



**The Episcopal Church of the Advent**  
**September 30, 2025 Newsletter**  
**Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**



### Sermon Notes – “Lazarus at Our Gates”

On Sunday, we continued our journey through the Gospel of Luke, focusing on the powerful story of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). This challenges us to examine our attitudes toward wealth, privilege, and the marginalized among us. Our rector, The Rev. Tryggvi Árnason, unpacked this “confrontational story,” emphasizing that it’s not about heaven and hell or believers versus non-believers, but about the dangers of indifference and the call to active compassion. It is not a parable per se, because in this writing the person at the center of the story is named, thereby making it a probable true story—a narrative that Jesus only knows from being God.

In the lesson of Lazarus, a rich man lives in luxury, feasting daily in fine clothes, while Lazarus, a poor, sick beggar covered in sores, lies at his gate, longing for scraps. Dogs lick Lazarus’ wounds, underscoring his desperation. When both men die, their fortunes reverse: angels carry Lazarus to “Abraham’s bosom,” a place of comfort, while the rich man suffers in Hades. A great chasm separates them, and Abraham explains that the rich man’s neglect of Lazarus in life sealed his fate.

Tryggvi noted, “The rich man’s sin isn’t wealth itself, but his indifference to Lazarus’ suffering.” This story, unique for naming Lazarus, calls us to see the humanity and dignity of those society overlooks. The rich man likely saw Lazarus daily but dismissed him—perhaps as “lazy” or “undeserving.” Tryggvi challenged us to ask: Do we recognize our complicity in others’ suffering? Do we say, ‘I have enough,’ or turn a blind eye to need? “The inability to grieve for Lazarus,” Tryggvi says, “was a fatal sign of the poverty of the rich man’s own soul—a poverty no wealth could remedy.”

Even in Hades, the rich man’s blindness persists, viewing Lazarus as a servant to fetch water or warn his brothers. Abraham reminds him that Scripture (“Moses and the prophets”) offers sufficient guidance for righteous living. If the brothers ignore it, even a messenger from the dead won’t change their hearts. Tryggvi highlighted the parable’s urgency: “To see as Jesus sees—that’s what we call a radical save. It asks for everything.”

This story underscores God’s concern for the marginalized and the transformative power of compassion. As Tryggvi reflected, “Jesus crosses the great chasm again and again, offering us a way of selflessness, sacrifice, and Christ’s love. We are called to lose our lives to gain them.” Sunday’s sermon urged us to serve the “Lazarus at our gates,” to use our resources responsibly, and to heed Scripture’s call to love our neighbor. In God’s kingdom, the lowly are lifted up, and our actions today echo into eternity.

**Reflection Question: Who is the “Lazarus” in our lives, and how can we respond with Christ’s compassion?**

Peace be with you, Kim

### WHAT IS ROGATION SUNDAY?

A question was raised on Sunday about Rogation Days and how they differed from the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. As this is a celebration day that many may not be familiar with, an explanation might be in order. We could consider together the importance of this day and how we might celebrate it this Easter at Advent, as we did at an earlier time in our church.

Per the Episcopal Church, the traditional Rogation Days are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day, and Rogation Sunday is the Sixth Sunday after Easter. Rogation Days are an ancient custom observed since the 5th century. Rogation—meaning to ask God’s blessing of the harvest, earth, and



sea, reminding ourselves that we are the stewards of Creation. Originally an agricultural observance, it has been broadened and made more inclusive—the crops, the catch of the sea, the fruits of our labors in all their aspects.

A pagan custom was “beating the bounds”, with a procession walking out the boundary lines of the village and marking the bounds with stakes. Sticks of willow and birch were used to strike the stakes; hence, “beating the bounds”. Subsequently, the custom was incorporated into the Rogation Days celebration and celebrated by walking the boundaries of the parish and acknowledging in this way our tangible stewardship.

