



The Episcopal Church of the Advent
March 11, 2026 Newsletter
Third Sunday in Lent



Tomorrow we celebrate the feast day of Gregory the Great. Pope Gregory I was born around 540 into a patrician Roman family and became Prefect of Rome in 573. Soon after, he left public life to pursue monasticism, founding a monastery in his family home on the Coelian Hill. In 579, Pope Pelagius II sent him as ambassador to Constantinople, where he gained broader experience in church affairs. After Pelagius died during a plague, Gregory was elected pope in 590.

Gregory wrote deeply about the spiritual dangers of seeking leadership out of pride rather than humility. He warned that the human mind can deceive itself about its motives and emphasized that true humility must be learned while under authority.

As pope, Gregory worked tirelessly. He defended Rome from the Lombards, organized food relief from papal lands in Sicily, and reformed church administration. His influence on Western liturgy and chant was profound, and his book **Pastoral Care** became a classic guide for Christian ministry.

Gregory also sent missionaries, including Augustine of Canterbury, to evangelize the Anglo-Saxons, earning him the title "Apostle of the English." He died March 12, 604.

Sermon Reflection from Fr. Tryggvi

Despite their shared ancestry as descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, deep hostility between the Jewish people and Samaritans had existed for centuries by the time of Jesus. After the kingdom divided following Solomon's death, the two groups developed separate religious traditions, temples, interpretations of Scripture, and generally avoided one another and disagreed about nearly everything. It is within this tense historical and social context that Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well in John's gospel this morning; a crossroads where travelers stopped and where women usually came to draw water, though not during the scorching midday heat.

The woman arrives at noon, likely hoping to avoid others. Her life carries a complicated history—five husbands and a current partner—circumstances that may have left her marginalized and judged. Yet Jesus does not shame or dismiss her. Instead, he speaks with her openly, even asking her for water. In doing so, he recognizes her dignity and invites her into honest conversation. In John's Gospel, this becomes Jesus' longest recorded dialogue, and remarkably, she is the first person to whom he clearly reveals his identity as the Messiah.

Seen and loved without condemnation, the woman is transformed. She returns to the city in a rush, leaving her water jar behind, eager to tell others of her encounter with Jesus, and for them to "come and see" for themselves. Liberated by Jesus who acknowledges the women as worthy of being noticed, her history once the source of her pain and secrecy, now is the evidence she holds to proclaim Jesus's identity. Better yet, she becomes the first evangelist to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah in the gospel of John, reminding us that God often speaks through the overlooked and unexpected.

Questions for contemplation this week:

Where in our lives might we be tempted to judge or overlook someone, rather than seeking to see in each person a beloved child of God?

Like the Samaritan woman, what part of our stories - once a source of shame or silence - might God be seeking to transform into a witness of grace for others?

Peace, Tryggvi+

Wednesday evenings at Advent in Lent – second program tonight

THIS EVENING - NO SUPPER, but our Lenten Program will continue: **7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Due to lack of volunteers to prepare soup, we will not have supper together this evening. However, we will continue with our Lenten program - Bless the Lent We Actually Have in that Parish House at 7:00 p.m.

**** [Link to the devotional](#) ****

**** [RSVP to supper March 18, 25](#) ****

**** [Volunteer for making soup](#) ****

Rota for the Fourth Sunday in Lent March 15, 2026

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Simpson—10:30 A.M. Marett

1st Reading: Hilsman

2nd Reading: B McCauley

Altar Guild: Jackson-Lewis - Hawkins - Hilsman - Urena- Pike

Flower Guild: Crown

Organ Tech: Jackson-Lewis
Vestry of the Day: Hilsman

Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent March 15, 2026

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

The Gospel: John 9:1-41

Parish Prayer List

Flossie Dodge, Kate Jackson, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Kathie Schmidt, Betty Thomas, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Mary Ann Edelman, Anita Hunt, Beth Tamplin Jones, Fr. Dann Brown, Jay Whitcomb, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Jack Leo, Eric Wiemann, Susan Crosher, Gloria Leo, Etwanda "Tink" Wade, Robert Boswell, Liz Cunningham, Helga H. Stefnisdóttir, Marcy Lay, Laura, Caroline, Kim Jackson, Monterey Powers, Ed Hogan, June Harrell, Wayne Tankersley, Penny Lyle

March Birthdays: **12** Dick Schmidt; **18** David Buck, Alicia Ramfos; **20** Mary Mack Hall; **22** Norinne Hurst; **23** Christine McCauley Watts; **30** David Dodge

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

Volunteer for service: To learn about and volunteer to be a lay reader, organ tech, lay eucharistic minister, or to be a member of the flower and/or altar guild, [click this link!](#)

Pastoral Care Requests: email pastoral-care@adventmadisonga.com for:

- Additions to the Prayer List
- Inquiries about weddings, baptisms, or funerals
- Use of the Memorial Garden
- Requesting Eucharistic visits
- Short-term meals following surgery or during illness

Morgan County Transit System provides transportation to local addresses to include grocery stores, workplaces, doctors' appointments and others. \$2.00 per person/ \$1.75 for seniors 60 and over. Advanced reservations are required. For detailed information see <https://www.morgancountyga.gov/158/Public-Transportation>

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

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