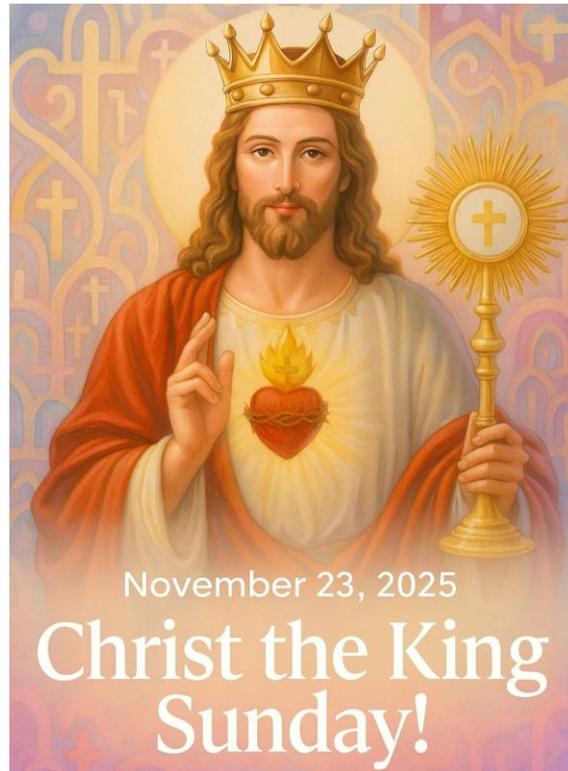




The Episcopal Church of the Advent
November 18, 2025 Newsletter
Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost



The Meaning of Christ the King Sunday

Christ the King is one of the most important titles of Jesus. Although Jesus Christ was not a king in the earthly sense, He is the divine King of the Universe, who unites all of creation with the Father. As St. Paul tells us, 1 Corinthians 15:25-28 For [Christ] must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For God has put all things in subjection under his feet. . . . When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to Him who put all things under him, that God may be all in all. Each year, we celebrate Christ's sovereignty on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time. This year, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, is on November 23, 2025.

The Feast of Christ the King was originally instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 in response to the tragedy of World War I and the growing secularism in the world. It was first celebrated in 1926. Originally, it was designated for late October, however, Pope St. Paul VI changed it to the final Sunday of the liturgical year, which is the Sunday before the beginning of Advent. This corresponds well to the end of history when Christ returns as King, a subject which the liturgies of the first half of Advent will take up.

The Rev. Marion Hatchett (longtime liturgy professor at Sewanee, who was author of the Commentary on the American Prayer Book), and one of the primary liturgists of the 1979 Episcopal Prayer Book, notes that the Prayer Book collect for Proper 29 is a "somewhat free" translation of the collect of the Feast of Christ the King

celebrated in the Catholic Church. This collect prays that God, “whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords,” will “Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule” (BCP, p. 236). So, Christ the King can celebrate Christ's messianic kingship and sovereign rule over all creation. Christ the King Sunday reminds us that our task is not only to trust in this truth, but to live the kind of lives through which the Holy Spirit can work to bring the full reign of Christ to fruition in all creation.

Sermon Notes: By Your Endurance You Will Gain Your Soul

Father Tryggvi invited us this past Sunday to linger with Jesus in the Temple courts and listen again to Luke 21. He began with the scene we all know: the disciples are gawking at Herod's masterpiece—“Stones forty feet long, walls dripping with gold that could blind you in the noon sun. Four times the size of the Acropolis,” Tryggvi said with a smile, “and twice as big as the Roman Forum. No wonder the disciples were dazzled.”

Father Tryggvi tells us that Jesus wasn't impressed. He looked at the glittering building and said, “Enjoy it while you can. One day, not one stone will be left on another.” Forty years later, the Romans razed the temple, and three centuries after that, the Roman Empire itself was dust and in ruins. The message is clear: temples fall, empires fall—good times or bad, nothing human lasts forever.

In this Gospel of Luke 21:5-19, Jesus offers his disciples a pragmatic reminder: “On your journey with God, not every day will be Easy Street. Before we get to the promised land, our manmade temples will fall.” We are reminded that those words felt impossible to the disciples. The Temple wasn't just architecture; it was the center of their universe, the place where heaven and earth met. Yet Jesus insisted: before the promised land comes, our grandest creations will crumble. And before the end comes, “My friends will be arrested, betrayed—even by family—dragged before governors and kings, hated by everyone because of my name.”

Jesus emphasizes to his disciples that following him will cost them everything. But in the same breath, he gives the promise we cling to: “I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to contradict.” And then, almost tenderly: “Not a hair of your head will ultimately perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

Father Tryggvi asked us to notice something important: Jesus refuses to turn this into a countdown calendar. For two thousand years, people have tried—millennium fever in the year 1000, Reformers calling the Pope the Antichrist, and plenty of voices today scanning headlines for the final trumpet. Jesus says, “Don't go after them. Don't be led astray.”

