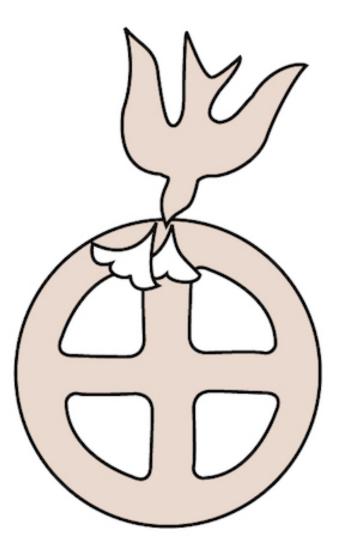
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



JANUARY 15, 2023 Live Streamed on <u>YouTube</u>

10:30AM

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 Second Sunday after the Epiphany

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

Processional Hymn 7

Christ, whose glory fills the skies

RATISBON



OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

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

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the

survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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

Psalm 40:1-12



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy

1 I waited patiently upon the / Lord; * he stooped to me and heard my / cry. 2 He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and / clay; * he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing / sure. 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our / God; * many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the / Lord. 4 Happy are they who trust in the / Lord! * they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false / gods. 5 Great things are they that you have done, O Lord my God! how great your wonders and your / plans for us! * there is none who can be com-/pared with you. 6 Oh, that I could make them known and / tell them! * but they are more than I can / count. 7 In sacrifice and offering you take no / pleasure * (you have given me ears to / hear you); 8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not re-/quired, * and so I said, "Behold, I / come. 9 In the roll of the book it is written con-/cerning me: * 'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep in my / heart." 10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congre-/gation; * behold, I did not restrain my lips; and that, O Lord, you / know. 11 Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your de-/liverance; * I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congre-/gation. 12 You are the Lord; do not withhold your com-/passion from me; * let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for / ever.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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



THE GOSPEL

John 1:29-42

Celebrant: People:

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

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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

(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

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 PEACECelebrant:The peace of Christ be always with you.People:And also with you.

BCP 358

BCP 392

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem	I Am Bound for the Kingdom Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, sing His mercy and His grace; in the mansions bright and blessed He'll prepare for us a place. I am bound for the kingdom, will you go to glory with me? Hallelujah, praise the Lord! While we walk the pilgrim pathway clouds will overspread the sky, but when trav'ling days are over, not a shadow, not a sigh. I am bound for the kingdom, will you go to glory with me? Hallelujah, praise the Lord! Let us then be true and faithful, trusting, serving ev'ry day; just one glimpse of Him in glory will the toils of life repay. I am bound for the kingdom, will you go to glory with me? Hallelujah, praise the Lord! Onward to the prize before us! Soon His beauty we'll behold; soon the pearly gates will open, we shall tread the streets of gold. I am bound for the kingdom, will you go to glory with me? Hallelujah, praise the Lord!	arr. Lloyd Larson
Presentation Hymn 380 v. 3	Doxology 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.	OLD 100 th
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B 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.		BCP 367

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



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. 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

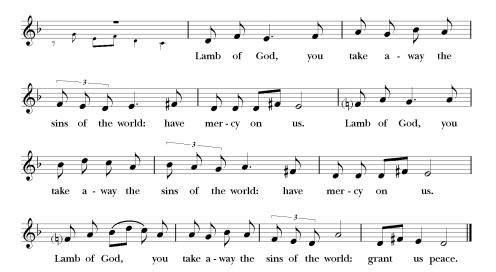
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

* Fraction Anthem S-163

Lamb of God



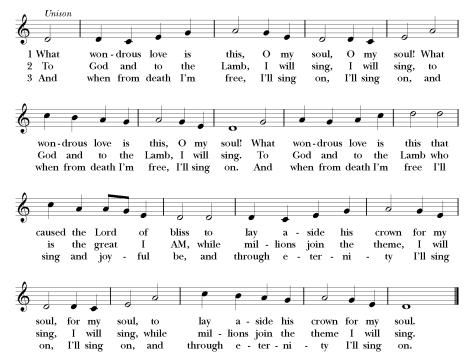
BCP 364



THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

What wondrous love is this

WONDROUS LOVE



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

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

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

Enriching Our Worship 2

BCP 366



THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Eric Agner, 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, Don Downie, Olivia Carlisle, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Ben, Mobley, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week: Flo Hix, Paul Welch, Carl Jones, Belita Gordon, Alice Hunt, and Danny Salter.

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

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING | 12PM

Join us for a celebration of the mission and ministries of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church and elections of new vestry members today 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.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE | 4PM

Commemorating the Life & Legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Where: Ebenezer Baptist Church West, 205 N. Chase St. in Athens. When: Today at 4PM. Free and open to the public. Keynote Speaker: Pres. Dexter Joyner, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

THIS WEEK

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-ofthe-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.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL | SATURDAY, JAN. 21

The Rite of Christian Burial for Peter Dondero will take place in our sanctuary on Saturday, January 21 @ 11AM. Reception to follow with light refreshments at The Tree Room (159 Oneta St., building 5, Athens— look for the building with the tree growing out the top).

NOTES

2023 EPIPHANY DRIVE: FAMILY PROMISE WISHLIST DONATIONS

The Outreach Committee has set up a table in the Education Building designated for contributions to Family Promise's Amazon Wishlist. Family Promise is committed to helping the homeless in our community with temporary shelter, meals, rides to work and/or emergency financial help to avoid losing homes. If you would like to contribute to this mission, you may use the live link to the organization's Amazon Wishlist, which will be included in the Friday newsletter during January. If you prefer to buy items directly, you will find paper copies of the Wishlist in the narthex; you may bring your items to the Education Building through February 6. Thank you, in advance, for your support of Family Promise and our 2023 Epiphany Drive.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

As we begin a new semester, we are looking for two more people to serve as teachers/shepherds for Sunday School and/or Children's Church. Preparation will be provided. Please see Doug for more information.

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*

2022 GIVING STATEMENTS

2022 Contribution statements went out via email on Monday, January 9 (unless the office does not have your email address on file). Please check junk/promotion folders! If you are unable to print it, please let Kendall know at <u>office@stgregoryathens.org</u> Those for whom we do not have an email address, your statements went out USPS on 1/11/23.

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: Blaine Everson Readers: Michael Castengera (8AM); Anna Thornton (10:30AM) EMs: Beth Thornton & June Ball Crucifers: Ethan Vogt & Carlee Bethune Torches: Rainsly Vogt & Jeffery Ross Flowers: Lane Norton Altar Guild: David Lowe & Carol Schwenke Ushers: Anna Hiers Counters: Katie Hein & Lois Alworth 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

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

The Rev. 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; Anna Thornton, *Clerk*; Les House, *Treasurer*

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Blaine Everson doceverson@gmail.com

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