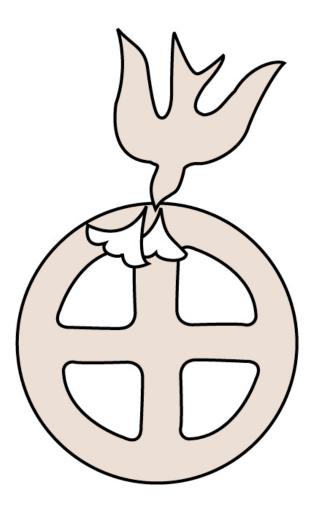
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



NOVEMBER 21, 2021 Premiered on <u>YouTube</u>

10:30AM

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King

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 494

DIADEMATA



OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: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.



BCP 355

Robert Powell

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

read by Roger Schwenke

2 Samuel 23:1-7

These are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favorite of the Strong One of Israel: The spirit of the Lord speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me: One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land. Is not my house like this with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire? But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away; for they cannot be picked up with the hand; to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear. And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

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

PSALM 132:1-13

1 Lord, remember David, * and all the hardships he endured;

- 2 How he swore an oath to the Lord * and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:
- 3 "I will not come under the roof of my house," * nor climb up into my bed;

4 I will not allow my eyes to sleep, * nor let my eyelids slumber;

5 Until I find a place for the Lord, * a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."

6 "The ark! We heard it was in Ephratah; * we found it in the fields of Jearim.

7 Let us go to God's dwelling place; * let us fall upon our knees before his footstool."

8 Arise, O Lord, into your resting-place, * you and the ark of your strength.

9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness; * let your faithful people sing with joy.

10 For your servant David's sake, * do not turn away the face of your Anointed.

11 The Lord has sworn an oath to David; * in truth, he will not break it:

12 "A son, the fruit of your body * will I set upon your throne.

13 If your children keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, *

their children will sit upon your throne for evermore."

THE SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4b-8

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

Sequence Hymn 454

Jesus came, adored by angels



THE GOSPEL

John 18:33-37

Celebrant: People:

rant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to John.
e: Glory to you, O Christ.

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

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; 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

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 360

BCP 358

BCP 387

THE HOLY COMMUNION

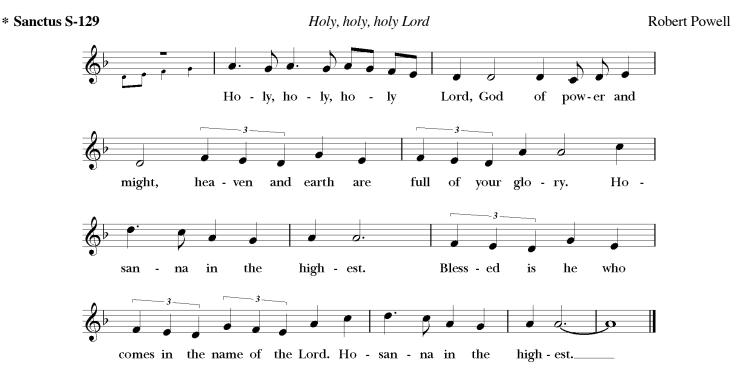
Light of the World

Light of the world, you loose the bonds of night. Once we walked in darkness; now bursts forth your light. Christ, in your glory, come to light the way; teach us how to follow. Light of our paths, you walk with us in strife. Where conflict darkens, bring the light of life. Christ in your mercy, come to show us love. Teach us how to follow! We must be your hands, lent to heal and bless. We must be your light, rending wide the darkness. Christ, in your image, we will greet the world; this is how we follow. Light of our days, we feel your dawning call send us forth to serve and bring your light to all! Christ, you have claimed us; you have made us one. We will always follow!

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. *(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.

Offertory Anthem

BCP 361

Karen Marrolli

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

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

BCP 364



THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

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

Closing Hymn 544

Jesus shall reign where 'er the sun

DUKE STREET

BCP 366



THE DISMISSAL

Deacon:Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.People:Thanks be to God.

Fellowship Music

Laudate Dominum Kendall Marie Kookogey, soprano

W. A. Mozart

Enriching Our Worship 2

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Tom Sturgis, John Granrose, Don Mushholt, Ralph Beckworth, Tammy Bowman, John Gay, Cameron Steele, Nathan Parrish, Ed Spivey, Hannah Bennett, Anna Thornton, Sheryl King, 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, Cecil, Brooke, Dianne, Peter, Jason, Lynn, Pete, Sophia, Samantha, Jennifer, and Buddy.

In sympathy for Mattee Barkdoll, on the death of her father, Gene Watson.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Anne Irwin, Hank Hodges, Brady Knowlton, Ethan Mathis, Rebecca Baggett, and Laura Ruffin; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Andy & Julie Dingus, Eddie & Viviane VanGiesen, and Paul & Beth Davis.

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.

TODAY

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP | 4:30PM

This afternoon at 4:30PM, all are invited to the Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship service for all faith groups (Christians, Jews, Muslims, et al.) The sponsor, Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens, includes representatives of more than 50 congregations in the Athens area. This year the worship service will be on Zoom. Zoom Meeting Info: Meeting ID: 915 5259 8884; Passcode: gratitude Short URL: <u>https://tinyurl.com/473ryc87</u>



THIS WEEK

RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL | MONDAY, NOV. 22

The Rite of Christian Burial for Conoly Hester will be held outside in our parking lot (under a tent) tomorrow, Monday, November 22 @ 1PM. Parking will be available in our other parking lot, Athens Montessori parking lot, and at Barnett Shoals Elementary School.

THANKSGIVING WEEK OFFICE HOURS

Parish Offices will be closed from Wednesday, Nov. 24 - Friday, November 26.

NEXT WEEK

MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

All households are invited to make an Advent wreath after the 10:30 service on Sunday, November 28. This is for adults, youth, and children. Lunch will be provided. \$20 per wreath. Bring pruning shears if you have them. Please contact Catherine Drewry to sign up 706-201-7241 or cbdrewry@gmail.com and note any dietary restrictions or preferences and the number of people who will be participating from your household.

COMING UP ...

ST. NICHOLAS | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

On Sunday, December 8, St. Nicholas will visit the 10:30AM service !

GREENS NEEDED

The Flower Guild needs lots of greenery for their Advent decorating that will take place this Tuesday, November 23. If you have any evergreens on your property you would be willing to cut and bring in (we don't need berries yet) there will be buckets of water outside the sacristy (back of sanctuary) to put them in. Thank you!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

Community Christmas of Oglethorpe County, Inc. is a local non-profit that helps struggling families at Christmas, and also throughout the year with power bills, rent, etc. Gifts of new toys and other fun items for boys and girls ranging in age from infants to high schoolers can be dropped off *before December 15th* at the main office of the Oglethorpe County Recreation Department Monday – Friday, 9-5, at any of the area schools, at the Crawford branch of The Commercial Bank, or with Toys for Tots. If you would like to help with the toy collection and distribution, please contact Catherine Drewry with a text at 706-201-7241 or email OglethorpeCommunityChristmas@gmail.com . If you know local families with children who need assistance this year, please ask them to consult our webpage for application information.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

2022 contribution envelopes are available on the dresser in the Parish Hall entrance way. We have not ordered many because history has shown very few St. Gregorians use them. If you wish to use these next year, please write your name next to the # of box that you take. Please note people last year already have boxes spoken for. Leave those boxes for them. If you had a box of envelopes last year and do not want/need them this year, please cross off your name so we know that box is available.

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

Wade McGlamery Youth Minister wwmcglamery@gmail.com | 770-624-4837

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, Jude Red Bear

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