



The Episcopal Church of the Advent

April 4, 2025 Newsletter

Fourth Sunday in Lent



A message from Father Mark

On Sunday, we heard the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Most everybody - Christian or not - has listened to this story. It is my favorite parable. And it has a lot to teach us.

The parable is ostensibly about a "son," but it's really about a father. Through it, we learn that God's love for us is so all-encompassing that God always joyfully embraces us, no matter how terrible we or others perceive our "sins" to be.

We know the story. The son goes off and squanders his inheritance and winds up destitute. He returns to his family's land, hoping to be hired as a laborer. He knows what he has done is wrong. He doesn't receive the reception he's expecting. When his father sees his son far off, he is "filled with compassion." His "heart goes out" to his son. This is not the act of someone angry with his son. This is not someone – as we talked about last week – who is keeping score. The father is overcome with love for his child. And note, too, that the father runs. He runs to his son. He doesn't meet him halfway up the driveway to the house. His father could not wait to restore these things to him, to lavish him, the lost son, with his love and to bring him back into his family once again.

This is how God loves us, friends. Whatever the situation, whatever the mess, whatever mistakes we've made. God sees us from afar; God runs to us and comes down from heaven as a human for us so that we might be restored to

unity with him. God is always there to embrace us with open arms, to hug us close to himself, and say, "My child who once was dead is alive again. My child who was lost is now found." That's how much he loves us.

Question of the Week: Has there ever been a time when you felt that something you had done or not done placed you outside of a relationship with God? Have you looked for unconditional love where it couldn't be found? How does the Parable of the Prodigal Son put those concerns into perspective?

Peace,
Mark+

Schedule of Holy Week Services

Please mark your calendar to attend the following services as we remember Christ's death and resurrection and events leading up to both:

Change to Holy Week Schedule:

The **Great Vigil of Easter**, scheduled for 8 pm on Saturday, April 19, 2025, is **CANCELLED**. Otherwise, the schedule for Holy Week remains unchanged.

April 13, Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m.: Community Palm Sunday Procession (will depart from the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center).

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30 a.m.-ish: Holy Eucharist, Rite II

April 16, Wednesday in Holy Week

7:00 p.m.: Tenebrae

April 17, Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m.: Traditional Maundy Thursday service with Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar

April 18, Good Friday

12:00 p.m.: Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m.: Traditional Good Friday service with communion from the reserved sacrament

April 19, Holy Saturday:

9:00 a.m.: Holy Saturday service

Sunday, April 20, Easter Day

8:00 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rite II

You're Invited to a Lenten Bible Study!

Join us for Loved to Life: A 40-day Pilgrimage through the Gospel of John

When: Wednesdays in Lent beginning March 12, 2025

Where: Advent Parish House 6:00-8:00 pm

What to Bring: Loved to Life by Ann Voskamp (available on Amazon, Target, Walmart, Barnes & Noble)

RSVP or questions: Debbie Permar, debbie.permar@gmail.com or adventmadison@bellsouth.net

Stations of the Cross

The regular Stations of the Cross liturgy will continue each Friday at noon through Lent, including Good Friday.

Rota for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 10:30 A.M.

Altar Guild – McCauley-Burriss-Harrell

Flower Guild – Debbie Permar

LEM/PoP 8:00 AM – O.J. Booker
 LEM/PoP 10:30 AM – O.J. Booker
 1st Reading – Bob McCauley
 2nd Reading – Kim Jackson
 Vestry of the Day – Annie Hunt Burriss
 Organ Tech - Maryann Dartnell

Readings for the Fifth Sunday in Lent April 6, 10:30 A.M.

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21
 The Psalm: 126
 Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14
 The Gospel: John 12:1-8

Parish Prayer List

Parish: Carol Blow, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Jeanne Dufort, Sally Green, Kate Jackson, Shandon Land, Kathy and Brian Lehman, MaryAnn Lisle, Anna Marett, Janet Mason, Charles, Dutton Morehouse, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Livy Scholly, and Betty Thomas.

Friends and Family: Eugene Broadbridge, Jane Brooks, Hunt Brown, Daphne Carter, Lynn Cupples, Lillian and Turner Eby, Mary Ann Edelman, Joseph Gagliano, Annita Hunt, Grainger Hunt, Johanna Dufort Hunt, Julie Hancock Jones, Jan Kozel, Nancy Labak, Meg Limmer, Tracy Limmer, Jerry Maddox, Ross Mason, Dustin Pullen, Dennis Reeder, Carla Sherrill, Wayne Tamplin, Robin Thomas, Parker Westphal, and Jay Whitecombe.

Community and Beyond: Iliana Arias, Bishop Michael Curry, Maddie Gartland, Beth Tamplin Jones, Bill Kurtz, Sherry MacMahon.

April Birthdays

1 Kate Jackson, Jeanne Dufort; **7** Charlie Hawkins; **11** Marsha Schmalhorst; **13** Hunter Hilliard; **16** Ian Garrett; **17** Rebecca Strickland; **20** Mary McCauley, Martha Harrell; **21** Caroline Vaughn; **24** Will Eskew; **30** Ann-Marie Walsh, Sam Easton

April Anniversaries

18 Alicia & Erik Ramfos

Week at a glance

Date	Time	Location	Event
Monday, March 31, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open discussion)
Tuesday, April 1, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open discussion)
Wednesday, April 2, 2025	9:00 AM	CH	Morning Prayer, Rite I
Wednesday, April 2, 2025	6:00 PM	PH	Lenten Bible Study
Thursday, April 3, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open Book study)
Thursday, April 3, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (closed discussion)
Thursday, April 3, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	AI-Anon (open meeting)
Friday, April 4, 2025	12:00 PM	CH	Stations of the Cross
Friday, April 4, 2025	7:00 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (closed Book study)
Sunday, April 6, 2025	8:00 AM	CH	Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
Sunday, April 6, 2025	9:15 AM	PH	Sunday School - Lectionary Study
Sunday, April 6, 2025	10:30 AM	CH	Holy Eucharist, Rite 2
Sunday, April 6, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (open meeting)
PH - Parish House CH - Church			

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The Right Reverend Robert C. Wright - Bishop of Atlanta.

Reverend Mark Stewart Johnson - Interim Priest-in-Charge.

Devon Dartnell - Senior Warden, Vic Jackson - Junior Warden.

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