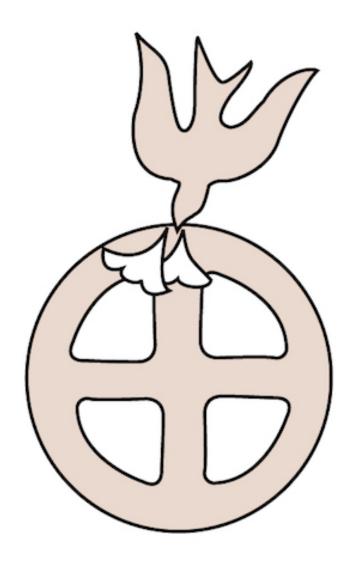
# St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



FEBRUARY 5, 2023
Live Streamed on YouTube

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 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

## THE WORD OF GOD

# WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Prelude**

**Processional Hymn 372** 

Praise to the living God!

LEONI



## **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

BCP 355

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

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

# **COLLECT FOR PURITY**

BCP 35:

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.

\* Gloria S-280 Glory to God Robert Powell



# THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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

Thanks be to God.

# **Psalm 112:1-9** (spoken at 8AM)

1 Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the / Lord \* and have great delight in his com-/mandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the / land; \* the generation of the upright will be / blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their / house, \* and their righteousness will last for / ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the / upright; \*

the righteous are merciful and full of com-/passion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in / lending \* and to manage their affairs with / justice.

6 For they will never be / shaken; \*

the righteous will be kept in everlasting re-/membrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil / rumors; \*

their heart is right; they put their trust in the / Lord.

8 Their heart is established and will not / shrink, \*

until they see their desire upon their / enemies.

9 They have given freely to the / poor, \*

and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with / honor.



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# THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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

Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL Matthew 5:13-20

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

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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, Doug, & 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.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**BCP 360** 

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*Celebrant*: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

#### THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

## **Offertory Anthem**

Come, Spirit, Come

Lloyd Larson

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest, and in our hearts take up Your rest, come with Your grace and heav'nly aid; come fill our hearts which You have made. O Comforter, to You we cry,

O heav'nly Gift of God most high;

O fount of life, fire of love, come, sweet anointing from above.

Come, Spirit, come, come fill our souls.

Come, Spirit, come, come and make us whole.

We praise the Lord, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with them one; and may the Son on us bestow all gifts from whom the Spirit flow.

Come, Spirit, come, come fill our souls.

Come, Spirit, come, come and make us whole.

# 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.

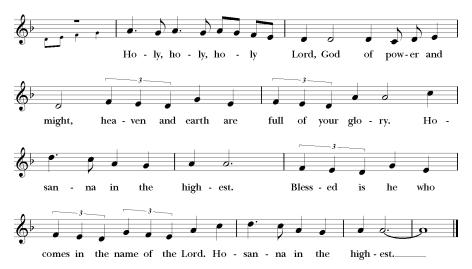
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Here a Proper Preface is said)

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.

take a-way the sins of the world:

us peace.



THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Lamb of God,



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** 

**EASTVIEW** 

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 543



# THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

# Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Harry Stooksbury, Billy Hale, Bill Alworth, Ray Hoover, RuthElizabeth Conine-Nakano, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Susan Williams, Dan Williams, Pat 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: Madison Cape, Charley Laing, Logan Camoston, Lane Norton, Claudia Cook, and Doug Adkins; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Stephen & Linda Morris.

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**

# **BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES | 3-5PM**

Our next Brown Bag Lecture will be "Healthy Brain and Healthy Body: The Science of Aging Well" on Sunday, Feb. 5 from 3-5PM in our Parish Hall. The presenter will be Caleb Snead, UGA College of Public Health, Cognitive Aging, and Research Education Center. This session is for all ages and focuses on how nutrition, exercise, social relationships, and learning new information lead to a healthy brain and healthy body! Come join us! Bring a snack, if you'd like! We ask that all participants wear masks. Rhonda Packer will have a box on hand.

## THIS WEEK

# ACOLYTES & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS TRAINING | SAT., FEB. 11

Our way of worship as Episcopalians requires many individuals. Two important roles are Acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers. Acolytes carry the crosses and torches (candles) during the services. Anyone over the age of 6 can serve as an acolyte. Eucharistic ministers assist the clergy with the distribution of the bread and wine. Anyone over the age of 15 may serve as a Eucharistic minister. Since acolytes and eucharistic ministers must work together in worship, we will have a joint training session for both at 11AM am on Saturday 11 February. If you have any questions, please contact David Stooksbury (davidemory@me.com).

# **NEXT WEEK**

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING | SUNDAY, FEB. 12

The Finance Committee will meet in the Parish Hall immediately following the 10:30AM service on Feb. 12.

# **COMING UP...**

#### MOVIE NIGHT | FRIDAY, FEB. 17

Come join us this month, on Friday, Feb. 17, when we will watch Soul (2020). "After landing the gig of a lifetime, a New York jazz pianist suddenly finds himself trapped in a strange land between Earth and the afterlife." Join us in the **Christian Education building** (note location this month!) and enjoy some popcorn and soft drinks - or bring a blanket and a picnic dinner! The movie begins promptly at 7pm.

# COMMITTAL SERVICE FOR LIEF CARTER | SUNDAY, FEB. 19

The committal service for Lief Carter will be held in our memorial garden on Sunday, February 19 @ 2:30PM followed by a celebration at the Botanical Garden Terrace Room at 3PM.

# ASH WEDNESDAY | FEB. 22

Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, February 22. We will have 2 services this year: 12 noon and 6PM. Childcare will be provided at the 6PM service.

## **NOTES**

#### **FAMILY PROMISE**

Thanks to so many for donating to the Family Promise Amazon wishlist! The program director Madison Saunders told me that a number of you have participated in this request. Now, a new request: Because several churches have dropped out of the program, we will get four weeks in 2023, these are: March 5-12; April 30-May 7; August 13-20, and November 12-19. Please put these in your calendars and look for a signup genius as our first week gets closer. You can also email Annette Bates at <a href="mailto:bateskannette@gmail.com">bateskannette@gmail.com</a> to let her know of your interest in participating. There is no longer a need for transportation, only for meals and evening, overnight and weekend hosts. It's so good to be in community with you who are so generous with your time and talents!

## **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* 

## Those Who Serve

Vestry: Mark Richardson

Readers: Lynn Hanna (8AM); Barbara Kuhn (10:30AM)

EMs: David Stooksbury & Lin Kromhout Crucifers: Porter Welch & Karlee Bethune Torches: Ethan Vogt & Wade McGlamery

Flowers: Rhonda Packer

Altar Guild: Berni McCranie & Jane Sheridan

Ushers: Anthony & Deborah Garner Counters: Mark Reinberger & Jane Hudson

Livestream: Anthony Barkdoll

# **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 www.cglamery@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, Danielle Lyle, Megan Reuter, Allie Weaver

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

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Mark Richardson mrichsn@gmail.com

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