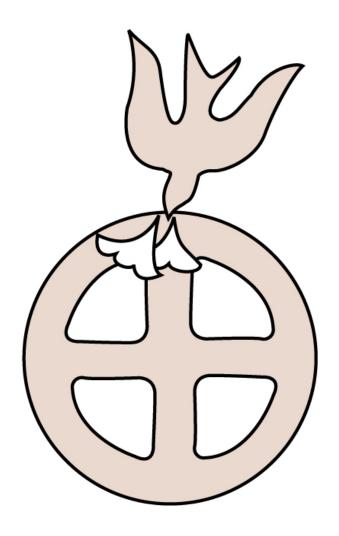
# St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



AUGUST 27, 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 13th Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 16

# THE WORD OF GOD

# **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Prelude** Jesus Loves Me arr. Victor Labenske

**Processional Hymn 521** 

Put forth, O God, thy Spirit's might

CHELSEA SQUARE



OPENING ACCLAMATION

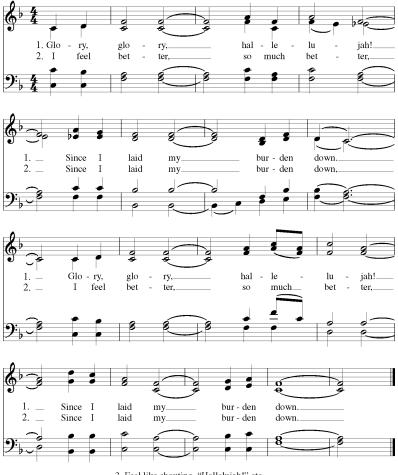
BCP 351

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.



3. Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" etc. 4. I am climbing Jacob's ladder. etc.

#### 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.

THE FIRST READING Exodus 1:8-2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him,

and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

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

Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 124

- 1 If the Lord had not been on our / side, \* let Israel now / say;
- 2 If the Lord had not been on our / side, \* when enemies rose up a-/gainst us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up a-/live \* in their fierce / anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have over-/whelmed us \* and the torrent gone / over us;
- 5 Then would the raging / waters \* have gone right / over us.
- 6 Blessed be the / Lord! \*

he has not given us over to be a prey for their / teeth.

7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the / fowler; \* the snare is broken, and we have es-/caped.

8 Our help is in the Name of the / Lord, \* the maker of heaven and / earth.



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THE SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-20

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

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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 with a Thankful Heart

Jayne Southwick Cool

Come with a thankful heart, all people, ev'ry nation.
Acknowledge God as Lord, the Maker of us all, and let glad shouts ring out from ev'ry generation.
Serve God as chosen ones; obey the Shepherd's call.
Come with unbridled joy, with praise and adoration.
Unite in cheerful songs to bless God's holy name.
The Lord is true and good - a cause for celebration.
God's love and kindliness will always be the same.
Rejoicing in the past, we look for future blessings;

in hope and confidence we rest within God's grace. We trust God's promises, God's faithful works confessing, until, in heav'n above, we see God face to face.

### Presentation Hymn 380 v.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 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.

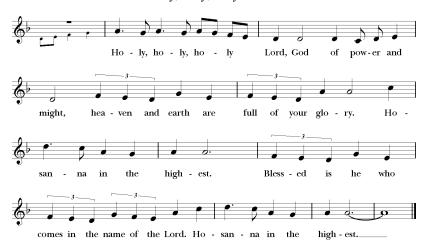
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Here a Proper Preface is said)

