St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



MAY 28, 2023 Live Streamed on <u>YouTube</u>

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 by separated from you." (by St. Alphonsus Liguori)

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

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PreludeA Pentecost Offertory: 'Song 13' & 'Veni Creator Spiritus'

Phil Lehenbauer

The congregation is invited to pray and silently reflect during this time

Processional Hymn 225

Hail thee festival day!

SALVE FESTA DIES



OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 351

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares,

that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104:25-35, 37



25 O Lord, how manifold are your / works! *

in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your / creatures.

26 Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to / number, * creatures both small and / great.

27 There move the ships, and there is that Le-/viathan, *

which you have made for the / sport of it.

28 All of them / look to you *

to give them their food in due / season.

29 You give it to them; they / gather it; *

you open your hand, and they are filled with good / things.

30 You hide your face, and they are / terrified; *

you take away their breath, and they die and return to their / dust.

31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are cre-/ated; *

and so you renew the face of the / earth.

32 May the glory of the Lord endure for / ever; *

may the Lord rejoice in all his / works.

33 He looks at the earth and it / trembles; *

he touches the mountains and they / smoke.

34 I will sing to the Lord as long as I / live; *

I will praise my God while I have my / being.

35 May these words of mine / please him; *

I will rejoice in the / Lord.

37 Bless the Lord, O my / soul. *

Halle-/lujah!

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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

Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL John 20:19-23

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

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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

THE SERMON: The Rev. Ellen Richardson

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.

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, especially Michael, Rob, and Don, and all priests and deacons, especially Nikki, Christina, Carol, Ellen, Doug, Dutton, and Lin;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. ...

We give special thanks for ...

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 Anthem

Descend, O Heavenly Dove

Mark Schweizer

Lord God, the Holy Ghost, in this accepted hour, As on the day of Pentecost, Descend in all Thy power; We meet with one accord in our appointed place,

And wait the promise of our Lord, By all adored, The Spirit of grace.

Descend O heav'nly Dove, abide with us alway:

And in the fullness of thy Love, come from above, and cleanse us, we pray.

Like mighty rushing wind upon the waves beneath,

Move with one impulse every mind, One soul, one feeling breathe:

The young, the old inspire with wisdom from above;

O grant us gifts, and tongues of fire, Hearts of desire, To pray, praise, and love.

Descend O heav'nly Dove, abide with us alway;

And in the fullness of thy Love, come from above, and cleanse us, we pray.

Presentation Hymn 400

Doxology

LASST UNS EREREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, 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 A

BCP 361

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.

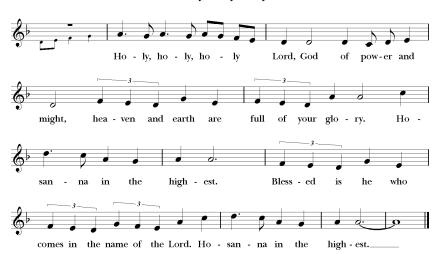
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

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 Robert Powell



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.

364

We invite you to pray the Lord's Prayer in your native or second language,

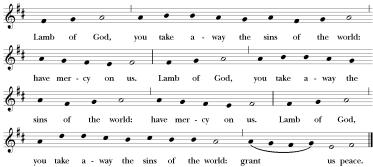
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

* Fraction Anthem S-161



David Hurd

BCP



THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Hymn 500

Creator Spirit

SURREY



If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may bide with you for ever, e'en the spirit of truth.

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 516

Come down, O Love divine

DOWN AMPNEY



THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The altar flowers are dedicated by Susanne Burton to the honor and glory of God and in thanksgiving for her granddaughter, Parr, and for her family, friends, and fellow church members!

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Jason Vogt, Susan Dunn & family, David Kirshenblatt, Don Musholt, Beth Massey, Cayden Mitchell, Billy Hale, Bill Alworth, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Susan Williams, Dan Williams, Pat MacKinnon, Shelby Welch, Don Downie, Olivia Carlisle, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Rosina, Eliot, Patricia, Ben, Mobley, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week: Carol Jones, Megan Wickwire, Dan Minor, and Beth Thornton; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Charlie & Joanna Carabello, and Jim & Laura Green.

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

TODAY/THIS WEEK

PENTECOST FESTIVE COFFEE HOUR | 12PM

Come join us after the 10:30 service today in the Parish Hall for our festive coffee hour, where we will eat all things colored Pentecost, i.e. red, yellow, and orange ... Let's celebrate the flames of Pentecost!

