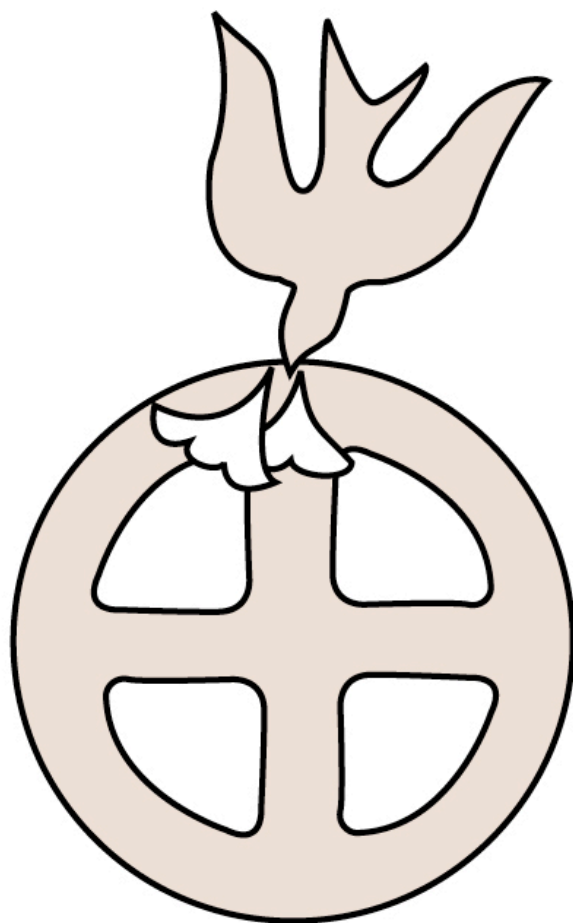


ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



MARCH 21, 2021

PREMIERED ON YOUTUBE

10:30AM

W/ ONLINE COFFEE HOUR BEGINNING AT 10:15AM

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

THE WORD OF GOD

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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, have mer - cy.

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

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

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, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

read by George Krause

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

Psalm 119:9-16

Spoken by all

- 9 How shall a young man cleanse his way? * By keeping to your words.
10 With my whole heart I seek you; * let me not stray from your commandments.
11 I treasure your promise in my heart, * that I may not sin against you.
12 Blessed are you, O Lord; * instruct me in your statutes.
13 With my lips will I recite * all the judgments of your mouth.
14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees * than in all manner of riches.
15 I will meditate on your commandments * and give attention to your ways.
16 My delight is in your statutes; * I will not forget your word.

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross where the young
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 cross of Christ, my God: all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
 of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

THE GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

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

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

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON: The Rev. Nikki Mathis

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

(said by all)

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 PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

Create in Me

Michael Larkin

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

BCP 369

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:

* 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. _____

Celebrant continues

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

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.

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

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

1 Now quit your care and anx - ious fear and wor - ry; for
 2 To bow the head in sack - cloth and in ash - es, or
 3 For is not this the fast that I have cho - sen? (The
 4 For right - eous - ness and peace will show their fac - es to
 5 Then shall your light break forth as doth the morn - ing; your

1 schemes are vain and fret - ting brings no gain. Lent calls to
 2 rend the soul, such grief is not Lent's goal; but to be
 3 pro - phet spoke) To shat - ter ev - ery yoke, of wick - ed -
 4 those who feed the hun - gry in their need, and wrongs re -
 5 health shall spring, the friends you make shall bring God's glo - ry

1 prayer, to trust and ded - i - ca - tion; God brings new beau - ty
 2 led to where God's glo - ry flash - es, his beau - ty to come
 3 ness the griev - ous bands to loos - en, op - pres - sion put to
 4 dress, who build the old waste plac - es, and in the dark - ness
 5 bright, your way through life a - dorn - ing; and love shall be the

Unison *Harmony*

1 nigh; re - ply, re - ply, re - ply with love to love most high;
 2 near. Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light ap - pear;
 3 flight, to fight, to fight to fight till ev - ery wrong's set right.
 4 shine. Di - vine, di - vine, di - vine it is when all com - bine!
 5 prize. A - rise, a - rise, a - rise! and make a par - a - dise!

Unison *Harmony*

1 re - ply, re - ply, re - ply with love to love most high.
 2 Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light ap - pear.
 3 to fight, to fight to fight till ev - ery wrong's set right.
 4 Di - vine, di - vine, di - vine it is when all com - bine!
 5 A - rise, a - rise, a - rise! and make a par - a - dise!

SOLEMN BIDDING

Deacon: Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people;
that, rightly observing this holy season,
they may learn to know you more fully,
and to serve you with a more perfect will;
through Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Fellowship Music

Lead Me Lord to the Cross

Wesley & Bunjes (arr. J. Klein)

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Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Joel Hunt, Ellen Richardson, Jo Benton, Tammy Bowman & family, Carl Hoveland, Carol Jones, Rainsly Vogt, Mark Goodwin, Jane Bowen, Mack Thurmond, Marge Massey, Dot Cooper, Sheryl King, Allena Armour, Doug Welch, Pat Irby, Pat Titus, Stephanie Gamble, Rose Ann Pace, Aaron Muckin, Glen Jedlicka, Stephen Morris, George Watson, Conoly Hester, Deborah Freeman, Catherine Hartley, Mary Parkman, Gayle Duncan, Jimmy Simons, Gene Watson, Bill Walker, Sandy Elhenicky, Shelby Welch, Sarah Gordon, Roger Swagler, Stanley Armour, Martha Beach, Jack Beach, Tammy Bishop, Cecil Miller, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Kim Rider, Patrick Dean, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Tom, Beverly, Lee, Kimberleah, Pete, Sophia, Samantha, Jennifer, Chip, and Buddy.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Barbara Goodwin, Madalyn Kuhn, Rhonda Hefner-Packer, David Floyd, Berry Rice, Maggie Reinberger, Evan Lewis, Jill Crandall, and Miles Peck; **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.

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

Terri Tillman and Dallas Bono Audiovisual Technicians
ttillman@gmail.com; dallasbono@gmail.com

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: Jane Hudson, *Sr. Warden*; Kelly Black, *Jr. Warden*; Julia Marlowe Swagler; LeeAnne Krause; John Bray; Anna Hiers; Blaine Everson; Eddie Bennett; Caley Ross; Chrissy Moffett, *Clerk*; Les House, *Treasurer*

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: John Bray JohnPatrickBray@gmail.com

