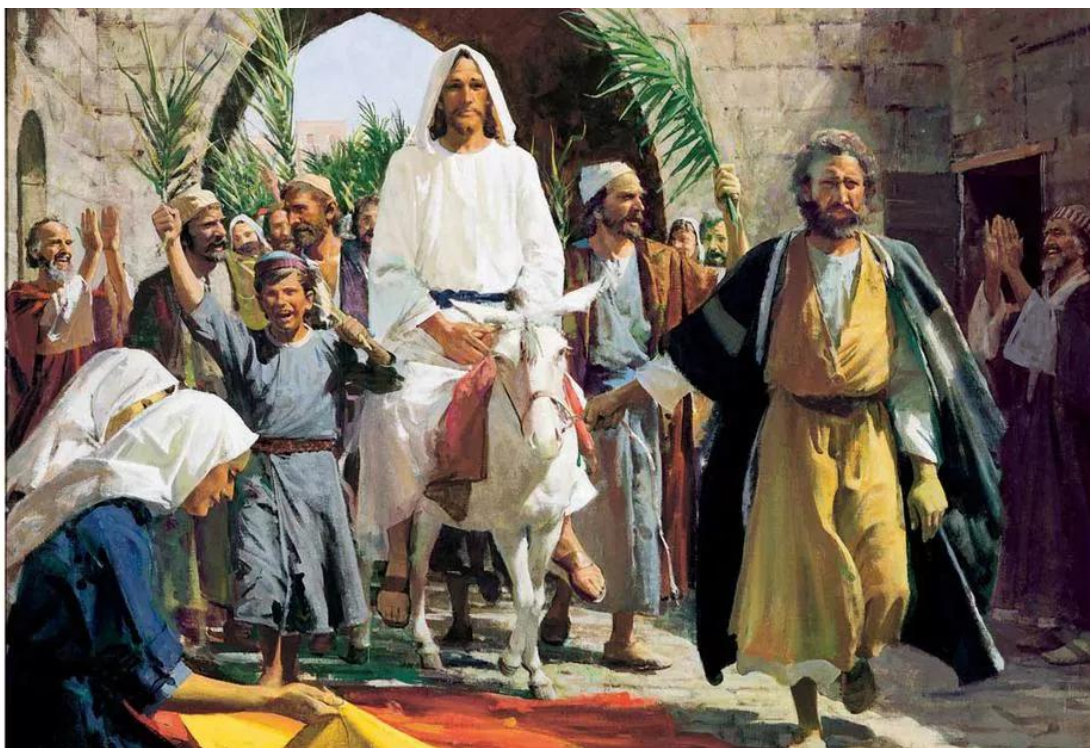




The Episcopal Church of the Advent
March 24, 2026 Newsletter
Fifth Sunday in Lent



Sermon Reflection from Fr. Tryggvi

Throughout Lent, the Gospel readings from John build toward a powerful crescendo. From Nicodemus' nighttime questions, to the Samaritan woman at the well, to the healing of the man born blind, each story revealing more clearly who Jesus is. Now, in the raising of Lazarus, we see that not even death stands in the way of his compassion and power. Yet this movement toward glory also points us toward the cross, reminding us that triumph and suffering are deeply intertwined in the life of Jesus.

The story of Lazarus is layered with meaning and mystery. Why does Jesus delay? Why raise one and not others? While these questions linger, one truth stands at the center: "Jesus wept." In that moment, we encounter the heart of God. Fully divine and fully human, Jesus grieves the loss of his friend and shares in the sorrow of Mary and Martha. His tears affirm the reality and dignity of human grief, reminding us that love does not bypass suffering but enters into it.

Even as Jesus raises Lazarus, he does not erase the pain that came before. Instead, his tears call us into a life of compassion and presence. Sometimes the most faithful response to suffering is not words, but quiet solidarity. As we journey through Lent, we are invited to embody this same tenderness, trusting that the God who weeps with us also leads us through death into resurrected life.

Questions for contemplation this week:

- ***Where in my life might I be invited to resist easy answers and instead offer quiet presence and compassion to someone who is grieving?***
- ***How does the image of Jesus weeping reshape my understanding of God, especially in moments of loss, pain, or unanswered questions?***

Peace, Tryggvi+

Easter flowers and music

We are now accepting donations for Easter flowers and music. You may donate In Honor Of, In Thanksgiving For, or In Memory Of, or a combination of the above. Donations can be made in a number of ways:

- [Electronically through the website](#)
- Mailed to the church, or
- Dropped in the collection plate

Be sure to include the names of the individuals you are donating for as well as your own name. You can use the contribution forms soon available in the Parish House entry or the Church Narthex, or simply jot down a note and put in the collection plate, or email Debbie to convey Easter Flower Contributions and Memorial acknowledgements in honor/remember/thanksgiving of your loved ones.