LIBRARY STEERING COMMITTEE | 12PM

Volunteers are needed for a defacto steering committee for the parish library. Two principal goals are the development of (1) a strategic plan for the library and (2) a database of library books/resources. A very brief meeting will be held after the 10:30AM service today in the parish library. If interested but unable to meet, please contact Richard Cooper, Parish Librarian, via email at rectennessee@gmail.com.

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED | MONDAY, MAY 29 & FRIDAY, JUNE 2

Parish offices will be closed tomorrow, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day, and on Friday, June 2, when Kendall will be out of town.

PRIDE PARADE | SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Athens' 2nd annual Pride Parade and Resource Fair will be on Saturday, June 3. St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church will host a table at the resource fair following the 2:00PM parade. Last year we greeted 440 people in the broiling heat. This year the resource fair will be held in the shade of the Foundry Pavilion behind the Classic Center 270 W. Hancock Ave., Athens, from 2:30 until 6PM. Greeters will be needed to help welcome everyone to our resource table and to our church. Please email Alice Mohor or call or text (706) 207-4716 if you would like to help.

COMING UP...

DOUG ADKINS'S ORDINATION | SAT., JUNE 24

Doug Adkins completed his coursework at Bexley-Seabury Seminary and was awarded a Diploma in Anglican Studies May 12. His ordination to the priesthood is scheduled for Saturday, June 24 @ 2PM at The Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL | JULY 17-20

The dates for VBS 2023 are July 17-20, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM. We will begin with supper; participate in three rotations; and conclude with Compline in the nave. Like last year, children will be participating in "Compassion Camp." This year's theme is "Every Living Thing." Watch future news for details about each night's theme.

For now: please look at your calendar and check your availability to help make "camp" a success for our children. We need folks to help with the three rotations (Art/Crafts; Bible Story; Recreation/Movement). We also need people to help with the set-up, serving, and clean-up of the nightly meals. See Doug Adkins for details.

NOTES

PARISH LIFE

Parish Life had the first of several work days on Monday, May 15. We discarded a lot of expired food, and consolidated the space in the "inner closet". If you can't find something you stored there, please let us know. Then, we will start re-organizing how we use the space, specifically we would like to bring some of the dish racks over to the Christian Ed building, and make it easier to use the kitchen in the Parish Hall. If you see space opening up in the "outer closet", please do not start filling it. Any questions, talk to Maggie Reinberger, or Shelby Welch. Thank you all for your great response to our recent receptions!

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour needs your help! Danielle keeps us well-supplied with coffee and lemonade, but we need parishioners to sign up to bring either homemade or store-bought goodies...nothing fancy, just cookies, muffins, fruit, pastries, or cheese/crackers. There is a sign up sheet next to the kitchen counter in the Christian Education building. **Remember:** Coffee Hour is an ideal time to meet and get to know our visitors and newcomers!

Those Who Serve

Vestry: Anna Hiers

Reader: Lynn Hanna (8AM); George Krause (10:30AM)

EMs: Roger Schwenke & Barbara Kuhn Crucifers: Beth Thornton & Anna Thornton

Torches: Maggie Reinberger & Wade McGlamery

Flowers: Lane Norton

Altar Guild: Berni McCranie & David Lowe

Counters: Stacie Court & Angela Greene

Livestream: Alec Nelson

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Nikki Mathis Rector

rector@stgregoryathens.org | 706-546-7553 x2

The Rev. Christina Dondero Deacon

 $christinad on dero @gmail.com \mid 404-918-7248$

Kendall M. Kookogey Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper

office@stgregoryathens.org | 706-546-7553 x1

Jonathan Klein Music Director/Organist

jonathanfk@gmail.com | 706-296-8102

Joseph Napoli Choir Director

awn1984@att.net | 706-546-6638

The Rev. Doug Adkins Director of Children's Ministries

jdadkins@hotmail.com | 706-474-4784

Wade McGlamery Youth Minister

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

Anthony Barkdoll Livestream Coordinator

anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

Terri Tillman WebMaster

ttillman@gmail.com

Danielle Vogt Coffee Host

danielle1784@gmail.com

Peachy Green Clean Co-op Sexton

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear, Danielle Lyle, Megan Reuter, Allie Weaver

Vestry Members: Kate Avinger, John Barrett; John Bray; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Blaine Everson; Anna Hiers; LeeAnne Krause; Lane

Norton; Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson; Shelby Welch; Anna Thornton, Clerk; Les House, Treasurer

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Anna Hiers aldhiers@gmail.com