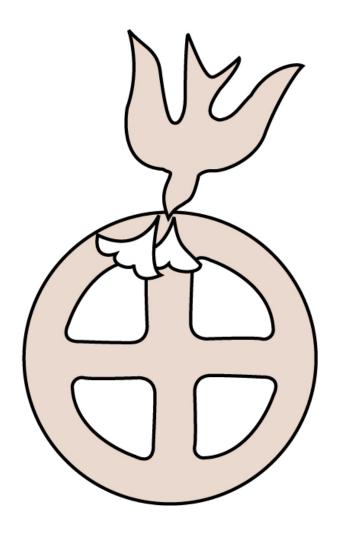
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



JULY 30, 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 9th Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 12

THE WORD OF GOD

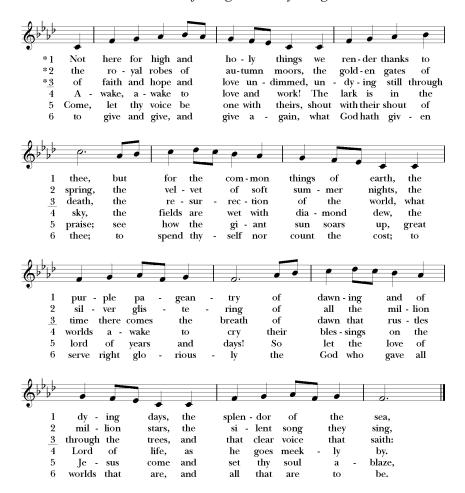
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

Processional Hymn 9

Not here for high and holy things

MORNING SONG



OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 351

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Genesis 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b (spoken)

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; * make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, * and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; * let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Search for the Lord and his strength; * continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, * his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, * O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 7 He is the Lord our God; * his judgments prevail in all the world.
- 8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, * the promise he made for a thousand generations:
- 9 The covenant he made with Abraham, * the oath that he swore to Isaac,
- 10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, * an everlasting covenant for Israel,
- 11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan * to be your allotted inheritance."
- 45b Hallelujah!

THE SECOND READING

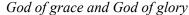
Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 594



CWM RHONDDA



THE GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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.

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**.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, Form IV

BCP 388

The congregational response to "Lord, in your mercy" is "hear our prayer."

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

Precious Lord

Thomas A. Dorsey

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me on.
When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone;
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me on.
When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone;
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me on.

Presentation Hymn 380, vs. 3

Doxology

OLD 100TH

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP 367

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Here a Proper Preface may be said)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

* Sanctus S-130 Holy, holy, holy Franz Schubert





We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory!

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary and Gregory and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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

* Fraction Anthem S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God

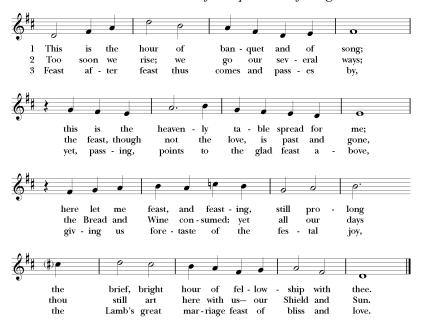
Franz Schubert



Communion Hymn 317

This is the hour of banquet and of song





Communion Hymn 341

For the bread which you have broken





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.

ST. FLAVIAN

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.

THE BLESSING

Closing Hymn 615



THE DISMISSAL

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

day of

per - fect

right -

eous - ness, the prom-ised day

God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

f

Special thanks to Dawn Marie Pike for her music this morning!

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Randy Harrelson, Teri Bouknecht, Kara Russe, Roger Swagler, Jamaica Miller, Ellen Kappel, Susan Dunn & family, David Kirshenblatt, 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, Rachel, Christy, Rosina, Eliot, Patricia, Ben, Mobley, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week: Daniel Nakano, Daphne Blackburn, Sandra House, Jeff Sanford, Bradley Koch, Sam Thornton, Ashley Green, Calum Cook, and Randy Shepherd; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Steven & Sandy Gamble, and Mark & Ellen Richardson.

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.

THIS WEEK

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR VACATION

Kendall will be out of town from Monday, July 24 - Tuesday, August 1.

NEXT WEEK

WELCOME BACK MO. NIKKI | SUNDAY, AUG. 6

Please join us for a festive coffee hour in Parish Hall after the 10:30AM service, to celebrate our beloved Mother Nikki's return! There will be cake!!!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS | SUNDAY, AUG. 6

A new school year beings in August for youth, college students, and adults! To mark this new beginning, we invite everyone to bring his/her own backpack/briefcase/diaper bag to worship next Sunday for special blessings and prayers.

COMING UP...

FAMILY PROMISE | AUGUST 13-20

Our Family Promise (formerly IHN) week comes up August 13-20. This is an outreach to help those who are temporarily homeless and who live in the shelter attached to and behind Milledge Avenue Baptist Church. Individuals or groups of friends volunteer to fix supper (usually no more than 10 people to feed) or sign up to be available in the host room for a few hours on an evening or weekend. This is easy and gives so much to these families who are working to maintain a steady job and obtain permanent housing. The Family Promise social worker helps them with these goals and regularly checks in with them after they leave the shelter. If you have questions, email Annette at bateskannette@gmail.com or call 706-255-5839. To sign up, use this link and scroll down to August 13-20: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3-2022#/.

BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES | SUNDAY, AUG. 20

The next Brown Bag Lecture will be held at St. Gregory's on Sunday, August 20 in the Parish Hall from 2-4pm. Presenter will be Holle Tubbs, Director of Diocesan Youth Ministries, and co-author of Keep Watch: Suicide, Christ, and Community. Keep/Watch is a learning tool for people of faith around suicide causes and prevention. Bring a snack if you'd like!

NOTES

CLERGY ON CALL

From July 27-July 31, please contact The Rev. Ellen Richardson at 912-660-0151 for any pastoral emergencies.

ACOLYTES SCHEDULING

Please be aware that we have now switched to Sign-Up Genius as a way to schedule acolytes, rather than Wade putting it together each month. Sign-Up Genius has worked very well with our lay reader ministry. Please take note of this and sign up when Ron Balthazor sends out reminders and the link!

THE LITTLE RED WAGON

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs Saltines, family-sized cereals, and juices! Please help us fill the Little Red Wagon!

Those Who Serve

Vestry: Kate Avinger

Reader: Carolyn Abney (8AM); Barbara Kuhn (10:30AM) EMs: Barbara Kuhn & June Ball

Crucifers: Ethan Vogt Torches: Rainsley Vogt Flowers: Mary Ann Cox

Altar Guild: Anna Thornton, Susanne Burton, Carol

Schwenke, Lin Kromhout

Ushers: Kelly Black & Deb Garner Counters: Alice Mohor & Gail Eilers

Livestream: Jeff Welch

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Nikki Mathis Rector

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

The Rev. Doug Adkins Associate Rector & Director of Children's Ministries

jdadkins@hotmail.com | 706-474-4784

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

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/Social Media

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; Anna Hiers; LeeAnne Krause; Lane Norton; Maggie

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

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Kate Avinger dr.k.avinger@gmail.com