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

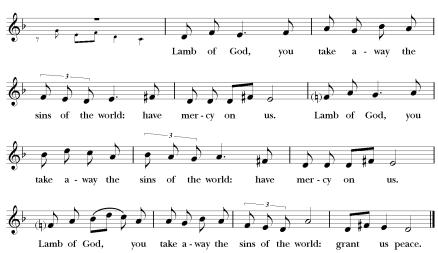
BCP 364

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 Hymn 217 LEVAS**

**Communion Hymn 325** 

# He's Got the Whole World in His Hand

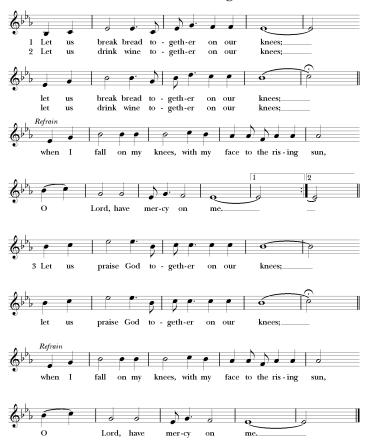
Negro Spiritual



- 2. He's got you and me sister, etc.3. He's got you and me brother, etc.
- 4. He's got the pretty little baby, etc.5. He's got everybody here, etc.

# Let us break bread together

LET US BREAK BREAD



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

People: Thanks be to God.



# Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Elmer Clark, Nancy Carter, 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: Rowen Poister, Raymond Campbell, and Brooke Davis; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Bill & Lois Alworth.

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

# RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL | SATURDAY, SEPT. 2

The Rite of Christian Burial for Jane Armistead will take place in our sanctuary this Saturday, September 2 @ 2:30PM followed by tea in Parish Hall.

# 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 reflect on family histories and stories, as well as important historical narratives that shape the collective American story. 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. If you would like to see a preview of the program, use this link: Sacred Ground preview or go to Sacred Ground/Episcopal Church.

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 every other week. **Due to the great response in sign-ups so far, we will now offer two dialogue circles, one on Thursday evenings 6-8:30pm beginning September 7, 2023 (including a shared meal) and a second on Sunday afternoons beginning September 10, 2023 (snacks only).** Each group will alternate its gathering place weekly between St. Gregory's and Emmanuel for a total of 10 weekly sessions.

Friends, family, and neighbors may be invited to join you for the program but all must commit to the entire program. To ensure the sacred confidentiality and the sensitive nature of the discussions, drop-in visits or participants moving between groups will not be 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.

# **OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES & MEETING | SUNDAY, SEPT. 10**

St. Gregory's Outreach Committee organizes hands-on support for several worthwhile local ministries. This Fall, we will be seeking donations to the Barnett Shoals Elementary School Clothes Closet. During the year, we try to find parishioners to help with Family Promise, the alliance of local churches working to help homeless families achieve sustainable independence, Our Daily Bread, a mission that prepares and serves meals to the needy in one of our Athens churches, Athens Area Emergency Food Bank, the service to which our Little Red Wagon is dedicated, filled and delivered, and others. As is always true in providing for the "least of these," we constantly need more in-person help.

If you are interested in joining us in these- or other- Outreach efforts, please come to our next Committee Meeting, immediately following the 10:30 service, in the Christian Education Building Library, on **Sunday, September 10, 2023**.

You may also contact Susanne Burton, <u>sfburton@windstream.net</u>, or Gail Eilers, <u>eilersgail@gmail.com</u> with questions or to volunteer to help.

# **NOTES**

#### THE LITTLE RED WAGON

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs paper bags, canned tuna, canned tomatoes, and cooked cereals (i.e. grits, oatmeal)! Please help us fill the Little Red Wagon!

# Those Who Serve

Vestry: Gail Eilers

Reader: Michael Castengera (8AM);

Barbara Kuhn (10:30AM) EMs: Anna Thornton & Karen Hankins Crucifers: Porter Welch & Maggie Reinberger

Torches: Ethan & Rainsly Vogt

Flowers: Rhonda Packer

Altar Guild: Jane Sheridan & Jenifer Marquardt

Ushers: Mark & Ellen Richardson Counters: Stacie Court & Angela Greene

Livestream: Alec Nelson

# **Clergy and Staff**

The Rev. Nikki Mathis Rector

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

**The Rev. Doug Adkins** Associate Rector & Director of Children's Ministries *jdouglasadkins@gmail.com* | 706-474-4784

The Rev. Christina Dondero Deacon

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

**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: Gail Eilers eilersgail@gmail.com