### **Blessing of the Animals - October 5 at 1 P.M. at the Church**

Saturday, October 4, 2025 is the feast day of St. Francis, patron saint of animals. On the nearest Sunday, October 5, Church of the Advent will commemorate St. Francis by inviting our animal friends to be blessed. This 15-year-old tradition is a joyous occasion open to all the community. The event takes place behind the church at the corner of Academy and Porter streets. Owners can bring their pets in cages or on leashes for a formal blessing. At the Blessing of the Animals, we honor and emulate Francis’ example of love for animals and appreciation of God’s creations.

**The flowers this week** are contributed by Nancy Bush in memory of her father, Robert Avans, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

**Father Tryggvi contact information and office hours:** Father Tryggvi’s email is [priest@adventmadisonga.com](mailto:priest@adventmadisonga.com). He typically holds office hours at the Parish House on Mondays and Tuesdays. For pastoral emergencies, please call his cellphone number at 828-446-7843. For an appointment, please call the church office at 706-342-4787 and leave a message to schedule an appointment.

**Stewardship Campaign Chair:** Vestry member Mary Horton is this year’s Stewardship Campaign Chair. The Campaign will begin this month. Parishioners will soon see mail and email which will contain pledge cards and other information.

**Foyer Sign Up:** The Vestry encourages everyone to sign up for this season’s foyer dinners, which are small gatherings held monthly at someone’s house on a rotating basis. They are fun and provide a way to interact with your church family outside of church. You may sign up in the Narthex at the Church or by emailing [foyers@adventmadisonga.com](mailto:foyers@adventmadisonga.com) by the end of September.

### **First Wednesday Get-Together**

**Steffen Thomas Museum • 4200 Bethany Rd, Buckhead, GA 30625**

**Wednesday, October 1 • 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Our October First Wednesday gathering will take place at the Steffen Thomas Museum. This unique venue will allow us to explore the current exhibitions: Art Inspired by Steffen and Sara’s 1972 Trip to Germany, Steffen Thomas Through the Eyes of Young Adults, and Tribute to Richard “Ole” Olsen. The museum is a warm and welcoming space, complete with a full kitchen and plenty of room to gather. They’ll have tables set up for food and drinks, so just bring what you’d normally share and join us for a relaxed evening with great company in a beautiful setting.

### **Rota for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 5, 2025**

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Booker 10:30 A.M. Booker

1st Reading: K Jackson

2nd Reading: Hilsman

Altar Guild: McCauley-Burriss-Harrell  
Flower Guild: Bush  
Organ Tech: K Jackson  
Vestry of the Day: Horton

**Readings for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 5, 2025**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Lamentations 1:1-6  
The Psalm: 137  
Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14  
The Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

**Parish Prayer List**

Fr. Dann Brown, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Mary Ann Edelman, Anita Hunt, Kate Jackson, Beth Tamplin Jones, Julie Hancock Jones, Mary Mack Jones, Jan Kozel, Bill Kurtz, Susan Kurtz, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Jack Leo, Jerry Maddoz, David Medlock, Dutton Morehouse, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Emily Sigman, Betty Thomas, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Jay Whitcomb.

**October Birthdays:** **1** Brian Lehman, **2** Rick Crown, **12** Gloria Baldwin, **25** Tim Pridgen, **27** Jim Branch, **31** June Harrell

**Anniversaries:** **10** Rick Crown and Richard Simpson, **16** Beth and Tim Pridgen, **27** Terry Blum and Paul Roman

**Recurring weekly calendar**

- Rite I Eucharist: Sunday, 8:00 AM
- Sunday school (adult): Sunday, 9:15 AM
- Rite II Eucharist: Sunday, 10:30 AM
- Morning Prayer service: Wednesday, 9:00 AM
- Off the Rails AA group: M, Tu, Th @ noon
- Madison AA group: Th, Su @7:30 PM, F @ 7:00 PM

**The Episcopal Church of the Advent**

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Priest-In-Charge, The Reverend Tryggvi Árnason

Devon Dartnell - Senior Warden, Vic Jackson - Junior Warden

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