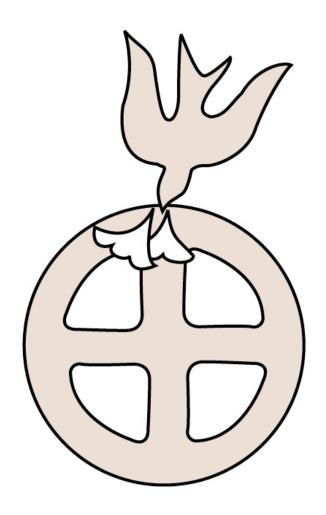
# St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



August 22, 2021 Premiered on <u>YouTube</u>

10:30АМ

## THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 16

#### THE WORD OF GOD

#### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION \*

What happens when you are spiritually prepared and desire to receive communion, but can't? Such a case is referenced by a paragraph in the 1979 Prayer Book:

If a person desires to receive the Sacrament, but, by reason of extreme sickness or physical disability, is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, the Celebrant is to assure that person that all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth.

A nation-wide shut down due to a pandemic fits, I'm sure we'll agree, with the words "by any other impediment" listed in the first Prayer Book. Our Lord will not cut us off from his grace. If we truly desire him, he will come to us, even if we cannot receive the Sacraments he has instituted so that we may receive his grace. This is not a new idea. St Thomas Aquinas, writing nearly 800 years ago, said:

before receiving a sacrament, the reality of the sacrament can be had through the very desire of receiving the sacrament. Accordingly, before actual reception of this sacrament, a man can obtain salvation through the desire of receiving it, just as he can before Baptism through the desire of Baptism, as stated above (Summa, III.73.iii)

Desiring to receive the spiritual grace of the Most Holy Eucharist (and being prevented from receiving it sacramentally) is known as Spiritual Communion. It is so very important to note that this gift is given to us when we cannot, for very good reason, be present at mass.

When you are watching a live-stream or recording of our liturgies, any of the following prayers may be said at the moment of communion when you would normally leave your pew and make your journey to the altar:

In Union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of Your Church where Your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I believe that You are present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to You, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from You. Let me live and die in Your love. Amen.

OR

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (from Enriching Our Worship 2)

OR

"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire you with all my heart. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already in my heart and unite myself to you completely. Please do not let me ever 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.



**OPENING ACCLAMATION** 

BCP 355

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

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

"Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name —for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

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

Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM 84

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! \*

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*

by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \* they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \* whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

- 6 They will climb from height to height, \* and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; \* hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \* and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*

and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

- 10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; \* he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the Lord withhold \* from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O Lord of hosts, \* happy are they who put their trust in you!

#### THE SECOND READING Ephesians 6:10-20

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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

Thanks be to God.



6 For each perfect gift of thine to the world so freely given, faith and hope and love divine, peace on earth and joy in heaven,

Refrain

THE GOSPEL John 6:56-69

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

Glory to you, O Christ. People:

Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.* 

THE SERMON: The Rev. Nikki Mathis

THE NICENE CREED BCP 358

(said by all)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, Form III

BCP 387

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, Paul, and Don, (...) and all priests and deacons, especially Nikki & Christina;

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. ...

#### 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**.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

## Offertory Hymn 376

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Нүми то Јоу



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

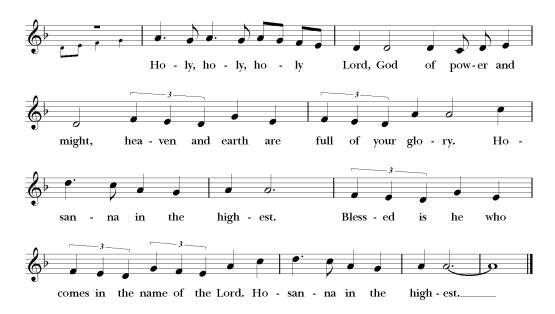
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. (Proper Preface)

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:

**BCP 361** 



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.

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.



#### THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Enriching Our Worship 2

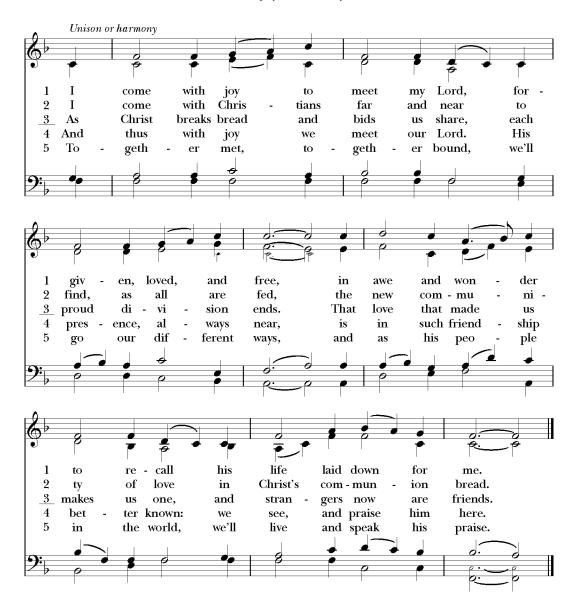
Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 366

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

#### THE BLESSING



THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Fellowship Music** 

For the Beauty of the Earth

arr. Reba Snyder

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# Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Bruno Jara de la Cruz, Luis Hernandez, Bill Alworth, Jennifer Harding, Tess Varner, Paul Varner, James Morris, Tom Hiers, Steve Bailey, Paul Tolar, Joel Hunt, Mia Camoston, Rainsly Vogt, Jane Bowen, Marge Massey, Sheryl King, Doug Welch, Pat Irby, Pat Titus, Stephanie Gamble, Rose Ann Pace, Glen Jedlicka, Stephen Morris, George Watson, Conoly Hester, Deborah Freeman, Gayle Duncan, Jimmy Simons, Gene Watson, Bill Walker, Shelby Welch, Roger Swagler, Stanley Armour, Jack Beach, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Mary Ellen, Lynn, Joshua, Pete, Sophia, Samantha, Jennifer, and Buddy.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Mandi Murph, Margarette Fowler, Kristen Reinberger, Carrie Kretzer, Nancy Carter, Michelle Vecchio-Weinmeister, Pat Titus, Nate Ingle, Kathryn Musholt, Jane Gabriel, Rowan Poister, and Raymond Campbell; and for those celebrating their anniversaries: Paul Heald & Jill Crandall, and Joe & Maggie Napoli.

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

# THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL | SAT., AUGUST 28

The Rite of Christian Burial for Carl Hoveland will be held in our sanctuary on Saturday, August 28 @ 5PM. We are in need of ushers, acolytes, and EMs for this service. If you can serve, please let Mother Nikki or Kendall know.

## **COMING UP ...**

# OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY | SEPTEMBER 11 & 12

On Saturday, September 11 we will have a Founder's Hymn Sing @ 4:30PM. That will be an evening of food, fun, and fellowship as we sing and hear the stories of St. Gregory the Great's beginning, honoring our founders and church elders. More details to come. Also, the very next day, September 12, at 10AM, +Bishop Robert Wright will be with us at our ONE service on that day, for baptism, confirmation, and our anniversary celebration. Be in the lookout for more detailed information about both of these events in the future.

#### REGATHERING INFORMATION

The ReGathering Committee continues to monitor COVID-19 cases in Clarke County. The committee is making contingency plans in case we need to step back. The following plan may be modified as conditions change.

\*The seven day average for Clarke County is 56 cases per day as of Thursday 19 August 2021.

- Preregistration and assigned seating will no longer be required. Social distancing should continue to be practiced.
- With the rising case load and new seating pattern, starting August 1 we are requesting that everyone regardless of their vaccination status wear a mask at all services.
- We are requesting that only fully vaccinated individuals attend the 8AM service.
- Fully vaccinated and those who have not been vaccinated are invited to the 10:30AM service.

## **Clergy and Staff**

**The Rev. Nikki Mathis** Rector rector@stgregoryathens.org | 706-546-7553 x2

**The Rev. Christina Dondero** Deacon *christinadondero@gmail.com* | 404-918-7248

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

**Kendall M. Kookogey** Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper *office@stgregoryathens.org* | 706-546-7553 x1

Jonathan Klein Music Director/Organist jonathanfk@gmail.com | 706-296-8102

**Joseph Napoli** Choir Director awn1984@att.net | 706-546-6638

**Catherine Drewry** Director of Children's Ministries *cbdrewry@gmail.com* | 706-201-7241

**Jude Red-Bear** Nursery Director *juderedbear@yahoo.com* | 706-614-0008

**Mark Hein** Buildings/Grounds *markehein@gmail.com* | 706-549-3239

**Allena Armour** Sexton *allenaarmour57@yahoo.com* | 706-614-3704

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Megan Reuter, Allison Weaver

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

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Kelly Black kjblack@gmail.com