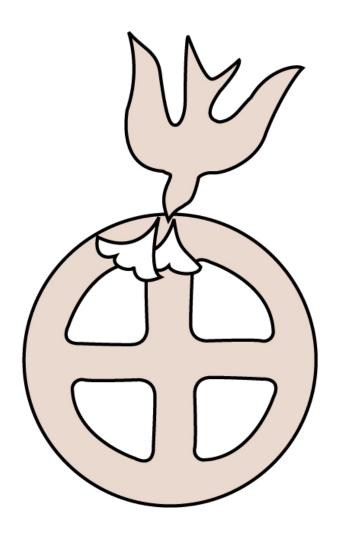
# St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



JULY 9, 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 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 9

## THE WORD OF GOD

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Prelude**

## **Processional Hymn 414**

## God, my King, thy might confessing

STUTTGART



6 All thy works, O Lord, shall bless thee; thee shall all thy saints adore: King supreme shall they confess thee, and proclaim thy sovereign power.

## **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 God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her

maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

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

Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm 45:11-18** (spoken @ 8AM)

- 11 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen / closely; \* forget your people and your father's / house.
- 12 The king will have pleasure in your / beauty; \* he is your master; therefore do him / honor.
- 13 The people of Tyre are here with a / gift; \* the rich among the people seek your / favor."
- 14 All glorious is the princess as she / enters; \* her gown is cloth-of-/ gold.
- 15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the / king; \* after her the bridesmaids follow in pro-/cession.
- 16 With joy and gladness they are / brought, \* and enter into the palace of the / king.
- 17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have / sons; \* you shall make them princes over all the / earth.
- 18 I will make your name to be remembered from one generation to a-/nother; \* therefore nations will praise you for ever and / ever."



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

## THE SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

THE SERMON: The Rev. Bob Dendtler

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**

Come unto Me, Ye Weary

J. A. Anthes & William Dix

"Come unto me, ye weary, And I will give you rest." O blessed voice of Jesus, Which comes to hearts opprest! It tells of benediction, Of pardon, grace, and peace, Of joy that has no ending, Of love that cannot cease. "Come unto me, ye wand'rers, And I will give you light." O loving voice of Jesus, Which comes to cheer the night! Our hearts were filled with sadness, And we had lost our way; But thou hast brought us gladness And songs at break of day. "Come unto me, ye fainting, And I will give you life." O cheering voice of Jesus, Which comes to aid our strife! The foe is stern and eager, The fight is fierce and long; But thou has made us mighty And stronger than the strong. "And whosoever cometh, I will not cast him out." O patient love of Jesus, which drives away our doubt, Which, though we be unworthy Of love so great and free, Invites us very sinners To come, dear Lord, to thee!



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP 367

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

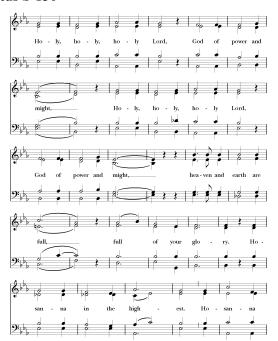
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 may be 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, holy, holy



Franz Schubert

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory!

#### The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary and Gregory and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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



#### **Communion Hymn 302**

## Father, we thank thee

RENDEZ À DIEU



## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Enriching Our Worship 2

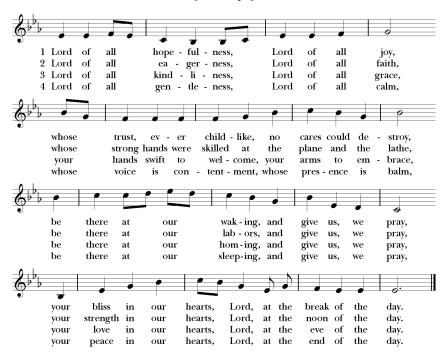
Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness 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 365

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



#### THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.



## Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Randy Harrelson, Teri Bouknecht, Kara Russe, Roger Swagler, Jamaica Miller, Alice Castengera, Ellen Kappel, 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: Joe Weinmeister, Melodi Bennett, Ron Bates, Alice Mohor, Cadence Thompson, Isaac Durrett, and Robert Wyatt; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Elmer Clark & Rebecca Baggett.

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.

## **NEXT WEEK**

# 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.

## PARKING LOT PAVING | MONDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 17-21

During the week of July 17, we will repaying our main (south) parking lot. **During that week, you will not be able to park in this lot.** This will affect VBS and any other goings-on that week. We will have signs indicating for all to park in the Christian Ed lot (closest to the Montessori School). Any overflow may certainly use the Montessori lot also, per their permission. This **should not** affect parking on Sunday, July 23.

## MOVIE NIGHT | FRIDAY, JULY 21

Come join us this month, on Friday, July 21, when we will watch *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* (2016). "A national manhunt is ordered for a rebellious kid and his foster uncle who go missing in the wild New Zealand bush." Join us in Parish Hall and enjoy some popcorn and soft drinks - or bring a blanket and a picnic dinner! The movie begins promptly at 7pm.

## **NOTES**

## **BACKPACKS & BINDERS - ACC SCHOOLS HOMELESS STUDENTS**

The Outreach Committee has received confirmation from the Clarke County School District's Homeless Program that contributions of backpacks and binders are needed for homeless students. While other school supplies will be provided to all CCSD students by the district, these two items probably will not be. Over the years, our congregation has been very generous with these donations, and they make a big difference to these students.

We will be collecting backpacks and binders for elementary, middle and high school students from Monday, July 3 through 5PM Wednesday, July 26, in the entry to the Parish Hall. If you want to be certain that the Parish Hall is open before you come to leave your contributions, you may call Kendall at 706-546-7553. Contact Gail Eilers, eilersgail@gmail.com, if you have questions.

## **CLERGY ON CALL**

During the month of July, for any emergencies, you may contact Kendall at the office during business hours (706-546-7553) or The Rev. Bob Dendtler at 770-312-6253.

## **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

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!

## **Those Who Serve**

Vestry: Mark Richardson Reader: Carolyn Abney (8AM); Joyce Morehouse (10:30AM)

EMs: Brad Hankins & David Stooksbury

Crucifers: Anna Thornton Torches: Maggie Reinberger Flowers: Rhonda Packer

Altar Guild: Jane Sheridan & Barbara Dean Ushers: Kelly Black & Mark Richardson Counters: Maggie Reinberger & Stacie Court

Livestream: Pete Nicholls

## 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 *jdadkins@hotmail.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; 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: Mark Richardson mrichsn@gmail.com