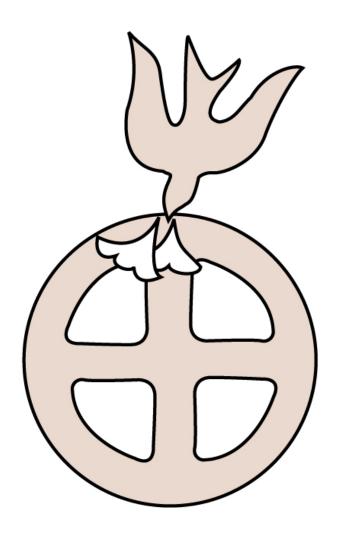
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



AUGUST 20, 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 12th Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 15

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

Processional Hymn 380

From all that dwell below the skies

OLD 100TH



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

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Genesis 45:1-15

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133

- 1 Oh, how good and / pleasant it is, * when brethren live together in / unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the / head * that runs down upon the / beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of / Aaron, *

and runs down upon the collar of his / robe.

- 4 It is like the dew of / Hermon *
 - that falls upon the hills of / Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has ordained the / blessing: * life for ever-/more.



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THE SECOND READING

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 470

There's a wideness in God's mercy

BEECHER



THE GOSPEL Matthew 15:10-28

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

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

THE SERMON: The Rev. Doug Adkins

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

Let All the Multitudes of Light

Howard Helvey

Let all the multitudes of light, their songs in concert raising, With earth's triumphal hymns unite, the risen Saviour praising. Ye heavens, his festival proclaim! Our King returneth whence he came, With victory amazing.

For us he bore the bitter Tree, to death's dark realm descending;
Our foe he slew, and set us free, Our ancient bondage ending.

No more the tyrant's chains oppress; O conquering Love, thy name we bless,
With thee to heaven ascending.

Jesus, to thee be endless praise, for this thy great salvation; O holy Father, thine always be thanks and adoration; Spirit of life and light, to thee eternal praise and glory be: One God of all creation!

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.

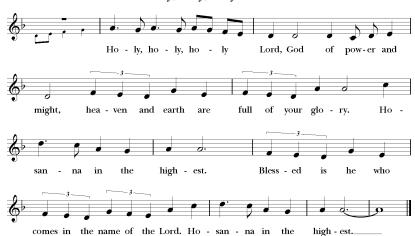
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Here a Proper Preface is said)

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

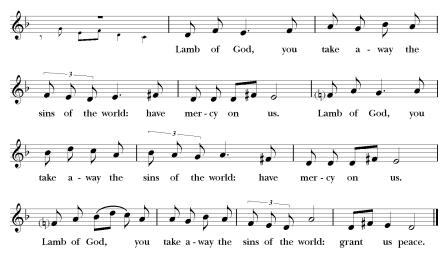
THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP 364

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



THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE



Communion Anthem

JLM

Jesus loves me, of this I know.
Jesus loves me for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak, but He is so strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me; Yes, Jesus loves me; Yes, Jesus loves me:

The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, Alleluia.

Jesus loves me, Alleluia, Allelu.

Alleluia.

Yes, Jesus loves me; Alle, Alleluia. Yes, Jesus loves me: The Bible tells me (so) Jesus loves me, Alleluia. **Bradley Phillips**

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

Closing Hymn 539

TIDINGS



THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: *Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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The altar flowers this morning are dedicated to the honor and glory of God, and in memory of Roger Swagler.

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Elmer Clark, Nancy Carter, Kathy Davis, Randy Harrelson, Teri Bouknecht, Kara Russe, Jamaica Miller, Ellen Kappel, Susan Dunn & family, David Kirshenblatt, Cayden Mitchell, 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, Michael, Rachel, Christy, Rosina, Eliot, Patricia, Ben, Mobley, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week: Hank Fowler, Mandi Murph, Margarette Fowler, Casey Hymas, Kristen Reinberger, Nancy Carter, Berkeley Boone, Michelle Vecchio-Weinmeister, Nate Ingle, and Kathryn Musholt; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Paul Heald & Jill Crandall.

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

BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES | 2-4PM

The next Brown Bag Lecture will be held at St. Gregory's this afternoon 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!

THIS WEEK

YOUTH GROUP INTEREST MEETING | FRIDAY, AUG. 25

If you or your child are in the 6th-12th grades, come out to learn about all that St. Gregory's has to offier for the 2023/24 school year at our Interest Meeting, Friday, August 25 @ 7PM in Parish Hall! Sunday school, field trips, and more! Please contact Wade McGlamery, 770-624-4837, if you have any questions.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL | SAT., AUGUST 26

The Rite of Christian Burial for Dan Minor will be here at St. Gregory's on Saturday, August 26 at 11AM followed by a reception in Parish Hall.

NEXT WEEK

BLINDSPOT GROUP | AUGUST 31

Our 20s and 30s group meets on the last Thursday of each month at 6:30PM for dinner and a small group study (usually off-site of the church). We also meet at least once a month for game nights, dinner and drinks, movie nights, and more. Newcomers are always welcome! Contact Wade McGlamery, 770-624-4837 for more information.

COMING UP ...

SACRED GROUND | BEGINS SEPTEMBER 7

Sacred Ground is a sensitive, prayerful resource that creates space for difficult but respectful and transformative conversations about race and racism. It invites participants into dialogue circles for 10 weekly sessions to walk back through history in order to peel away the layers that brought us to today, reflecting on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story.

This season, St. Gregory will be partnering with Emmanuel Episcopal Church to hold Sacred Ground circles with members and facilitators from both parishes, alternating our meeting sites on Thursday evenings between St. Gregory and Emmanuel. The curriculum developed through the Episcopal Church utilizes weekly readings and films made available to registered participants via secured online access, as well as 2 books that can be purchased or borrowed. Each weekly session will include a light meal at 6PM followed by discussion until 8:30PM.

Conversations about race and racial justice are needed in our world. They are difficult, and yet when entered in a context of faith and within a community of prayer they can help us in our call to create Beloved Community. Please prayerfully consider joining this Sacred Ground circle with our friends and neighbors at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, beginning Thursday September 7, 2023, and concluding on November 9, 2023. Friends, family, and neighbors may be invited to join you for the program but but all must commit to the entire program. To ensure the sacred confidentiality with the sensitive nature of the discussions, drop-in visits are not permitted. **Deadline for signing up will be September 1, 2023.**

For questions or to sign up please contact Ellen Richardson <u>ellenrichardson52@gmail.com</u> or phone/text 912-660-0151.

NOTES

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: Mark Richardson Flowers: Maryann Cox

Reader: Carolyn Abney (8AM); Altar Guild: Carol Schwenke, Lin Kromhout,

Roger Schwenke (10:30AM) Barbara Dean

EMs: Jane Hudson & June Ball
Ushers: Lois Alworth & Anna Hiers
Crucifers: Maggie Reinberger & Charlotte Lamm
Counters: Katie Hein & Lois Alworth

Torches: Aiden & Warren Lamm Livestream: Ron Balthazor

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

jdouglasadkins@gmail.com | 706-474-4784

The Rev. Christina Dondero Deacon

 $christina don dero@gmail.com \mid 404\text{-}918\text{-}7248$

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: Mark Richardson mrichsn@gmail.com