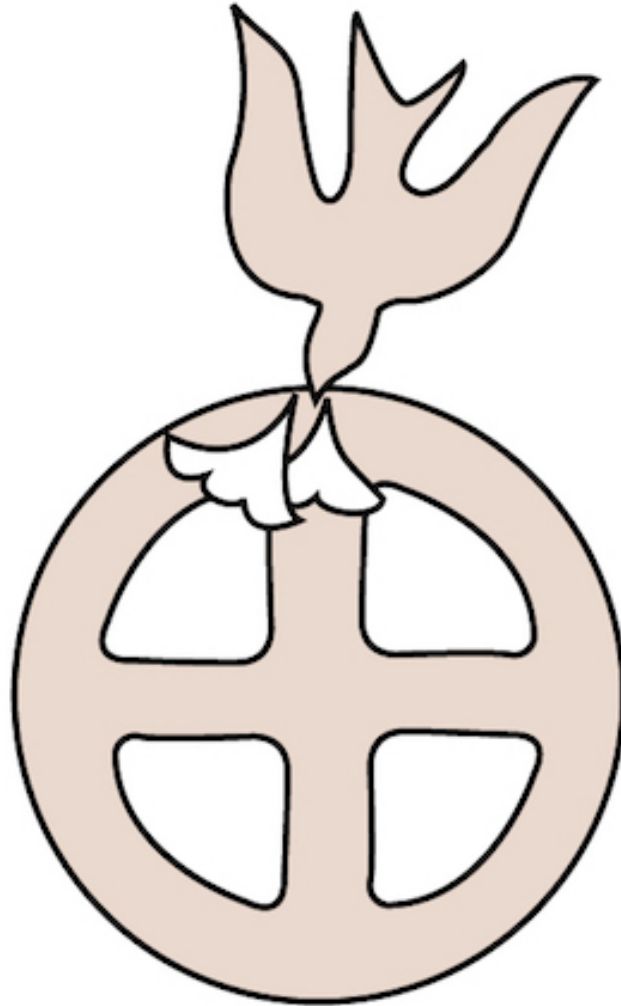


ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



FEBRUARY 18, 2024
LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE

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 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 First Sunday of Lent

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

Air

G. F. Handel

THE GREAT LITANY

I.



Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,

Have mer- cy on us.

Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,

Have mer- cy on us.

Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,

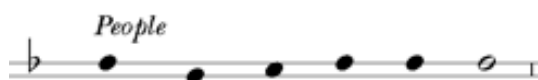
Have mer- cy on us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, One God,

Have mer- cy on us.

II.

From all evil and mischief; from pride vanity and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred and malice; and from all evil intent,



Sa - vior de - li - ver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws,
Savior deliver us.

From sins of body and mind; from deceits of the world, flesh and the devil,
Savior deliver us.

From famine and disaster; from violence, murder, and dying unprepared,
Savior deliver us.

In all times of sorrow, in all times of joy; in the hour of our death and at the day of judgment,
Savior deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience, by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
Savior deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; by the preaching of your reign,
Savior deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; by your precious death and burial,
Savior deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
Savior deliver us.

III.

People



Hear us, O Christ.

Hear our prayers, O Christ our God.

Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world, and to make disciples of all the nations.

Hear us, O Christ.

Enlighten your bishops, priests, and deacons with knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give your people grace to witness to your word and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit.

Hear us, O Christ.

Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived.

Hear us, O Christ.

Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the fainthearted; raise up the fallen; and finally beat down Satan under our feet.

Hear us, O Christ.

IV.

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give your wisdom and strength to Joseph, the President of the United States, Brian the Governor of this state, and Kelly, the Mayor of this city, that in all things they may do your will, for your glory and the common good.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give to the Congress of the United States, the members of the President's Cabinet, those who serve in our state legislature, and all others in authority the grace to walk always in the ways of truth.

Hear us, O Christ.

Bless the justices of the Supreme Court and all those who administer the law, that they may act with integrity and do justice for all your people.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and for the good of all.

