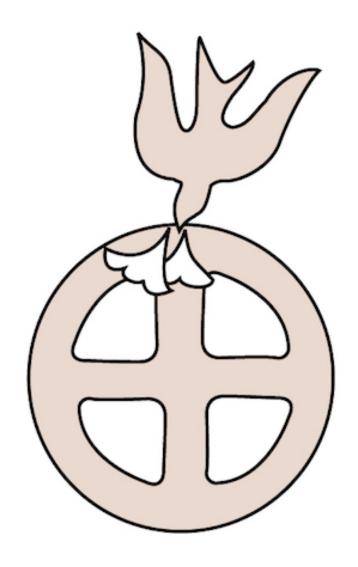
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



APRIL 21, 2024 Live Streamed on <u>YouTube</u>

10:30АМ

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 by 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.

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude The Shepherd's Farewell H. Berlioz

Processional Hymn 205

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

GELOBT SEI GOTT



OPENING ACCLAMATION

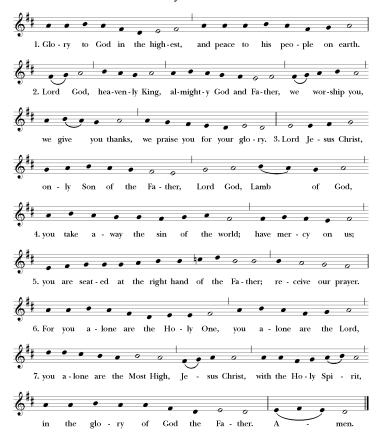
BCP 351

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

COLLECT FOR PURITY BCP 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my / shepherd; *

I shall not be in / want.

2 He makes me lie down in green / pastures * and leads me beside still / waters.

3 He revives my / soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's / sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no / evil; *

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they / comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who / trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running / over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my / life, * and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for / ever.



THE SECOND READING

1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 610

Lord, whose love through humble service

BLAENHAFREN





THE GOSPEL John 10:11-18

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON: The Rev. Nikki Mathis

THE NICENE CREED BCP 358

(said by all, standing)

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, Form VI

BCP 392

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; We pray for our President, Joseph, our Governor, Brian, and our Mayor, Kelly.

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, Rob, Paul, and Don, our Bishops; (...) and for all bishops and other ministers, priests, deacons, and clergy associates, especially Lin, Dutton, Carol, Ellen, Christina, & Nikki;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray especially for (...) Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

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

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 Anthem

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep

Philip Ledger

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep, Keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
Nothing can thy power withstand, None can pluck me from thy hand.

I would praise thee ev'ry day, Gladly all thy will obey,
Like thy blessed ones above Happy in thy precious love.
Loving Shepherd, ever near, teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
Suffer not my steps to stray from the straight and narrow way.
Where thou leadest I would go, Walking in thy steps below,
Till before my Father's throne I shall know as I am known.

Presentation Hymn 380 v. 3

Doxology

OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

BCP 367

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.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

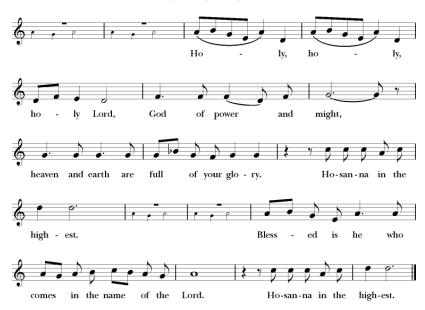
From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:



And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN**.

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

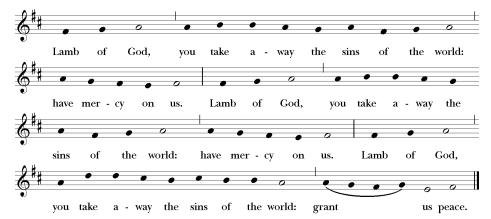
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.





David Hurd



THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Anthem

I am a Sheep

Dennis Jernigan

I am a sheep and the Lord is my Shepherd, Watching over my soul!

My soul to keep, guarding over me ever, watching wherever I go!

And when the winds blow, He is my shelter!

And when I'm lost and alone, He rescues me!

And when the Lion comes, He is my victory!

Constantly watching over me! He is constantly watching over me!

We are His children and He is our Father Watching over our souls!

Great is His love for all of His children! Watching wherever we go!

Communion Hymn 664

My Shepherd will supply my need

RESIGNATION



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

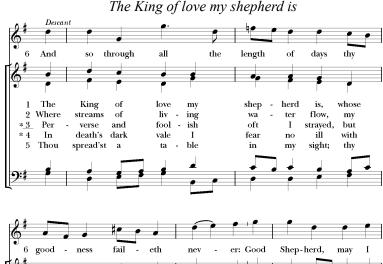
BCP 366

DOMINUS REGIT ME

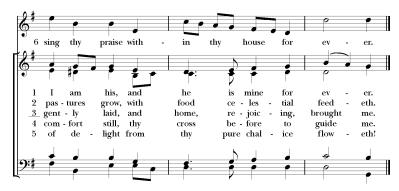
Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Closing Hymn 646







6 And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house for ever.

THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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Special thanks to all our young singers today under the direction of Catherine Holton and Jared Holton!