Instead, he tells the simple, hard truth about life in this broken world: the world breaks everyone. “Some it kills. Some it leaves stronger at the broken places. The difference,” Tryggvi tells us, “is holding fast to the relentlessly loving, merciful God who holds fast to us.”

Every one of us has lived through seasons when the walls were crashing down—illness, loss, betrayal, failure that felt absolute. In the middle of it, we couldn't imagine a way through. Yet here we are on the other side. Looking back, was it all lost? Or was some of it a strange, painful gain? Where was Jesus in the rubble? Did he ever leave? And who did we become because we kept holding on?

Perseverance pays, hope does not disappoint, and whatever comes—hurricane, pandemic, heartbreak—can become raw material for a deeper life with God. That's the testimony Jesus wants from us; not frantic date-setting, but quiet, stubborn endurance. In closing, Father Tryggvi reminds us, “I belong to him, and he will bring me home. By your endurance, you will gain your soul. Amen.”

Question for Reflection: When you look back at a time when the walls seemed to be crashing down around you, where did you sense Jesus holding fast to you—and how did holding fast to him make you stronger at the broken places?

In Christ+, Kim

Ingathering Sunday was a beautiful success!

On November 16, our parishioners processed to the altar with their pledge cards in hand—a joyful act of thanksgiving that beautifully embodied our shared stewardship and mission. The sanctuary hummed with gratitude as this simple, sacred gesture reminded us all of God’s abundant generosity and our heartfelt commitment to the church’s work. Let us continue in prayer that this stewardship season bears rich fruit for the glory of God and the good of our community.

The Greening of the Church, Saturday, November 29 – Everyone is invited to participate in our annual Greening of the Church for the beginning celebration of the Advent season. We will gather at the church at 1:00 pm on Saturday, November 29. All are welcome, no experience necessary, just a good attitude and a willing heart as we bedeck the church windows, Narthex, and Altar with Advent greenery; install the Advent wreath; welcome the Angel Tree; Smilax the Reredos; and generally have a fun and festive time of fellowship.

Rick will provide greenery and berries plundered from local gardens and landscapes, but if you have some materials you would like to contribute, or gloves and a pair of pruning shears to wield, by all means bring them. It is always helpful to have a sense of who and how many might be coming, or if you have questions, holler back at me:

Advent-urously Yours, Rick
treadwellcrown@gmail.com
706-474-8302

Madison Morgan Community Food Pantry: We are fortunate to have the Madison Morgan Community Food Pantry right here in our community. Their mission is to serve our neighbors by providing access to nutritional and essential goods while demonstrating compassion, respect, and love. Their vision is a community where everyone has access to sufficient provisions that allow all to thrive. They will be providing additional food for the holidays. Below is a link to support this wonderful ministry during the holiday and throughout the year.

[Madison-Morgan Community Food Pantry](#)

You can also mail a check to: Madison Morgan County Food Pantry, PO Box 407, Madison, GA 30650

Father Tryggvi's contact information and office hours: Father Tryggvi’s email is 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 contact the church office at 706-342-4787 and leave a message to schedule an appointment.

Rota for Christ the King Sunday November 23, 2025

LEM: 10:30 A.M. Roman
1st Reading: D Dartnell
2nd Reading: M Dartnell
Altar Guild: Bennett-Roman

Flower Guild: Eskew
Organ Tech: Jackson-Lewis
Vestry of the Day: D Dartnell

**Readings for Christ the King Sunday
November 16, 2025**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Canticle 16

Second Reading: Colossians 1:11-20

The Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

Parish Prayer List

Fr. Dann Brown, Susan Crosher, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Mary Ann Edelman, Anita Hunt, Kate Jackson, Beth Tamplin Jones, Jan Kozel, Bill Kurtz, Susan Kurtz, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Gloria Leo, Jack Leo, Jennifer Mize, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Ft. John Porter, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Kathie Schmidt, Betty Thomas, Árni Greer Tryggvason, Etwanda "Tink" Wade, Eric Wiemann, Jay Whitcomb

Birthdays: 19 Paul Roman, 27 Beverly Abbott

Anniversaries: 21 Mary and Bob McCauley, 24 Genia and Ray Bennett

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, F, Su @ 7:00 PM

Father Tryggvi Árnason contact information and office hours: Email - priest@adventmadisonga.com.

Office hours – typically Mondays and Tuesdays. For pastoral emergencies, 828-446-7843. For an appointment, call the church office at 706-342-4787 and leave a message to schedule an appointment.

To request an addition to the Prayer List, or to inquire about weddings, baptisms, or funerals and the use of the Memorial Garden, email pastoral-care@adventmadisonga.com.

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

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