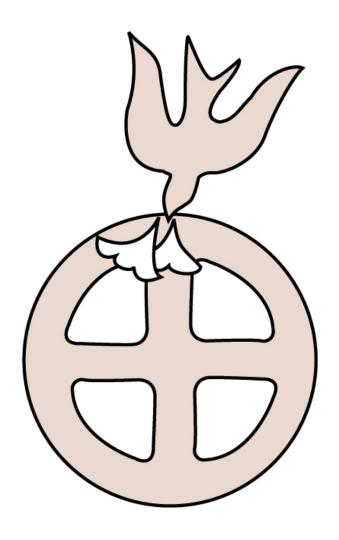
# St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



SEPTEMBER 24, 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 17th Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 20

# THE WORD OF GOD

#### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Prelude** (1'55")

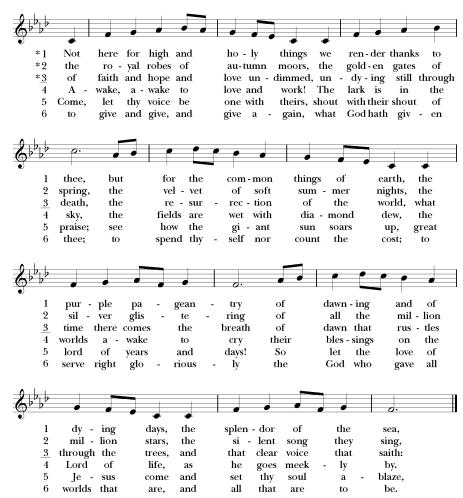
Prelude No. VI in G Minor

J. S. Bach

## **Processional Hymn 9**

Not here for high and holy things

MORNING SONG



**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 small notes in the vocal part are recommended for stanza 2.

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining." And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God." In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

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

Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45



1 Give thanks to the Lord and call up-/on his Name; \* make known his / deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing / praises to him, \*

and speak of / all his marvelous works.

3 Glory in his / holy Name; \*

let the hearts of those who / seek the Lord rejoice.

4 Search for the Lord / and his strength; \* continually / seek his face.

continually / <u>seek iiis</u> face.

5 Remember the marvels / he has done, \*

his wonders and the / judgments of his mouth,

6 O offspring of Abraham / his servant, \*

O children of / Jacob his chosen.

Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)



37 He led out his people with silver and / gold; \*

in all their tribes there was not one that / stumbled.

38 Egypt was glad of their / going, \*

because they were afraid of / them.

39 He spread out a cloud for a / covering \*

and a fire to give light in the night / season.

40 They asked, and quails / appeared, \*

and he satisfied them with bread from / heaven.

41 He opened the rock, and water / flowed, \*

so the river ran in the dry / places.

42 For God remembered his holy / word \*

and Abraham his / servant.

43 So he led forth his people with / gladness, \*

his chosen with shouts of / joy.

44 He gave his people the lands of the / nations, \*

and they took the fruit of others' / toil,

45 That they might keep his / statutes \*

and observe his laws. Halle- / lujah!

THE SECOND READING Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your

salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

Thanks be to God.

## Sequence Hymn 617

# Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round

SONG 1



THE GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought

they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Christ the Vine

Robert J. Powell

Christ, the vine, and God, the gardener, we, the branches bearing fruit.

We can bring forth shoots of promise when our lives in Christ take root.

Christ, the fruit from Jesse springing, you fulfilled the prophet's trust.

And you pray that we, your body, will fulfill your trust in us.

Christ, may we submit to pruning that we bear more grapes for wine.

Help us, when we're over-burdened, draw new strength from you, the vine.

You made us to be partners growing Spirit's fruit anew.

Keep us one in love together: you in us, and we in you!



