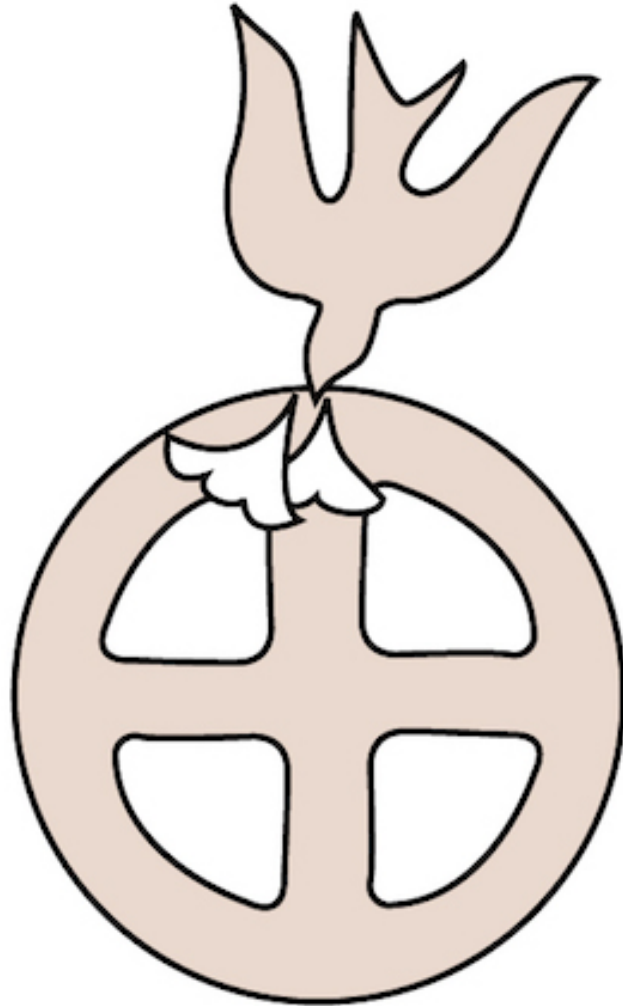


# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



FEBRUARY 11, 2024  
LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE

10 AM

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION \*

What happens when you are spiritually prepared and desire to receive communion, but can't?

Such a case is referenced by a paragraph in the 1979 Prayer Book:

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

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

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

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

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

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

OR

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

OR

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

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

# THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

## THE WORD OF GOD

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Prelude

*My God is So High*

arr. Hall Johnson

My God is so high, you cannot git over Him, he's so low, you can' git under Him,  
E's so wide, you can' git around 'im - you mus' come in,  
by'n through the Lamb, He's so high, you can' git over Him, He's so low, you can' git under Him,  
e's so wide, you can' git around 'im - you mus' come in, by'n through de Lamb.  
One day as I was a-walkin' along de heb-n-lye road, my Savior spoke unto me  
an' 'e filled my heart wid love.  
I'll take my gospel trumpet an' I'll begin to blow, an' if my Savior help me,  
I'll blow wherever I go.  
My God is so high.  
You can' git over Him, He's so low, you can' get under Him,  
E's so wide, you can' get around 'Im - you mus' come in, by'n through de Lamb.

#### Opening Hymn 461

*Alleluia! sing to Jesus*

ALLELUIA

1 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the scep - ter, his the throne;  
\*2 Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we left in sor - row now;  
3 Al - le - lu - ia! bread of Hea - ven, Thou on earth our food, our stay!  
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, thee the Lord of lords we own:  
\*5 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the scep - ter, his the throne;

1 Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone;  
2 Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how:  
3 Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to thee from day to day:  
4 Al - le - lu - ia! born of Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heaven thy throne:  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone;

1 Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood;  
2 though the cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty days were o'er,  
3 In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me,  
4 thou with - in the veil hast en - tered, robed in flesh, our great High Priest:  
5 Hark! the songs of ho - ly Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood;

1 Je - sus out of ev - ery na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.  
2 shall our hearts for - get his prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
3 where the songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
4 thou on earth both Priest and Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.  
5 Je - sus out of ev - ery na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 351

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

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-277

## Glory to God

David Hurd

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

2. Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

4. you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## THE FIRST READING

2 Kings 2:1-12

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. Thanks be to God.*

## Psalm 50:1-6



© 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

- 1 The Lord, the God of gods, has / spoken; \*  
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its / setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in its / beauty, \*  
God reveals himself in / glory.
- 3 Our God will come and will not keep / silence; \*  
before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging / storm.
- 4 He calls the heavens and the earth from a-/bove \*  
to witness the judgment of his / people.
- 5 "Gather before me my loyal / followers, \*  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with / sacrifice."
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his / cause; \*  
for God himself is / judge.

## THE SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

## Sequence Hymn 7

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies*

RATISBON

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pan - ied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!

Sun of Right-eous - ness, a - rise! Tri-umph o'er the shades of night:  
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see;  
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 2:2-9

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

People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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

THE SERMON: The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright

**THE CONFIRMATION**

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

BCP 303

*Bishop* The Candidate(s) will now be presented.

