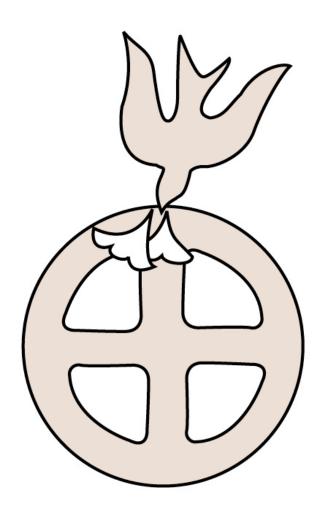
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



OCTOBER 24, 2021 Premiered on <u>YouTube</u>

10:30АМ

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 25

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.

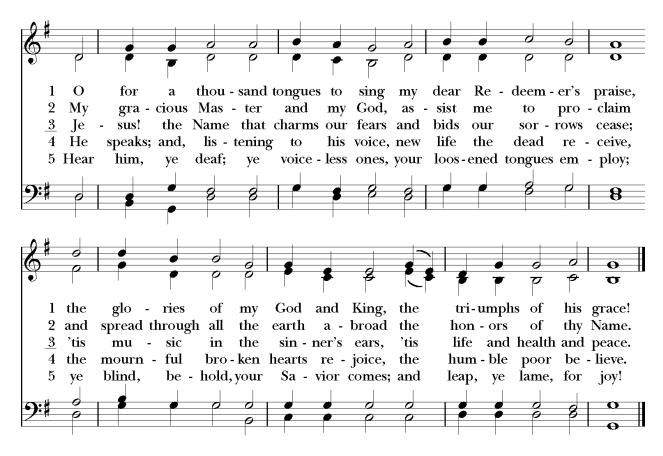
OR

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.



6 Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

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 35:

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.

* Gloria S-280 Glory to God Robert Powell



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Job answered the Lord: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.' I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived for one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

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

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 34:1-8, 19-22 (spoken)

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; * his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 I will glory in the Lord; * let the humble hear and rejoice.
- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; * let us exalt his Name together.
- 4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me * and delivered me out of all my terror.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, * and let not your faces be ashamed.
- 6 I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me * and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him, * and he will deliver them.
- 8 Taste and see that the Lord is good; * happy are they who trust in him!
- 19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, * but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.
- 20 He will keep safe all his bones; * not one of them shall be broken.
- 21 Evil shall slay the wicked, * and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
- 22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, * and none will be punished who trust in him.

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 7:23-28

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

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

Thanks be to God.



6 Then bless his holy Name, whose grace hath made thee whole, whose loving-kindness crowns thy days: O bless the Lord, my soul!

THE GOSPEL Mark 10:46-52

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

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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.

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; we pray for our President, Joseph, our Governor, Brian, and our Mayor, Kelly.

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 Anthem

There is a Wideness in God's Mercy

Maurice Bevan

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.

There is no more place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own;
And we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own.

There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;

There is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss. If our love were but more simple we should take him at his word;

And our lives would be all gladness in the joy of Christ our Lord.

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:



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.

* Fraction Anthem S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God

Franz Schubert



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.

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

Closing Hymn 535

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim

PADERBORN



THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for John Gay, The Rev. Judy Gay, Ed Spivey, Rick Berry, Hannah Bennett, Anna Thornton, Ellen Peck, Bill Alworth, Charles Thornton, James Morris, Tom Hiers, Jane Bowen, Marge Massey, Pat Irby, Pat Titus, Stephanie Gamble, Stephen Morris, George Watson, Tina Carlson, Shelby Welch, Roger Swagler, Stanley Armour, Cindy Beagle, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Brooke, Peter, Jason, Cecil, Brooke, Lynn, Pete, Sophia, Samantha, Jennifer, and Buddy.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Dolores Holt, Bruce Bowman, Raymond Hoover, Barbara Dean, Deborah Miller, Dona Conway, Amanda Aycock, and Marie Boyle; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Scott & Beth Thornton, and David Zerkel & Kristin Davidson.

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.

