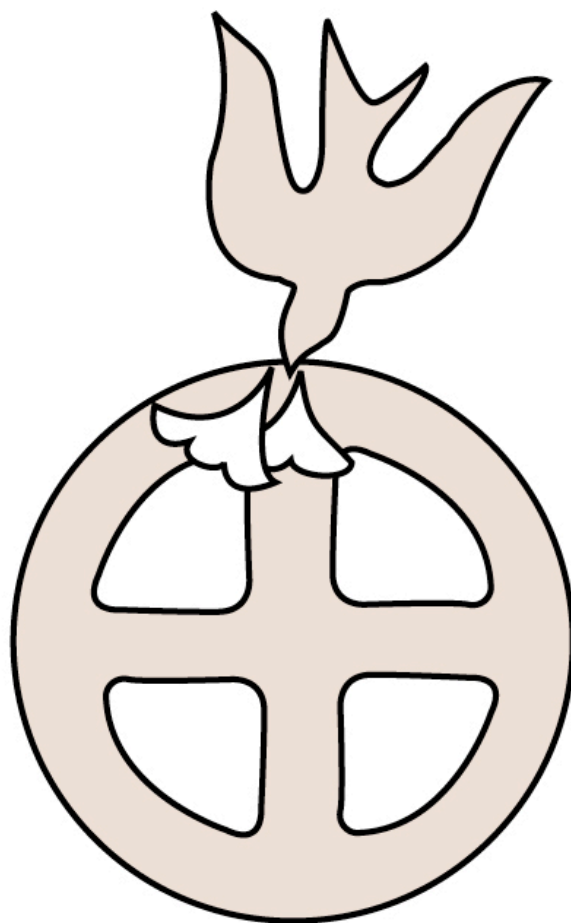


# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



DECEMBER 27, 2020

PREMIERED ON YOUTUBE

10:30AM

W/ ONLINE COFFEE HOUR BEGINNING AT 10:15AM

# THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The First Sunday after Christmas Day

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## THE WORD OF GOD

### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION \*

What happens when you are spiritually prepared and desire to receive communion, but can't?  
Such a case is referenced by a paragraph in the 1979 Prayer Book:

*If a person desires to receive the Sacrament, but, by reason of extreme sickness or physical disability, is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, the Celebrant is to assure that person that all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth.*

A nation-wide shut down due to a pandemic fits, I'm sure we'll agree, with the words "by any other impediment" listed in the first Prayer Book. Our Lord will not cut us off from his grace. If we truly desire him, he will come to us, even if we cannot receive the Sacraments he has instituted so that we may receive his grace. This is not a new idea. St Thomas Aquinas, writing nearly 800 years ago, said:

*before receiving a sacrament, the reality of the sacrament can be had through the very desire of receiving the sacrament. Accordingly, before actual reception of this sacrament, a man can obtain salvation through the desire of receiving it, just as he can before Baptism through the desire of Baptism, as stated above (Summa, III.73.iii)*

Desiring to receive the spiritual grace of the Most Holy Eucharist (and being prevented from receiving it sacramentally) is known as Spiritual Communion. It is so very important to note that this gift is given to us when we cannot, for very good reason, be present at mass.

When you are watching a live-stream or recording of our liturgies, any of the following prayers may be said at the moment of communion when you would normally leave your pew and make your journey to the altar:

**In Union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of Your Church where Your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I believe that You are present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to You, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from You. Let me live and die in Your love. Amen.**

*OR*

**Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (from *Enriching Our Worship 2*)**

*OR*

**"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire you with all my heart.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already in my heart  
and unite myself to you completely.  
Please do not let me ever be separated from you." (by St. Alphonsus Liguori)**

*\*Except where otherwise indicated, the whole of this article (with only very little amendment) is taken from the website of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where it was posted on April 5, 2020. No author was specified.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Opening Hymn 497

*How bright appears the Morning Star*

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing  
 2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a  
 3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,

from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;  
 pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;  
 fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.

O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and  
 the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -  
 In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great

Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:  
 plim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;  
 Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.

Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,  
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it  
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.  
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.  
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: *Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

BCP 355

Song of Praise #100

Joy to the world!

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 repeat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 3 far as the curse is found, far  
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 repeat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; 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 FIRST READING

*read by George Krause*

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
Thanks be to God.*

## **Psalm 147:13-21**

*Spoken by all*

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \* praise your God, O Zion;  
14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \* he has blessed your children within you.  
15 He has established peace on your borders; \* he satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
16 He sends out his command to the earth, \* and his word runs very swiftly.  
17 He gives snow like wool; \* he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.  
18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \* who can stand against his cold?  
19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \* he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.  
20 He declares his word to Jacob, \* his statutes and his judgments to Israel.  
21 He has not done so to any other nation; \* to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

## THE SECOND READING

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
Thanks be to God.*



1 Of the Fa-ther's love be-got-ten, ere the worlds be-  
 2 O that birth for ev-er bless-ed, when the Vir-gin,  
 3 Let the heights of heaven a-dore him; an-gel hosts, his  
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa-ther, and, O Ho-ly

gan to be, he is Al-pha and O-me-ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho-ly Ghost con-ceiv-ing,  
 prais-es sing; powers, do-min-ions, bow be-fore him,  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv-ing,

he the source, the end-ing he, of the things that  
 bore the Sa-vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
 and ex-tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
 and un-wea-ried prais-es be; hon-or, glo-ry

are, that have been, and that fu-ture  
 world's Re-deem-er, first re-vealed his  
 earth be-silent, ev-ery voice in  
 and do-minion, and e-ter-nal

years shall see, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!  
 sa-cred face, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!  
 con-cert ring, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!  
 vic-to-ry, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!