*Presenters* I present these persons for Confirmation.

I present these persons to be received into this Communion.

I present these persons who desire to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

*The Bishop asks the candidates* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*Candidate* I do.

*Bishop* Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Candidate* I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

*After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

*The Bishop then says these or similar words*

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

BCP 304

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Father?

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

*Bishop* 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.**

*Bishop* 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.**

*Bishop* 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.**

*Bishop* 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.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* 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 FOR THE CANDIDATES

BCP 305

*The Bishop then says to the congregation*

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

*Leader* Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you have made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## THE CONFIRMATION/RECEPTION

BCP 307

### For Confirmation

*The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says*

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower him/her for your service; and sustain him/her all the days of his/her life. Amen.

*or this*

Defend, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that (s)he may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until (s)he comes to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

### For Reception

*N.*, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. Amen.

### For Reaffirmation

*N.*, may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. Amen.

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer*

Almighty and everlasting God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

We rejoice with Karen Brill, Austin Baeckeroot, Ray Robinson, and Marilyn Vickers,  
and welcome them into the Body of Christ.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The loose plate offering today will go to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.*

### Offertory Anthem

*Thou Art God*

Lionel Bourne

Thou art the peace of all things calm, Thou art the place to hide from harm,  
Thou art the light that shines in dark, Thou art the heart's eternal spark,  
Thou art the door that's open wide, Thou art the guest who waits inside,  
Thou art the stranger at the door, Thou art the calling of the poor.  
Thou art my Lord and with me still, Thou art my love, keep me from ill,  
Thou art the light, the truth, the way.  
Thou art my Saviour this very day.

### Presentation Hymn 400

*Doxology*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

### 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
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

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-158

*O Lamb of God*

Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -  
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
on us. O Lamb of God, that  
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have  
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of  
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the  
world, grant us thy peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Descant*

4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great

1 O won - drous type! O vi - sion fair of glo - ry  
 2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh the in - car - nate  
 3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ deigns to  
 4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great  
 5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son, and Ho - ly

vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful

1 that the Church may share, which Christ up - on the  
 2 Lord holds con - verse high; and from the cloud, the  
 3 man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be  
 4 vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful  
 5 Spi - rit, ev - er One, vouch - safe to bring us

strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

1 moun - tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!  
 2 Ho - ly One bears re - cord to the on - ly Son.  
 3 theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.  
 4 strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.  
 5 by thy grace to see thy glo - ry face to face.

**Communion Anthem**

*I Need You to Survive*

David Frazier

I need you; you need me.  
 We're all a part of God's body.  
 Stand with me. Agree with me.  
 We're all a part of God's body.  
 It is His will that ev'ry need be supplied.  
 You are important to me. I need you to survive.  
 I pray for you; you pray for me.  
 I love you; I need you to survive.  
 I won't harm you with words from my mouth.  
 I love you; I need you to survive.

**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

Closing Hymn

*Draw the Circle Wide*

Gordon Light/Mark A. Miller

Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the  
 cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. No one stands a-lone, we'll stand side by  
 side. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. Draw the  
 wide. Draw the cir-cle wide, draw it wid-er still. Let this  
 be our song: no one stands a-lone. Stand-ing side by side,  
 draw the cir-cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

wide. Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the  
 cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. No one stands a-lone, we'll stand side by  
 side. Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle  
 wide. Draw the cir-cle wide, draw it wid-er still. Let this  
 be our song: no one stands a-lone. Stand-ing side by side,  
 draw the cir-cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
 People: **Thanks be to God.**



*Special thanks to all our young musicians today and thank you for the music of  
 Lydia Peck (Soprano), Ron Balthazor (drums), Jason Roberts (Bass),  
 Grace Huang (Organ), and Lauren Covington (Soprano)!*

\*\*

*Please join us for a VaLENTine reception in Parish Hall in celebration of our newly confirmed!  
 The Bishop's Forum will begin around 11:15AM.*

\*\*

*The lectern flowers are dedicated to the honor and glory of God  
 and in honor of the adoption of Mayah and Evelyn Blackman, by Pat Reagan.*

\*\*

*The altar flowers are dedicated to the honor and glory of God  
 and in honor of Deb's, Kevin's, and Mariah's birthdays, by Deborah and Anthony Garner.*

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About today's music...

The text of hymn #137 is a Latin poem from the 15th century. In the Sarum breviary it was designated for the festival of the Transfiguration. That makes it very appropriate to sing this Sunday, the last in Epiphany. John Mason Neale was a prodigious translator of ancient Christian poetry. The editors of the landmark hymnal "Hymns Ancient and Modern" (London, 1861) altered Mr. Neale's version somewhat and we sing the hymn pretty much as they published it.

The melody was composed by an English layman named William Knapp. He was a glover by trade and also had a position as parish clerk; and besides that, he was an itinerate music teacher and book peddler. He put together several collections of hymns, which he probably used to instruct the choirs on his circuit, who probably were also his best customers. Mostly he used other peoples' tunes, but Wareham is thought to be his own composition because it is named for the town where he was born and raised. This has always been a popular and versatile melody every since it was first published about 1738. Over 100 Long Meter texts have been used with it down through the years. We ourselves use three sets of works with it in the Hymnal 1982!

