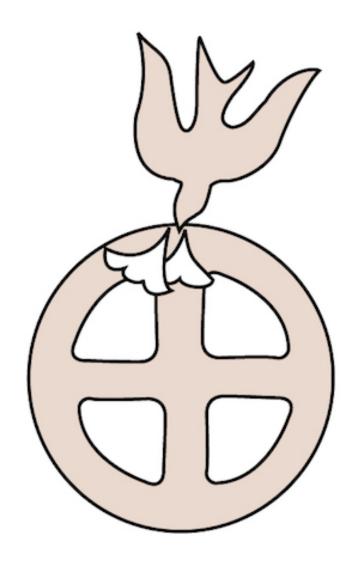
# St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



JANUARY 8, 2023 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 First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Jesus Christ

# THE WORD OF GOD

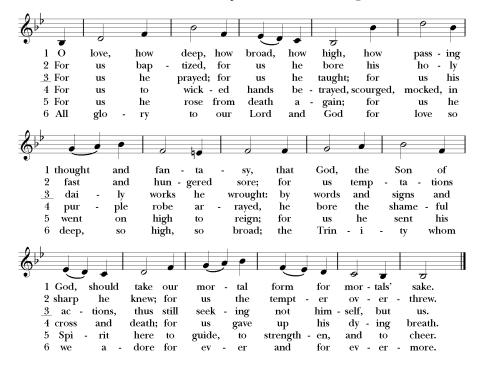
## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Prelude**

## **Processional Hymn 448**

O love, how deep, how broad, now high

**DEO GRACIAS** 



# **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

There is one Body and one Spirit;

There is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

One God and Father of all.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

## **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.

BCP 299

\* Gloria S-280 Glory to God Robert Powell



# THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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

Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 29



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you / gods, \*

ascribe to the Lord glory and / strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his / Name; \*

worship the Lord in the beauty of / holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory / thunders; \*

the Lord is upon the mighty / waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful / voice; \*

the voice of the Lord is a voice of / splendor.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the / cedar trees; \*

the Lord breaks the cedars of / Lebanon;

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a / calf, \*

and Mount Hermon like a young wild / ox.

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the / wilderness; \*

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Ka-/desh.

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees / writhe \*

and strips the forests / bare.

9 And in the temple of the / Lord \*

all are crying, / "Glory!"

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the / flood; \*

the Lord sits enthroned as King for ever-/more.

11 The Lord shall give strength to his / people; \*

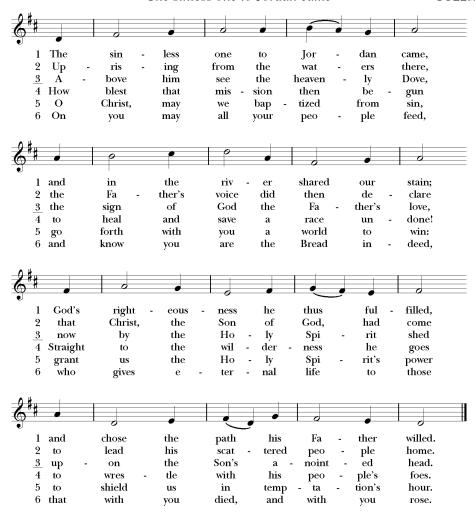
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of / peace.

THE SECOND READING Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL Matthew 3:13-17

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

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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

THE SERMON: Ron Balthazor

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

# 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 Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

# **Offertory Anthem**

# Christ is the World's True Light

W. K. Stanton

Christ is the world's true Light its Captain of salvation;
The Day-Star clear and bright of ev'ry man and nation;
New life, new hope awakes wheree'er men own his sway;
Freedom her bondage breaks, and night is turned to day.
In Christ all races meet, their ancient feuds forgetting,
The whole round world complete, from sunrise to its setting.
When Christ is throned as Lord, men shall forsake their fear;
To ploughshare beat the sword, to pruning hook the spear.
One Lord, in one great Name unite us all who own thee;
Cast out our pride and shame, that hinder to enthrone thee.
The world has waited long, has travailed long in pain;
To heal its ancient wrong, Come Prince of Peace and reign.