This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

## THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

Celebrant: *The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to John.*  
 People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

*The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.*

THE SERMON: The Rev. Christina Dondero

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

*(said by all)*

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 worshiped 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

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Rob and Don, our Bishops;

and for all bishops and other ministers, especially Nikki, our Priest, and Christina, our Deacon;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. (...)

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. (...)

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

THE PEACE

*Celebrant:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Solo

*Schlafe mein Liebste*  
*Daniel Moody, Countertenor*

J. S. Bach

*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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every- where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (*Here a Proper Preface is said*)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

\* Sanctus S-130

*Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Franz Schubert

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

*continued on next page ...*



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 continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*    **We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, St. Gregory the Great, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

\* Fraction Anthem S-164

*Jesus, Lamb of God*

Franz P. Schubert

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Enriching Our Worship 2

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

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 BLESSING

1 Chris - tians, a - wake, sa - lute the hap - py morn  
 2 Then to the watch - ful shep - herds it was told,  
 \*3 He spoke, and straight - way the ce - les - tial choir  
 \*4 In Beth - le - hem the hap - py shep - herds sought  
 5 Let us, like these good shep - herds, then em - ploy

1 where - on the Sa - vior of the world was born;  
 2 who heard the an - gel - ic her - ald's voice: "Be - hold,  
 3 in hymns of joy, un - known be - fore, con - spire;  
 4 to see the won - der God for us had wrought,  
 5 our grate - ful voic - es to pro - claim the joy;

1 rise to a - dore the mys - ter - y of love,  
 2 I bring good tid - ings of a Sa - vior's birth  
 3 the prais - es of re - deem - ing love they sang,  
 4 and found, with Jo - seph and the bless - ed maid,  
 5 trace we the Babe, who hath re - trieved our loss,

## THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Fellowship Postlude

*Sweetest Music, Softly Stealing*

Elaine Hagenberg

*The altar flowers are dedicated by Ron Balthazor and Jane Hudson  
 to the honor and glory of God  
 and in thanksgiving for Patrick, their grandson, who turned 5 years old on Christmas Eve!*

## Prayers of the People

**In our Parish** we pray for Carl Hoveland, Terrell Benton, Carol Jones, John Curtis, Rainsly Vogt, Rob Carter, Susan Carter, Mark Goodwin, Jane Bowen, Barbara Kuhn, Mack Thurmond, Marge Massey, Kathryn Musholt, Dot Cooper, Allena Armour, Doug Welch, Pat Irby, Pat Titus, Stephanie Gamble, Rose Ann Pace, Aaron Muckin, Glen Jedlicka, Stephen Morris, Alice Hunt, George Watson, Conoly Hester, Deborah Freeman, Catherine Hartley, Mary Parkman, Gayle Duncan, Jimmy Simons, Gene Watson, Bill Walker, Sandy Elhenicky, Shelby Welch, Sarah Gordon, Roger Swagler, Stanley Armour, Martha Beach, Jack Beach, Tammy Bishop, Cecil Miller, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Kim Rider, Patrick Dean, Harold Tillman, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Richard, Carrie, Frank, Shirley, Susan, Evelyn, Ben, Anna, Fritz, Faye, Neal, Ann, Paula, John, Gwen, Barbara, Dusty, Heather, Matt, Pete, Sophia, Jill, Samantha, Jennifer, Chip, and Buddy.

**In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week:** Connor Green, Susanne Burton, Tali Stone, Michele Lease, Barbara Johnson, Elijah Gabriel, Scott Thornton, and Mark Richardson; **and for those celebrating anniversaries:** George & Kris Braman, Cecil & Sandy Hudson, and Kelly Black & Lisa Hunt.

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*The people listed here are prayed for by name at each Sunday service. To request prayer for yourself or someone else, please call the office (706-546-7553). If at the beginning of the next month the person needs to remain on the list, please call and give the office an update.*

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## Clergy and Staff

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**Nursery Attendants:** Missy Hamlin, Megan Reuter, Allison Weaver

**Vestry Members:** Kathryn Musholt, Sr. Warden; Kelly Black, Jr. Warden, Jack Armistead; Eddie Bennett; Rhonda Hefner-Packer; Jane Hudson; Marge Massey; Caley Ross; Beth Thornton; Chrissy Moffett, Clerk; Les House, Treasurer

**Vestry Person of the Day/Week:**