Hear us, O Christ.

Bless and keep all your people.

Hear us, O Christ.

V.

Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

Hear us, O Christ.

Keep in safety those who travel and all who are in peril.

Hear us, O Christ.

Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit, and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.
Hear us, O Christ.

Guard and protect all children who are in danger.
Hear us, O Christ.

Show your compassion to prisoners, hostages, and refugees, and all who are in trouble.
Hear us, O Christ.

Forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and turn their hearts.
Hear us, O Christ.

Hear us as we remember those who have died, and grant us with them a share in your eternal glory.
Hear us, O Christ.

VI.

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your word.

Kyrie S-96

Franz Schubert

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord,
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; 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 FIRST READING

Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

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

Psalm 25:1-9



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in / you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph / over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to / shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their / schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O / Lord, *
and teach me your / paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and / teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day / long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and / love, *
for they are from ever-/lasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my trans-/gressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O / Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the / Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his / way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing / right *
and teaches his way to the / lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and / faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his / testimonies.

THE SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, with care and woe op-pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is passed,

from harm - ful pas-sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.
 let me thy lov - ing ser - vant be, and taste thy prom - ised rest.
 through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point thou the heav - en - ly way.
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see, and share thy joy at last.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:9-15

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

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

*The Gospel of the Lord.***Praise to you, O Christ.***The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.*

THE SERMON: The Rev. Christina Dondero

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.

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

The Rain Will Seek the Rivers

Robert J. Powell

The rain will seek the rivers, and rivers run to seas,
While human hearts will wander unfulfilled and restlessly.
The anxious heart must listen, listen for the quiet voice
That whispers, answers, offers, Calls forth the unforced choice.
To grasp the easy burden, God's grace our soul's delight.
Oh, run to claim the promise of everlasting life.
Oh, run to claim the promise of everlasting life.

Presentation Hymn 380 v. 3

Doxology

OLD 100TH

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER D

BCP 372

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 truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

* Sanctus S-127

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Calvin Hampton

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 acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People ***We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.***

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Gregory and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and 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-169

My flesh is food indeed

Ray W. Urwin

Cantor or Choir

My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -
 deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my
 flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them. My
 flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Hymn 147

Now let us all with one accord

BOURBON

1 Now let us all with one ac - cord, in
 2 The cov - e - nant, so long re - vealed to
 3 Your love, O Lord, our sin - ful race has
 4 Re - mem - ber, Lord, though frail we be, in
 5 There - fore, we pray you, Lord, for - give; so

1 com - pa - ny with a - ges past, keep vi - gil with our
 2 those of faith in for - mer time, Christ by his own ex -
 3 not re - turned, but fal - si - fied; au - thor of mer - cy,
 4 your own i - mage were we made; help us, lest in anx -
 5 when our wan - derings here shall cease, we may with you for

1 heaven - ly Lord in his temp - ta - tion and his fast.
 2 am - ple sealed, the Lord of love, in love sub - lime.
 3 turn your face and grant re - pent - ance for our pride.
 4 i - e - ty, we cause your Name to be be - trayed.
 5 ev - er live, in love and u - ni - ty and peace.

Communion Anthem

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

G. Fauré
Arr. Mark Schweizer

Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us didst fast and pray,
 Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.
 As Thou with Satan didst contend, And didst the vict'ry win,
 Give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to conquer sin.
 As Thou didst hunger bear and thirst, So teach us, gracious Lord,
 To die to self, and chiefly live By Thy most holy Word.
 Through these days of penitence, And through Thy Passiontide,
 Yea, with us in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.
 Abide with us, that so, this life of suff'ring overpast,
 An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!

Peter Rice, bass | Clare Baekerroot, alto

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 150

Forty days and forty nights

AUS DER TIEFE RUFE ICH

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;
 2 Should not we thy sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
 3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!
 4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
 5 Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy side;

1 for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
 2 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain?
 3 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!
 4 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.
 5 that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Fanfare and Chorale on Agincourt Hymn

Charles Callahan



About today's music...