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 B

**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.

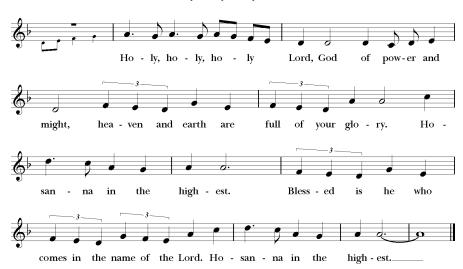
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Here a Proper Preface is said)

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-129

# Holy, holy, holy Lord

Robert Powell



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;

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 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

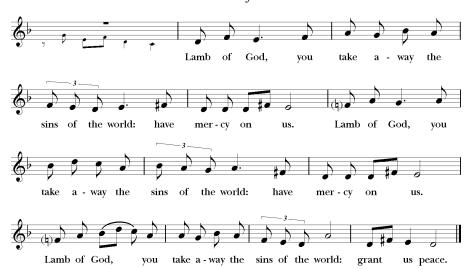
BCP 364

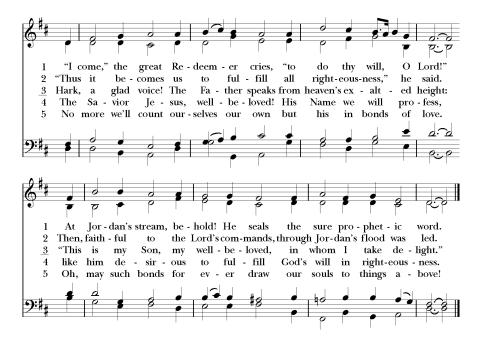
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

# \* Fraction Anthem S-163

Lamb of God

Robert Powell





#### 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 366

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

Recessional Hymn 569 God the Omnipotent! Russia



## 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!

## **Postlude**



## Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Ann Worley, Bill Alworth, Ray Hoover, RuthElizabeth Conine-Nakano, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Susan Williams, Dan Williams, Pat MacKinnon, Dick MacKinnon, Shelby Welch, Ali Elyaman, Don Downie, Olivia Carlisle, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Ben, Mobley, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week: Melinda Jones, Anthony Barkdoll, Thomas Peck, Kevin Greene, and Martha Beach.

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**

# MARTHA BEACH'S 90th BIRTHDAY | 12PM

Please join us after the 10:30AM service today to celebrate Martha Beach's 90th birthday! There will be cake!

## **COFFEE HOURS**

During both coffee hours today, you will have a chance to taste-test several different varieties of coffee and teas from Equal Exchange, the fair-trade coffee company where many St. Gregorians order their coffee and where the coffee for coffee hour typically comes from.

We'll have several samples of different blends from around the world, a chance for you to vote on your favorite, and information on how you too can order coffee/tea/chocolate from Equal Exchange!

# **NEXT WEEK**

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING | SUNDAY, JAN. 15

Join us for a celebration of the mission and ministries of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church and elections of new vestry members on Sunday, January 15 right after the 10:30AM service. The meeting will also include reports from the vestry and a presentation of the 2023 budget. Nursery and childcare will be provided for the duration of the meeting.

## **COMING UP ...**

# FIRST MOVIE NIGHT OF 2023 | FRIDAY, JAN. 20

Come join us this month, on Friday, Jan. 20, when we will watch *Mary Poppins* (1964), directed by Robert Stevenson. "In turn-of-the-century London, a magical nanny employs music and adventure to help two neglected children become closer to their father." Join us in the parish hall and enjoy some popcorn and soft drinks - or bring a blanket and a picnic dinner! The movie begins promptly at 7pm.

# **NOTES**

## **POINSETTIAS**

If you dedicated a poinsettia and would like to take it home, please do so today! If you don't want yours, maybe give someone else permission to take it!

## **2022 GIVING STATEMENTS**

Please keep an eye out in your email inbox (and junk/promotion folders!) in the next couple of weeks for your end-of-2022 Contribution Statements!

## **WELCOMING REQUEST**

Greeters are needed for the 10:30AM worship services. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the inside of the nave double doors. *Thank you, Alice Mohor* 

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The 2023 flower dedication sign-up sheet is up in the Christian Education building. If you wish to dedicate flowers this year, please sign your name next to the date, and fill out one of the yellow-orange sheets hanging below it and leave in Kendall's office. Suggested donation is \$50/dedication.

## Those Who Serve

Vestry: Caley Ross

Readers: Michael Castengera (8AM); George Krause

(10:30AM)

EMs: Karen Hankins & Lin Kromhout Crucifers: Porter Welch & Roger Schwenke Torches: Gavin Avinger & Wade McGlamery

Flowers: Lane Norton

Altar Guild: Jane Sheridan & Jenifer Marquardt

Ushers: Anthony & Deborah Garner

Counters: Maggie Reinberger & Anna Hiers

Livestream: Pete Nicholls

# 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

Joseph Napoli Choir Director awn1984@att.net | 706-546-6638

Doug Adkins Director of Children's Ministries

jdadkins@hotmail.com | 706-474-4784

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

danielle1784@gmail.com

Anthony Barkdoll Livestream Coordinator

anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

Peachy Green Clean Co-op Sexton

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear, Danielle Lyle, Megan Reuter, Allie Weaver

Vestry Members: Eddie Bennett; John Bray; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Blaine Everson; Anna Hiers; Jane Hudson; LeeAnne Krause; Lane

Norton, Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson; Caley Ross; Chrissy Moffett, Clerk; Les House, Treasurer

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Caley Ross greenthumbsross@gmail.com

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