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## Prayers of the People

**In our Parish** we pray for Janet Wright, Billy Hale, Kyra Madden, Eddie Bennett, Mary Burkett, Jim Klippel, Jackie Dorsey, Denise Glynn, Mike Fowler, Cecil Hudson, Jean Estes, Elmer Clark, Shelby Welch, Nancy Carter, Randy Harrelson, Teri Bouknecht, Kara Russe, Ellen Kappel, David Kirshenblatt, 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, Michael, Rachel, Christy, Rosina, Eliot, Patricia, Ben, Scott, and Lynn.

**In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week:** Lane Norton, Claudia Cook, Shelby Welch, Jude Red Bear, Deborah Garner, Margaret Heald, Mirabelle Freeman, Mary Alguire, Vivian Carabello, and Karen Hankins; **and for those celebrating anniversaries:** David & Judith DeJoy, and Garvin & Amanda Aycok.

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

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Don't forget to turn in your vote on which physical improvements to our church are most important to you!  
The ballot box and blank voting forms are in the narthex;  
or mail them to the church office

## TODAY

### **BISHOP'S VISIT**

We joyfully receive Bishop Rob Wright to St. Gregory's today. During the reception in Parish Hall (around 11:15AM) The Bishop will also have a forum. Today's loose plate offering will go to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

## THIS WEEK

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**

Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, February 14. We will have 2 services: 12 noon and 6PM. Childcare will be provided at the 6PM service.

## NEXT WEEK

### **LENTEN PROGRAM | FEB. 21 - MARCH 20**

Adult Spiritual Formation will be offering a Wednesday evening program for Lent. The wonderful Matt Rogers will once again be leading us in Bibliodrama, this time in an exploration of the Psalms. Wednesday evenings 2/21-3/20, 6:30PM for a simple supper with the program to follow at 7PM.

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS | WEDNESDAYS @ 5:30PM**

*Wednesdays February 21, 28, & March 6, 13, 20, & 27 @ 5:30PM in the Sanctuary*

The stations mark Jesus' journey through the streets of Jerusalem from his arrest and trial to his crucifixion and burial. At each station, we pause for a brief reading and prayer.

## **COMING UP ...**

### **PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING | SUNDAY, FEB. 25**

There will be a Parish Life Committee meeting right after the 10:30AM service on Sunday, Feb. 25. All are welcome to join!

### **YOUTH DnD NIGHT | FRIDAY, MARCH 1**

We are holding another Youth DnD Night on March 1st at 7PM, in the youth room. Snacks and drinks will be provided, but feel free to bring your favorites. Even if you've never played before, come join us, we'd be happy to teach you! If you have any questions, contact Wade directly (770-624-4837) or reach out on the youth Discord server.

### **SAVE THE DATE | APRIL 6**

Jack Armistead has again chaired a committee to plan the annual 5K run/walk in support of Parkinson's research through the Michael J. Fox Foundation. This year's event will honor his late wife Jane (1946-2023) for her work toward finding a cure for Parkinson's. Outpace Parkinson's 9 will start at 8 am on April 6th in Sandy Creek Park, Pavilion 1. Runners can choose either on-site or virtual participation. To qualify for a T-shirt, they should register by midnight, March 22nd. Late registration will be available as well. There will be a full slate of awards and plenty of refreshments and opportunities to socialize. Donations to the Parkinson's research effort are also encouraged. Details about the race and links to registration and donations can be found at [pdathens.com](http://pdathens.com).

## **ONGOING**

### **HOLY EUCHARIST & HEALING SERVICE | WEDNESDAYS**

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

## **NOTES**

### **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.

### **REMINDER: ACOLYTES SCHEDULING**

We have been low on acolytes lately. Please be aware that we use Sign-Up Genius as a way to schedule acolytes. Please sign up when Ron Balthazor sends out reminders and the link! The link can also be found in every Friday newsletter (link has been fixed!)

### **THE LITTLE RED WAGON**

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs snacks (sweet & salty), cold cereals, and dried pasta! Please help us fill the Little Red Wagon!

## Those Who Serve

Vestry: Mark Richardson  
Reader: LeeAnne Krause  
EMs: Roger Schwenke & Anna Thornton  
Crucifers: Ethan Vogt & Charlotee Lamm  
Torches: Rainsly Vogt & Warren Lamm  
Flowers: Mary Ann Cox

Altar Guild: Carol Flenniken, Lin Kromhout,  
Berni McCranie  
Ushers: Lois Alworth & Gail Eilers  
Counters: Maggie Reinberger & Karen Radde  
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

**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, Willem Swindler, Stephanie Swindler, Berkeley Boone

**Vestry Members:** Amanda Aycock; Kate Avinger, John Barrett; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Berni McCranie; Lane Norton; Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson; Vicky Tavernier; Paul Welch; Shelby Welch; Anna Thornton, *Clerk*; Les House, *Treasurer*

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

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