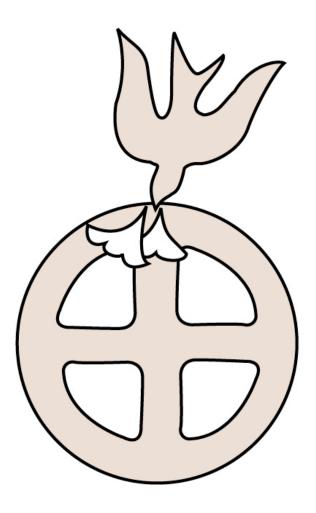
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



AUGUST 29, 2021 Premiered on <u>YouTube</u>

10:30AM

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 17

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Hymn 291

We plow the fields, and scatter

WIR PFLUGEN



OPENING ACCLAMATIONCelebrant:Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy SpiritPeople:And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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

read by Michael Castengera

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

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

PSALM 45:1-2, 7-10

1 My heart is stirring with a noble song; let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; *

my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

2 You are the fairest of men; *

grace flows from your lips, because God has blessed you for ever.

7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, *

a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom; you love righteousness and hate iniquity.

8 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you *

with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

9 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, * and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.

10 Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; *

on your right hand is the queen, adorned with the gold of Ophir.

THE SECOND READING

James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act-they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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



THE GOSPEL

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Celebrant: People:

Int: The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to Mark. Glory to you, O Christ.

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** THE SERMON: The Rev. Nikki Mathis

THE NICENE CREED

(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

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

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.

BCP 387

BCP 360

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn 707

Take my life and let it be consecrated

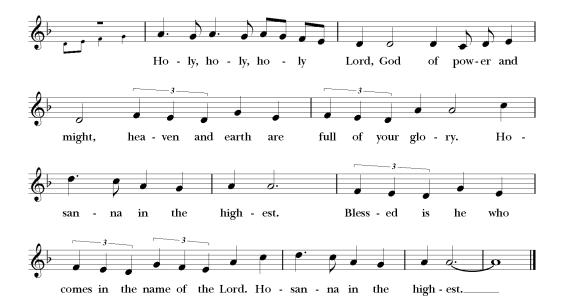
HOLLINGSIDE



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:



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

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



Refrain

Refrain

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. People: Thanks be to God.

Fellowship Music

There will be peace in the valley for me

Thomas Dorsey

The altar flowers are dedicated to the honor and glory of God, and in loving memory of Maggie Packer, by her parents, Rhonda and Ken Packer.

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Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Sam Preston, 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: Sandy Hudson and Scarlet Buckley; and for those celebrating their anniversaries: Bill & Lois Alworth, and Roger & Julia Swagler.

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.

COMING UP ...

OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY | SEPTEMBER 11 & 12

On Saturday, September 11 we will have a Founders' 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. To help us prepare, please visit our <u>event on EventBrite</u> and let us know if you're coming on Sunday the 12th!

NOTES

THE VESTRY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Vestry Nominating Committee met for the first time last week. The Committee is developing a list of potential nominees, and using your recommendations and the recommendations from the current Vestry the Nominating Committee will assemble a slate of five eligible candidates whose term on the Vestry begins in 2022. The slate will be will presented to the congregation before the end of the year, and the congregation will vote on the slate at the Annual Meeting in January, 2022. As specified in our ByLaws, the slate of five candidates will be elected collectively, not as individuals, so the election isn't competitive.

Do you know you can self-nominate to be considered for membership on the Vestry? You also can nominate other parishioners —with their permission—to be considered for the Vestry.

Eligible candidates for membership on the Vestry, as stipulated in our parish ByLaws, must

- be confirmed communicants in good standing in the parish,
- be at least 18 years old,
- regularly attend church services,
- and have made and fulfilled a financial commitment to the church in the past year.

To submit your name or that of others for membership on the Vestry, simply send the names to a member of the Nominating Committee: Kelly Black, Chair (kjblack@gmail.com); Julie Worley (juliemarie.worley@gmail.com); Jane Hudson (janeghudson@gmail.com); Nikki Mathis (rector@stgregoryathens.org; Roger Schwenke (roger.schwenke@gmail.com); or Susanne Burton (attorneysfb@windstream.net). Remember, before you submit others' name for in nomination, you must have gotten the go ahead from them to do so.

Please send us your nominations for membership on the Vestry.

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 71 cases per day as of Thursday 26 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. **

** currently not applicable with outdoor services

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: Jane Hudson janeghudson@gmail.com