## 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.

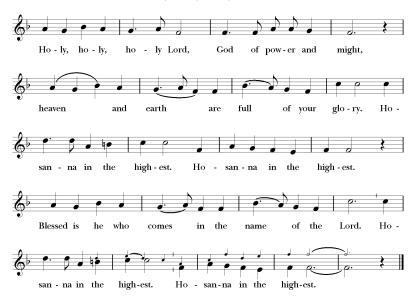
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Here a Proper Preface is said)

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-125

# Holy, holy, holy Lord

Richard Proulx



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

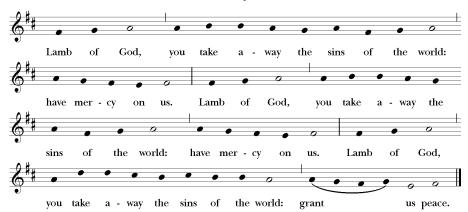
**BCP 364** 

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-161

## Lamb of God

Richard Proulx



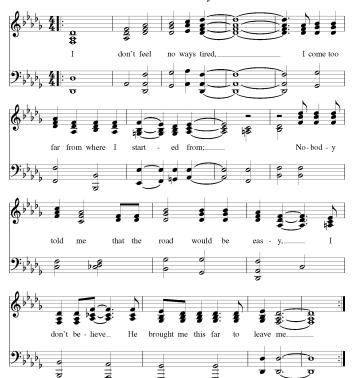
THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE



## **Communion Hymn 199 LEVAS**

## I Don't Feel No Ways Tired

Curtis Burrell



## 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.

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 690**

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA



THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

**Postlude** (1'25")

Prelude No. IV in F Major

J. S. Bach



The altar flowers are dedicated by Jane Hudson & Ron Balthazor, to the honor and glory of God, and in thanksgiving for Katherine & Michael Crowley, who are celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary.

## Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Peter Rice, Jean Estes, Maggie Darby Raymond, 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, 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: Nessa Avinger, Don Musholt, Anthony Garner, Kris Braman, Linda Kromhout, Crystal Hitchcock, and Cecil Hudson; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Raymond & Philip Scottright, Anthony & Mattee Barkdoll, and Jeff & Paula Sanford.

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 ...**

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

The Blessing of the Animals will take place this year at 4PM on Sunday, October 8 on the patio between Parish Hall and the Christian Ed building. Please have your furry, feathered, or scaley friends properly crated or leashed.

## **ONGOING**

## HOLY EUCHARIST & HEALING SERVICE | WEDNESDAYS

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6PM in the sanctuary for eucharist and prayers for healing.

## **BLINDSPOT GROUP | THURSDAYS**

Our 20s and 30s group meets on the last Thursday of each month (Sept 28, this 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.

## NOTES

#### **MOVIE NIGHT**

Unfortunately, we will be discontinuing parish movie night for the time being. If anybody has interest in taking this on going forward, please reach out to Mother Nikki.

#### **ACOLYTES SCHEDULING**

Please be aware that we have now switched to Sign-Up Genius as a way to schedule acolytes, rather than Wade putting it together each month. Sign-Up Genius has worked very well with our lay reader ministry. Please take note of this and sign up when Ron Balthazor sends out reminders and the link!

## 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!

About today's music...

The tune for today's closing hymn "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" is titled Cwm Rhondda and first appeared in the Hymnal in 1826. This Welsh hymn dates aback to 1773 and was originally titled "A Prayer for Strength to go through the Wilderness of the World." This hymn is universally popular and had been further translated into some seventy-five languages.

## Those Who Serve

Vestry: Maggie Reinberger Reader: Carolyn Abney (8AM);

Roger Schwenke (10:30AM)

EMs: Beth Thornton & David Stooksbury Crucifers: Maggie Reinberger & Charlotte Lamm

Torches: Aiden & Warren Lamm

Flowers: Maryann Cox

Altar Guild: Jenifer Marquardt, Jane Sheridan

Ushers: Lois Alworth & Anna Hiers

Counters: Angela Greene & Katie Reinberger

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 *christinadondero@gmail.com* | 404-918-7248

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

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

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

**Wade McGlamery** Youth Minister www.cglamery@gmail.com | 770-624-4837

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

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

**Anthony Barkdoll** Livestream Coordinator anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

**Terri Tillman** WebMaster/Social Media *ttillman@gmail.com* 

**Danielle Vogt** Coffee Host danielle 1784@gmail.com

Peachy Green Clean Co-op Sexton

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear, Danielle Lyle, Megan Reuter, Allie Weaver

*Vestry Members:* Kate Avinger, John Barrett; John Bray; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Anna Hiers; LeeAnne Krause, *Sr. Warden*; Lane Norton; Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson, *Jr. Warden*; Shelby Welch; Anna Thornton, *Clerk*; Les House, *Treasurer* 

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Maggie Reinberger mmreinberger@gmail.com