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Steve Key, Rena Catlin, Anna Bowman, Cheryl Lowry, Jennifer Johnson, Sheldon Clements, Janet Wright, Billy Hale, Kyra Madden, Mary Burkett, Cecil Beagle, Diana Beagle, William Beagle, Jim Klippel, Jackie Dorsey, Denise Glynn, Mike Fowler, Cecil Hudson, Jean Estes, Elmer Clark, Shelby Welch, Nancy Carter, Teri Bouknecht, Kara Russe, Ellen Kappel, Cayden Mitchell, Bill Alworth, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Susan Williams, Pat MacKinnon, Don Downie, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Donna, Kelly, Michael, Rachel, Christy, Rosina, Eliot, Patricia, Ben, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Amelia Ross, Ali Elyaman, Karen Brill, Jane Hudson, and Paige Lowe.

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.

TODAY

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

There is a Pastoral Care Committee meeting today in the library right after the 10:30AM service. Anyone is welcome to join!

NEXT WEEK

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE | SUNDAY, APRIL 28

"We have solar panels, what else do we need?" "For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord." Form I, pg. 384, BCP. We are reforming the Environmental Sustainability committee. Anyone interested should join us on Sunday, April 28, after the 10:30 service, or contact Maggie Reinberger or Mark Tavernier. Where do we go from here? Is there more we can do for the community, the world? Should we be in communion with other groups working on environmental issues, including indigenous people? Come share your thoughts and ideas.

MERIDIAN WOMEN'S CHORUS CONCERT | SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Animals Everywhere! Meridian Women's Chorus presents a family-friendly, animal themed concert here at St. Gregory the Great on Sunday, April 28 at 4PM. Meridian is teaming up with the Athens Area Humane Society to raise awareness of the organization's work and volunteer opportunities. The concert is free and will be followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. Go to www.meridianwomenschorus.org for more information.

COMING UP ...

YOUTH DnD NIGHT | FRIDAY, MAY 3

Our next youth DnD night will be May 3 at 7pm in the youth room. Snacks will be provided but feel free to bring your favorites! Feel free to come dressed as your character or in pajamas!

GROANING IN THE TENT | MAY 5, 12, 19

The Pastoral Care Committee welcomes you to a community opportunity to engage in holy conversation about our mortality, including dying, death, and loss, as well as the fear that keeps those topics on our back burners most of the time.

On three Sunday afternoons May 5, 12, and 19, 2024, from 12:30 to 2:30PM the Rev. Dr. Ellen Richardson will offer a program called Groaning in the Tent for members of St. Gregory's and their friends. Each session will offer a menu of Holy

Scripture, holy conversation, prayers, poetry, and excerpts from her book, Holy Dying: Stories and Struggles, inspired by her (pre-retirement) work as a Hospice physician and Episcopal priest. A light lunch will be served.

It is not necessary to have read the book before attending and it is not necessary to attend all three sessions in order to participate. Here are websites where you can purchase the book: <u>Barnes & Noble</u> (Holy Dying, by Ellen Richardson); <u>Church Publishing</u>; and <u>Amazon</u>.

ONGOING

HOLY EUCHARIST & HEALING SERVICE | WEDNESDAYS

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6PM in the sanctuary for eucharist and prayers for healing.

NOTES

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

New sign-up sheet for the rest of 2024! We are currently seeking volunteers to work at the Athens Area Emergency FoodBank, 640 Barber St. on 3rd Mondays from 9AM-1PM. 2-3 volunteers are needed each month. A signup sheet is in the narthex.

FREE BOOKS

The newly formed Library Committee has begun to sort through generations of books with the intention of making the offerings of the St. Gregory Library more accessible and useful to everyone. Those volumes that have seen better days and times will be placed for a week or so on the long white tables in the main area of the Education Building and made available for the taking with one rule—no bringing them back! Though you never know what might speak to you! Those books left there over a week or two will be donated to the public library. Hopefully by making some space the many hidden treasures that remain in St. Gregory's Library will be more easily seen, accessed and appreciated.

THE LITTLE RED WAGON

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs pork & beans and plain white rice! Please help us fill the Little Red Wagon!

Those Who Serve

Vestry: John Barrett

Readers: Michael Castengera (8AM) Anna Thornton (10:30AM)

EMs: June Ball & Jane Hudson Crucifers: Maggie Reinberger

Torches:

Flowers: Viviane Van Giesen

Altar Guild: Nancy Watson & Berni McCranie

Ushers: Bruce & Carole Zavitz Counters: Lois Alworth & Katie Hein

Livestream: Ron Balthazor

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Nikki Mathis Rector rector@stgregoryathens.org | 706-546-7553 x2

The Rev. Christina Dondero Deacon *christinadondero@gmail.com* | 404-918-7248

Kendall M. Kookogey Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper *office@stgregoryathens.org* | 706-546-7553 x1

Jonathan Klein Music Director/Organist jonathanfk@gmail.com | 706-296-8102

Wade McGlamery Youth Minister wwmcglamery@gmail.com | 770-624-4837

Jude Red-Bear Nursery Director *juderedbear@icloud.com* | 706-614-0008

Mark Hein Buildings/Grounds *markehein@gmail.com* | 706-549-3239

Terri Tillman WebMaster ttillman@gmail.com

Danielle Vogt Coffee Host danielle 1784@gmail.com

Anthony Barkdoll Livestream Coordinator anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

Peachy Green Clean Co-op Sexton

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear, Willem Swindler, Stephanie Swindler, Berkeley Boone

Vestry Members: Kate Avinger, John Barrett; John Bray; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Anna Hiers; LeeAnne Krause, *Sr. Warden*; Lane Norton; Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson, *Jr. Warden*; Shelby Welch; Anna Thornton, *Clerk*; Les House, *Treasurer*

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: John Barrett jbearit2000@hotmail.com

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