



ST.  
GEORGE'S  
DAY 2020

# SERVICE OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

APRIL 26, 2020

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The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that if one is unable to actually consume the consecrated bread and wine due to extreme sickness or disability, the desire is enough for God to grant all the benefits of communion (BCP, p. 457). When being present at a celebration of the Eucharist is absolutely impossible, this act of prayer and meditation can provide the means by which you can associate yourself with the Eucharistic Action and open yourself to God's grace and blessing.

## Opening Hymn

**The Strife Is O'er (Hymn 208)**

*The Episcopal Church Virtual Choir and Orchestra*

Bishop: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Let the power of the Holy Spirit come upon us, O Lord, to mercifully cleanse our hearts and defend us from all adversities, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Collect

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray,

God of hosts,  
who so kindled the flame of love  
in the heart of your servant George  
that he bore witness to the risen Lord  
by his life and by his death:  
give us the same faith and power of love  
that we who rejoice in his triumphs  
may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

*Zachary Horn*

### Revelation 12: 7-12

War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,

“Now have come the  
salvation and the power  
and the kingdom of our God  
and the authority of his Messiah,

for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down,  
who accuses them day and night before our God.

But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony,

for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.

Rejoice then, you heavens  
and those who dwell in them!

But woe to the earth and the sea,  
for the devil has come down to you

with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 126**

*Metrical version*  
*Hymn tune: McKee*  
*Vocal: The Rev. Canon Elise Johnstone*  
*Piano: Carter Leer*

*You are invited to sing along at home.*

1. We were like people in a dream  
When God set Zion free;  
We laughed, we sang, our voices rang  
With shouts of liberty.

2. The heathen nations 'round us said,  
“God’s gifts to them are good”;  
Yes, God has done great things for us,  
We praise God as we should.

3. Restore our fortunes now, O Lord,  
Like Negev’s waterways,  
And grant that those who sow in tears  
May reap with hymns of praise.

4. Let those who weep as they go out  
And take with them the seed  
Come back in joy with harvest sheaves  
Fulfilling all their need.

5. All glory to the Father, Son,  
And to the Holy Spirit be;  
As from the first it was, is now,  
And for eternity.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

### **The Gospel**

*The Rev. Emily Cardwell*

#### **John 8:21-29**

Jesus said to the Jews, "I am going away, and you will search for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." Then the Jews said, "Is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by saying, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" He said to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he." They said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Why do I speak to you at all? I have much to say about you and much to condemn; but the one who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father. So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray.

May the words of my lips and the meditations in all of our hearts be pleasing to your sight, our rock, and our redeemer. **Amen.**

### **The Homily**

*The Rt. Rev. Mark Van Koevering, Bishop of Lexington*

## The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

*Voices from our diocese*

### Intercessions

Let us pray to God,  
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus,  
through illness or isolation or anxiety,  
that they may find relief and recovery:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who are guiding our nation and our commonwealth at this time,  
and shaping policies,  
that they may make wise decisions:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For our homes and families,  
our schools and young people,  
and all in any kind of need or distress:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For a blessing on our local community,  
that our neighborhoods may be places of trust and friendship,  
where all are known and cared for:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,  
that through their skill and insights  
many will be restored to health:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the isolated and housebound,  
that we may be alert to their needs,  
and care for them in their vulnerability:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the vulnerable and the fearful,  
for the gravely ill and the dying,  
that they may know your comfort and peace:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Savior Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

**Bring Forth the Kingdom**

*Choir of St. Michael's, Lexington*

### **Act of Reception**

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood is normally offered this day, (and remembering particularly our own Diocese and the many faith communities that are worshipping together but at a distance), I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

**And particularly for the blessings given me as your beloved; I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**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.**

**Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom, and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **"Alleluia" from Exultate, Jubilate**

W. A. Mozart  
*arranged for choir by Owen Sammons*  
*The Choir of St. John's, Versailles*  
*under the direction of Owen Sammons*