If you think the text of hymn #150 is somewhat gloomy, you should read the original 9-stanza poem, written by George Hunt Smyttan in 1856, from which it was taken! Mr. Smyttan was an English clergyman (apparently of rather grim disposition) who only worked as a priest for eleven years before poor health forced him to retire. In his poem he related in detail the ordeal of Christ's temptation and he warned Christian most sternly not to be drawn into sin. It was a bit too sack-cloth-and -ashes even for 19th century church goers!

Although early experts pronounced the text "impossible for public worship", another English cleric, Francis Pott, undertook a major revision of the work, cutting it down to six stanzas and shortening the language considerably. Then he and prodigious tune-arranger, William Henry Monk (who were putting together a new hymn book in 1861) set the altered poem to this melody for the first time. It has been a successful and enduring match.

The melody was composed by a German pastor who also had a short career: Martin Herbst succumbed to the plague at age 27. The name of the tune, as is the rule in Hymnal 1982, is the first line of the text with which it was originally used: "Aug Der Tier rule ich".

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 sympathy for Lisa Hunt, on the death of her mother, Foy Hunt.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Oliver Buckley, Gary Rollie, Rose Ann Pace, Danielle Bonanno, Madeleine Lewis, Wade McGlamery, Porter Welch, John Barrett, Mark Goodwin, Paul Sanford, and Gail Eilers.

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.

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

THIS 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.

BLINDSPOT GAME NIGHT | SATURDAY, FEB. 24

On February 24th at 6PM, The Blindspot will be meeting at Amici's on Macon Hwy for dinner then will head across the street to Oak House Distillery for board games. If you plan on coming or have any questions, reach out to Wade McGlamery (770-624-4837). Hope to see you there!

NEXT WEEK

PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING | SUNDAY, FEB. 25

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

COMING UP...

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.

FAMILY PROMISE | MARCH 17-24

In the 2024 model of service, the two homeless families who are in Family Promise will be living in a duplex. Their needs are different from prior years. Our Volunteers will:

1. provide rideshare or grocery gift cards for one family;
2. provide as requested household, hygiene or other supplies;
3. bring an evening meal (one night);
4. transport the families using the Family Promise van Monday morning if needed;
5. transport the families to and from the Day Center at First Baptist so they can do their laundry on Saturday;
6. one person will stay at the Day Center between 1:00-5:00 (this can be split between several volunteers);
6. host a children's activity for the kids for an hour on Saturday at the Day Center.

We will have two other churches to help us do all this. There is an hour of training that would be helpful to all volunteers: Feb 22, 10:00-11:00 a.m.; Feb 27, 6-7:00 p.m.; March 6, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; or March 14, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Questions please email Annette Bates, bateskannette@gmail.com.

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.

ONGOING

THREADS OF PRAYER

We are a group of knitters and crocheters who have been crafting beautiful comfort items for about ten years. Each item is made with prayer. As we complete each one (and some items may take months to craft), we contact those in our church who have lost someone or who are ill to see if they would like something. Just wrapping yourself in one of these carefully made things can bring such comfort in a time of need. Sometimes we make baby blankets. We invite anyone who knits or crochets to join. If you can't make the meetings but would like to make an item to be given, please contact Annette Bates, bateskannette@gmail.com.

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 boxed mac & cheese, pork & beans, dried beans, and sanitary napkins! Please help us fill the Little Red Wagon!

Those Who Serve

Vestry:
Reader: Lynn Hanna (8AM)
Annette Bates (10:30AM)
EMs: June Ball & Jane Hudson
Crucifers: Ethan Vogt
Torches: Jeffery Ross

Flowers: Flower Guild
Altar Guild: Nancy Watson, Jennifer Caplinger,
Mary Ann Caplinger
Ushers: Bruce & Carol Zavitz
Counters: Lois Alworth & Katie Hein
Livestream: Ron Balthazor

Clergy and Staff

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

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

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

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

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

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: