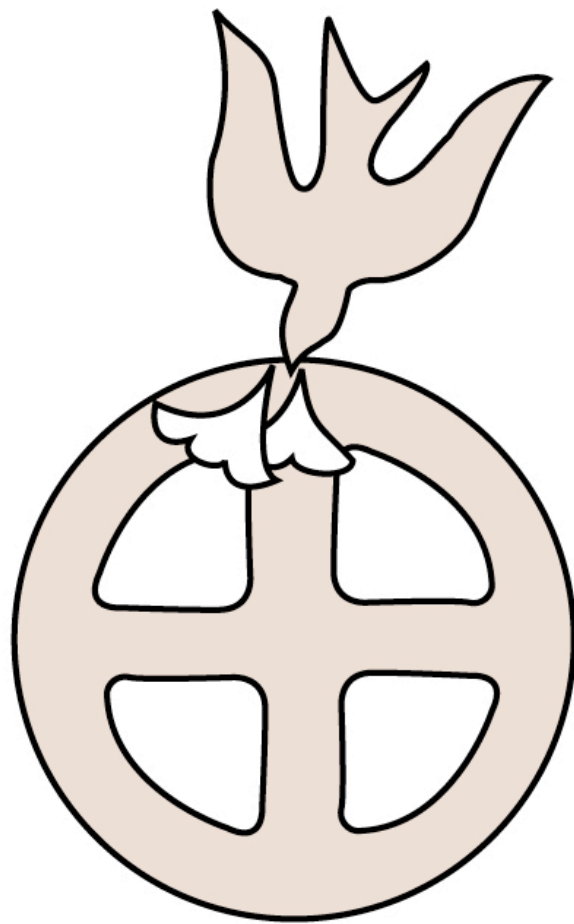


ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



MARCH 22, 2020

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We invite you to please silence your cell phones and to enter worship in stillness, silence, and reverence during the Prelude, which begins our service.

Prelude

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

John Hughes

Silent processional

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

OPENING SENTENCES

BCP 351

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **His mercy endures for ever.**

THE DECALOGUE *(please kneel if you are able)*

BCP 350

Celebrant: Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: Honor your father and your mother.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: You shall not commit murder.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: You shall not commit adultery.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: You shall not steal.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: You shall not be a false witness.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

The Celebrant continues

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *(Mark 12:29-31)*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 352

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister 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.**

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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The people are seated for the readings. Children may leave for Children's Church.

THE FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel

said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

Psalm 23

Spoken

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; * I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures * and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul * and guides me along right pathways for his Name’s sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

THE SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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

The people stand to sing and remain standing for the Gospel.

Sequence Hymn 493

O for a thousand tongues to sing

AZMON

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er’s praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;

1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner’s ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

- 6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heayen.

THE GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

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

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON: The Rev. Nikki Mathis

THE NICENE CREED
(said by all, standing)

BCP 358

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.

The people's response to "let us pray to the Lord" is "**Lord, have mercy.**"

The Celebrant adds a Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Solo

Abide with me

arr. Malcolm Archer

Joseph Napoli, tenor

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
 when other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.
 I need thy presence every passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
 Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
 Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with me.
 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
 heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

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.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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. _____

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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." Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

Cantor or Choir

My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -

1 *All* 2 *Cantor or Choir*

deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my

All

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 Solo

Be Thou My Vision

Traditional/ arr. P. Keveren

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SOLEMN BIDDING

(keep scrolling for rest of bulletin)

1 God of mer - cy, God of grace, show the bright - ness of thy
 2 Let thy peo - ple praise thee, Lord; be by all that live a -

face. Shine up - on us, Sa - vior, shine, fill thy
 dored. Let the na - tions shout and sing glo - ry

Church with light di - vine, and thy sav - ing health ex -
 to their Sa - vior King; let all be, be - low, a -

tend un - to earth's re - mot - est end.
 bove, one in joy, and light, and love.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Lord Christ, the only Son of God

J. S. Bach

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Jeffery Ross, David Lowe, Stephen Morris, Alice Hunt, George Watson, Morgan Vick, Conoly Hester, Beth Hodges, Deborah Freeman, Mary Ellen Kurish, Catherine Hartley, Mary Parkman, Gayle Duncan, Jimmy Simons, Gene Watson, Bill Walker, Sandy Elhenicky, Susan Kuzia, Shelby Welch, Sarah Gordon, Roger Swagler, Stanley Armour, Lucy Gregory, Martha Beach, Jack Beach, Tammy Bishop, Cecil Miller, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Kim Rider, Patrick Dean, Harold Tillman, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Neal, Ann, Paula, John, Linda, Gwen, Barbara, Dusty, Daniel, Carol, Michael, Michelle, Meredith, Heather, Matt, Pete, Sophia, Jill, Ruth, Samantha, Jennifer, Chip, and Buddy.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Madalyn Kuhn, Rhonda Hefner-Packer, David Floyd, Berry Rice, Maggie Reinberger, Evan Lewis, Jill Crandall, Miles Peck, Bernice Clark, and Viviane Van Giesen; **and for those celebrating their anniversaries:** David & Stacie Court.

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.

EASTER LILIES

If you wish to dedicate an Easter lily in honor/thanksgiving of someone living or in remembrance of someone deceased, please email your dedication to office@stgregoryathens.org or call the church office at 706-546-7553. The suggested donation is \$12/lily. You can mail your check or pay online. If paying online, please choose "Flowers" as the Fund and put "Easter lily" in the memo. **When emailing your dedication please indicate YOUR name, the # of lilies, the name to whom you're dedicating the lily, and for what reason: In Memory, Thanksgiving, or Honor. The deadline is Monday, April 6.** Even if we do not have in-person services, you'll still see the lilies on the altar online and can still have the lily after Easter, if you'd like.

**EVERYTHING IS
CANCELED.**

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

Catherine Drewry Director of Children's Ministries
cbdrewry@gmail.com | 706-201-7241

Jude Red-Bear Nursery Director
juderedbear@yahoo.com | 706-614-0008

Mark Hein Buildings/Grounds
markehein@gmail.com | 706-549-3239

Allena Armour Sexton
allenaarmour57@yahoo.com | 706-614-3704

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Megan Reuter, Allison Weaver

Vestry Members: Kathryn Musholt, *Sr. Warden*; Kelly Black, *Jr. Warden*, Jack Armistead; Eddie Bennett; Karen Hankins; Rhonda Hefner-Packer; Jane Hudson; Marge Massey; Caley Ross; Beth Thornton; Chrissy Moffett, *Clerk*; Les House, *Treasurer*

Section: Jesus Christ our Lord

Title: O for a thousand tongues to sing

Meter: CM

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: *Azmon*, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Section: The Church's Mission

Title: God of mercy, God of grace

Meter: 77. 77. 77

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), alt.

Music: *Lucerna Laudoniae*, David Evans (1874-1948)

Copyright: Music: By permission of Oxford University Press.

Section: The Holy Eucharist

Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Lord have mercy: *Kyrie*

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

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Section: The Holy Eucharist

Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

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Section: The Holy Eucharist

Title: The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: My flesh is food indeed

Music: Ray W. Urwin (b. 1950)

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