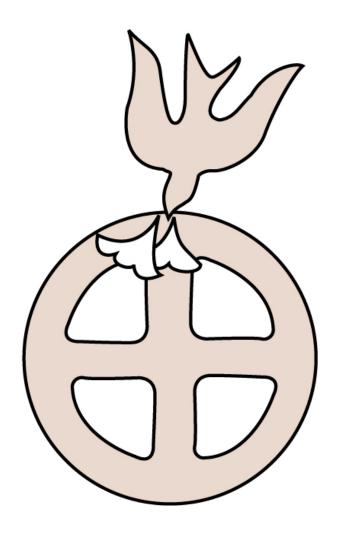
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



August 6, 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 Transfiguration of Jesus Christ

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

Processional Hymn 427

When morning gilds the skies

LAUDES DOMINI



OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 351

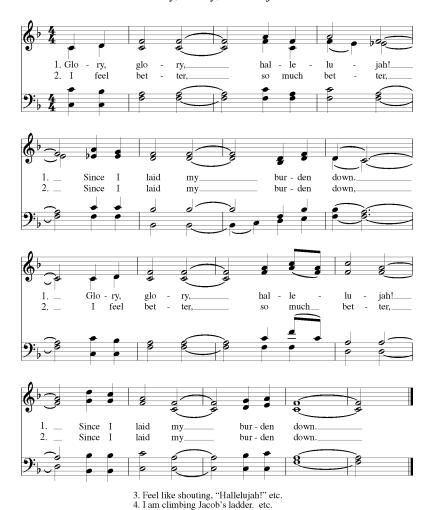
Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the King in his beauty; who with you, O Father, and you, O Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Exodus 34:29-35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 99



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy

1 The Lord is King; let the people / tremble; *

he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth / shake.

2 The Lord is great in / Zion; *

he is high above all / peoples.

3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and / awesome; *

he is the / Holy One.

4 "O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established / equity; *

you have executed justice and righteousness in / Jacob.'

5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and fall down before his / footstool; * he is the / Holy One.

6 Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his / Name, *

they called upon the Lord, and he / answered them.

7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of / cloud; *

they kept his testimonies and the decree that he / gave them.

8 O Lord our God, you answered them in-/deed; *

you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil / deeds.

9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy / hill; * for the Lord our God is the / Holy One.

THE SECOND READING

2 Peter 1:13-21

I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to refresh your memory, since I know that my death will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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

Thanks be to God.

To be sung twice: 1st time choir; 2nd time choir & congregation



THE GOSPEL Luke 9:28-36

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

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" —not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

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

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.

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

Come, Thou Fount

Eric Nelson

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger wand'ring from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.



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.

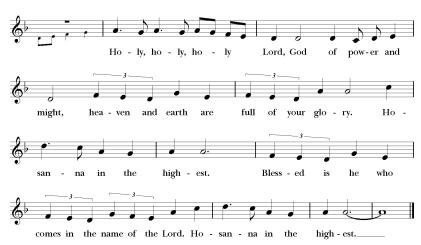
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Here a Proper Preface is said)

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-129

Holy, holy, holy Lord

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.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

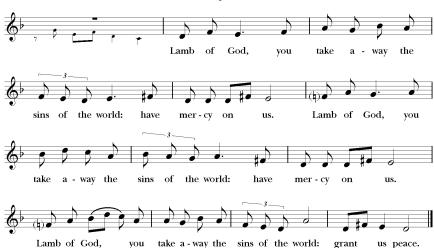
BCP 364

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-163

Lamb of God

Robert Powell





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 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.

THE BLESSING



THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Nancy Carter, Kathy Davis, Randy Harrelson, Teri Bouknecht, Kara Russe, Roger Swagler, Jamaica Miller, Alice Castengera, 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: Janet Wright, Carol Cason, Lorraine Bjork, Jen Ingle, Stacie Court, David Ewing, Carolyn Abney, Sophia Coppins, Ellen Thurmond, Philip Scottright, Eddie Bennett, and Janice Rusk; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Jared & Catherine Holton, and Mark & Maggie Reinberger.

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

WELCOME BACK MO. NIKKI

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

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 for special blessings and prayers.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Finance Committee will meet today after the 10:30AM service in office #1 next to Kendall's office. All are welcome.

NEXT WEEK

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#/.

COMING UP...

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

THANK YOU!

Thanks to the amazing generosity of St. Gregory's parishioners and the wonderful assistance from Volunteer Jay Pullin, we delivered 53 backpacks and 54 binders to the Clarke County School District's program for homeless students on July 31. They had just distributed the last of their supply and were extremely grateful for your donations and your kindness. We will also forward your monetary contribution to this effort via a check in the amount of \$300. Your Outreach Committee is, as always, grateful for and humbled by your ever-present caring for and sharing with those in need. Thank you!

St. Gregory's Outreach Committee

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Children's Sunday School (the Christian education time that coincides with Adult Spiritual Formation between our two morning services) is tentatively set to resume the Sunday after Labor Day.

We are in the process of recruiting a team of folks (around 10) who can share the teaching responsibilities. We are looking for adults who can commit to teach or shepherd an average of one Sunday per month during the school year. This year, we hope to have two Children's Sunday School groups (Kindergarten-2nd Grade and 3rd-6th Grades). The curriculum (Weaving God's Promises) is easy to use, with more than enough activities to choose from for each lesson.

Sunday School happens between 9:15 AM and 10:15 AM, which means teachers need to be at the church and getting ready around 8:45 AM.

During the month of August, I will be working on securing our team of leaders. If you receive an email or phone call invitation to participate in this important ministry, I hope you will consider it with a listening ear and heart. *Fr. Doug*

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: Lynn Hanna (8AM); Stacie Court (10:30AM)

EMs: Lin Kromhout & Karen Hankins Crucifers: Grayson Krause & Charlotte Lamm

Torches: Aiden & Warren Lamm

Flowers: Kris Braman

Altar Guild: Berni McCranie & David Lowe

Ushers: Lois Alworth & Gail Eilers

Counters: Mark Reinberger & Jane Hudson

Livestream: Anthony Barkdoll

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 *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

Wade McGlamery Youth Minister www.cglamery@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 danielle 1784@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