HAPPENING NOW

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN 2022 | INGATHERING SUNDAY

You should have received your pledge letter and pledge card in the mail this week. If not, you can pick them up in the narthex or on the dresser in Parish Hall. **Next Sunday, October 31, is Ingathering Day** for our pledges! We will joyfully and thankfully give to our church to do God's work with the gifts He has provided. Remember to bring your pledge cards to place in the basket at the altar. If you can't make it to church next week, you can mail in your pledge card or pledge online here: https://onrealm.org/stgregoryathens/AddPledge/generalpledges

COMING UP ...

ALTAR OF REMEMBRANCE & MEMORIAL GARDEN | OCT. 31 - NOV. 7

Rest eternal, grant unto them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.

All Saint's Day is the time in the liturgical year when we pause to celebrate the lives of those saints who have gone before us; loved ones who made us who we are today. All parish families are invited to place the names their departed loved ones, small photos, and other mementos on this altar, which will be in Parish Hall. Candles will be available for prayerful lighting.

Lane Norton will also place votive candles in our Memorial Garden, They will be there 10/31-11/7 for anyone who may like to come and light a candle in memory of someone. You must bring your own lighter/long match. Please remember to extinguish it

LABYRINTH | OCT. 31 - NOV. 7

before you leave.

You are invited to walk St. Gregory's Labyrinth in the parish hall Sunday, October 31 through Sunday, November 7 in honor and remembrance of All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day. The labyrinth offers you the opportunity to "put feet on your prayers." Experience a walking meditation that connects your mind, body and spirit.

NOTES

CHILDRENS THEATRE

Children's Theatre - we are still in the exciting planning stages - welcoming input and ideas from adults and youth. Our committee is meeting this morning from 9:30 - 10:15 in the tents outside. We'd like to start our time together with the children (Pre-K through 6th grade) on November 7th, also meeting 9:30-10:15. These classes will go through November and December, meeting masked and outdoors (as weather permits), and indoors with lots of open windows and ventilation as needed when weather is not agreeable. Please email Catherine Drewry, director of Children's Ministries at cbdrewry@gmail.com to volunteer or to sign up your child.

YOU TUBE STORIES

Tune in to our church YouTube channel to hear great stories read by fellow Gregorians each week. Recent readers have included Dakota Hamlin, Jude RedBear, Conoly Hester, Barbara Kuhn, Brenda Browning, and Carolyn Howell, and coming soon are videos by Porter Welch, Karen Hankins, and Nancy Watson. Click here to find the videos:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyRMekJhoZKkfXtJc1nKWyg/videos

And, if you want to be a reader, contact Catherine Drewry to volunteer at cbdrewry@gmail.com or 706-201-7241.

ALTAR GUILD

The altar guild needs volunteers! No experience is needed, and training will be provided. Anyone who is interested can contact Barbara Dean at 706-354-4269 or bdean70020@gmail.com

NEEDED: CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

Our Outreach Committee is sponsoring a parish-wide clothes drive to support our neighbor Barnett Shoals Elementary School. Although the Barnett Shoals children do not wear uniforms, the school does have a clothes closet that is in dire need of replenishment of some items. The school counselor there has indicated a need for the following clothing items.

Boys

- Underwear in all sizes (XS, S, M, and L) especially in XS and S (or sizes 4-8)
- Pants/sweatpants/shorts in sizes (XS, M, and L)
- Shirts in sizes M and L (already set for everything smaller)
- Note that the school is well stocked with socks.

Girls

- Underwear in all sizes (XS, S, M, and L) especially in XS and S (or sizes 4-8)
- Pants/shorts/leggings in all sizes (XS, S, M, L)
- Tops in sizes S, M, and L
- Note that the school is well stocked with socks.

This year you can contribute to the Clothes Closet in three ways:

- Make an **online** donation through REALM by Sunday, October 31. Select the *Outreach* option when making your contribution. Include *Barnett Shoals Clothes Closet* in the memo line.
- Write a **check** to St. Gregory the Great and bring/mail to the Parish so it is received by Sunday, October 31. Include *Barnett Shoals Clothes Closet* in the memo line.
- **Bring clothing** to the Parish anytime Monday-Friday (10am-5pm) or on Sunday when you are here for church. We will be collecting these items in bins located in the lobby of the Parish Hall building from now through Sunday, October 31.

Thank you for your support, St. Gregory Outreach Committee

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: John Bray johnpatrickbray@gmail.com