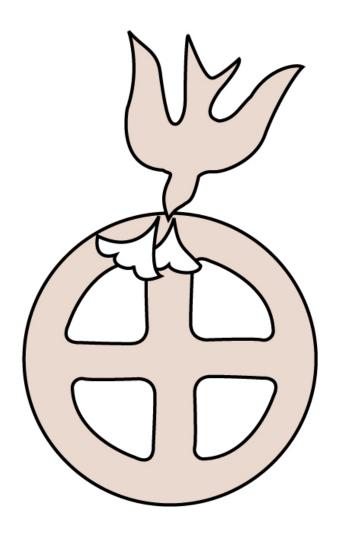
# St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



JUNE 25, 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 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 7

# THE WORD OF GOD

# **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Prelude Arietta Charles Callahan

**Processional Hymn 537** 

Christ for the world we sing!

Moscow



#### **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

BCP 351

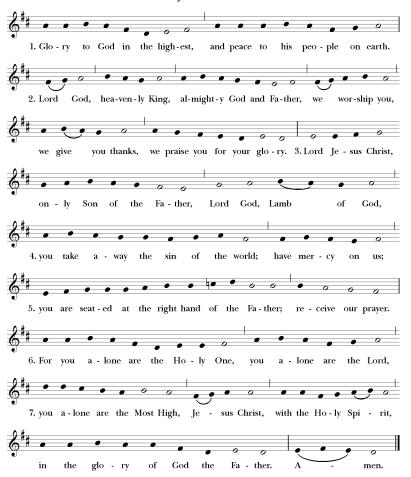
Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; 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 Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

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

Thanks be to God.

# Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

1 Bow down your ear, O Lord, and / answer me, \* for I am poor and in / misery.

2 Keep watch over my life, for I am / faithful; \* save your servant who puts his / trust in you.

3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my / God; \* I call upon you all the day / long.

4 Gladden the soul of your / servant, \*

for to you, O Lord, I lift up my / soul.

5 For you, O Lord, are good and for-/giving, \*

and great is your love toward all who / call upon you.

6 Give ear, O Lord, to my / prayer, \*

and attend to the voice of my suppli-/cations.

7 In the time of my trouble I will / call upon you, \* for you will / answer me.

8 Among the gods there is none like you, O / Lord, \*

nor anything like your / works.

9 All nations you have made will come and worship you, O / Lord,  $\mbox{\ensuremath{^{\ast}}}$ 

and glorify your / Name.

10 For you are great; you do wondrous / things; \*

and you alone are / God.

16 Turn to me and have / mercy upon me; \*

give your strength to your servant; and save the child of your / handmaid.

17 Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be a-/shamed; \* because you, O Lord, have helped me and / comforted me.



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy

# THE SECOND READING

Romans 6:1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL Matthew 10:24-39

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

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,

and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON: The Rev. Carol Schwenke

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

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** 

Light of the World

Karen Marrolli

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!

Presentation Hymn 380, vs. 3

**Doxology** 

OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. The 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.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create in a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:



Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Celebrant continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with [blessed \_\_\_\_\_, and ] all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Celebrant and People Blessed are you 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

Communion Solo Aria Charles Callahan



#### 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

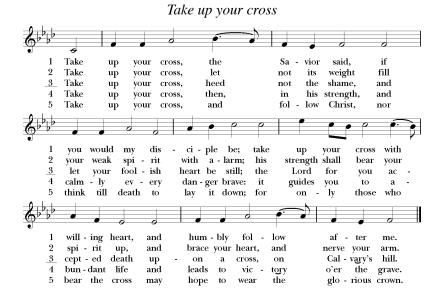
BCP 366

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







THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Sonata I William Boyce

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Special thanks to Molly Schneider for her music this morning!

# Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Lane Norton, Kara Russe, Roger Swagler, Jamaica Miller, Alice Castengera, Susan Dunn & family, David Kirshenblatt, Cayden Mitchell, Billy Hale, Bill Alworth, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Susan Williams, Dan Williams, Pat MacKinnon, Shelby Welch, Don Downie, Olivia Carlisle, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Christy, Rosina, Eliot, Patricia, Ben, Mobley, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week: Ed Risler, Marge Massey, Robert Scott, Gretchen Koch, Simon Majsztrik, Joyce Morehouse, and Catherine Drewry; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Mark & Katie Hein, and David & Karen Radde.

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**

# ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

The ASF class will not meet this morning, as many are out of town. We will be back on July 2!

# PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Pastoral Care Committee will meet in the library right after the 10:30AM service. All are welcome!

# **NEXT WEEK**

# RECEPTION FOR DOUG ADKINS | SUNDAY, JULY 2

Join us after the 10:30AM service on Sunday, July 2, as we celebrate Doug's ordination to the priesthood AND the wonderful news that he has agreed to serve as our Associate Rector! Parish Life will provide a cake; donations of finger foods are welcome! We especially invite all Sunday school and Children's church attendees to come to the reception. We will honor Doug Adkins with a gift and would like to take your picture with Mr. Doug. Please come to Children's Church today and July 2 so you can work on the gift.

# PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE | SATURDAY, JULY 8

The Parish Life committee will meet at 10:30AM Saturday July 8 for planning mixed with a bit of tidying. Come join this fabulous group of gregarious Gregorian party planners!

# **COMING UP...**

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL | JULY 17-20

The dates for VBS 2023 are July 17-20, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM. During the week of "Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs," children will explore what all living things need to live - shelter, food, water, air, and community - and how they can have compassion for the living earth, especially their local ecosystem. Children will consider how to become co-sustainers and participants in the work of God's creation. Using Psalm 104 as a grounding text along with additional supporting scripture, children will examine the inter-connectedness of the whole earth.

Volunteer Needs: We especially need adults and/or youth to assist with:

Music during Nightly Opening and Compline

Bible Teaching and Stories

Decorating the Parish Hall in advance of VBS

In addition, we could use a couple extra helpers each with Arts/Crafts; Games/Movement; and Food Set-up and Clean-up.

# **NOTES**

#### **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!

# **CLERGY ON CALL**

Just a reminder that during the month of June, for any emergencies and/or hospital calls, you may contact Kendall at the office (706-546-7553) or Carol Schwenke at 213-280-7495.

# THE LITTLE RED WAGON

If you are new to St. Gregory's or have just forgotten, we have a little red wagon in the narthex in which we collect food for the Athens Emergency Food Bank! Many times we announce their specific needs for the week or month, but sometimes we don't! All non-perishable food is welcomed and appreciated! Please help us fill the Little Red Wagon!

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# Those Who Serve

Vestry: Gail Eilers

Reader: Stacie Court (8AM); George Krause (10:30AM) EMs: June Ball & Karen Hankins

Crucifers: Charlotte Lamm & Karlee Bethune Torches: Aiden Lamm & Warren Lamm Flowers: Viviane Van Giesen

Altar Guild: Barbara Dean & Jane Sheridan

Ushers: Anthony & Deb Garner

Counters: Stacie Court & Angela Greene

Livestream: Alec Nelson

# **Clergy and Staff**

The Rev. Nikki Mathis Rector

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

The Rev. Christina Dondero Deacon

christinadondero@gmail.com | 404-918-7248

Kendall M. Kookogey Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper

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Jonathan Klein Music Director/Organist

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Joseph Napoli Choir Director

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The Rev. Doug Adkins Director of Children's Ministries / Deacon

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Anthony Barkdoll Livestream Coordinator

anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

Terri Tillman WebMaster

ttillman@gmail.com

Danielle Vogt Coffee Host

danielle1784@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; Blaine Everson; Anna Hiers; LeeAnne Krause; Lane

Norton; Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson; Shelby Welch; Anna Thornton, Clerk; Les House, Treasurer

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Gail Eilers eilersgail@gmail.com