Wednesday Lenten Program

Soup supper is at 6:00 PM. We will continue with our Lenten program – “Bless the Lent We Actually Have” in the Parish House at 7:00 p.m. **** [Link to the devotional](#) ****

Palm Sunday is this Sunday. Here’s what you need to know.

The Church of the Advent has led the community *Procession of the Palms* for many years. We gather in front of the **Madison-Morgan Cultural Center at 10:00 AM**. You may park in the back lot of the Cultural Center if you wish, or park at the church and walk over. We begin at the Cultural Center and walk a route with stops at the Presbyterian Church, Madison Baptist Church, Madison First United Methodist, Cornerstone Christian Center and Calvary Baptist Church, picking up participants from each church along the way. All marchers end up in front of Church of the Advent where the liturgy is completed. All along the way, marchers carry palms and participate in the liturgy (leaflets are provided). When the Procession liturgy is completed, Adventers come into the church and regular service begins at approximately 10:30.

Athens Chamber Singers: Concert of Manx Folksongs arranged for choir & harp

Sunday April 19, 2026, 4:00 PM in the church

For many years Advent has enjoyed the annual visit of the Athens Chamber Singers to join with our Advent service of Lessons and Carols. This May, the Singers will be taking a choir tour of the Isle of Man, a small Celtic nation in the Irish Sea. Their repertoire consists of Manx folksongs arranged for choir & harp by director Kevin Kelly. We are very fortunate to hear their concert first hand before they depart! The concert at Church of the Advent will be a preview of their tour music. The concert is free but donations towards travel expenses will be gladly accepted. More information at <https://www.athenschambersingers.org/>

Holy Week at Advent: Schedule and Rota

—Sunday, March 29, Palm Sunday

- no 8 AM service, no Sunday Bible study class
 - 10:00 a.m. - Community Palm Sunday Procession (will depart from the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center)
 - 10:30-ish a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II
- Vestry of the Day: Booker

LEM: Crown
Altar Guild: McCauley-Burriss-Harrell
Organ Tech: Simpson
1st Reading: Freyer
2nd Reading: Quillin
Additional Lay Readers for Passion Gospel: Hudson & R Thompson
Organ Tech: Simpson

—**Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 PM, Tenebrae service**

Vestry Person of the Day: Diane McNamara
LEM: O. J. Booker
Organ Tech: Vic Jackson

—**Thursday, April 2, 7:00 PM, Maundy Thursday service**

- 7:00 p.m. - Traditional Maundy Thursday service with Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar
Vestry Person of the Day: Burriss
LEM: Crown
Organ Tech: Quillin
Lay Reader: Simpson

—**Friday, April 3, 12:15 PM, Good Friday Service**

- 12:15 p.m. Good Friday service with reserved sacraments
- 3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
Vestry Person of the Day: Dartnell
LEM: Roman
Organ Tech: Dartnell

—**Saturday, April 4, Holy Saturday and The Great Vigil of Easter**

- 9:00 a.m. Holy Saturday service
- 8:00 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter. Service will begin in the Memorial Garden with the Lighting of the Paschal Candle.
(Gentle use of incense during the Holy Eucharist)
Vestry Person of the Day: O. J. Booker
LEM: Tim Pridgen
Organ Tech: Simpson

—**Sunday, April 5, Easter Day**

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite I
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite II with music (gentle use of incense)
- 11:30-ish a.m. Easter celebration reception in the Parish House
Vestry Person of the Day: McNamara
L. E. M. 8:00 AM Booker, 10:30 AM Booker
Altar Guild: McCauley-Burriss-Harrell
Flower Guild: TBA
Organ Tech: M Dartnell
1st Reading: Ramfos
2nd Reading: Quillin

Readings for Palm Sunday, March 29

[Link to Readings](#)

The Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21:1-11

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

The Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14- 27:66

Psalm 31:9-16

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, Helga H. Stefnisdóttir, Marcy Lay, Laura, Caroline, Kim Jackson, Monterey Powers, June Harrell, Wayne Tankersley, Penny Lyle, Bobbie Rushing

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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