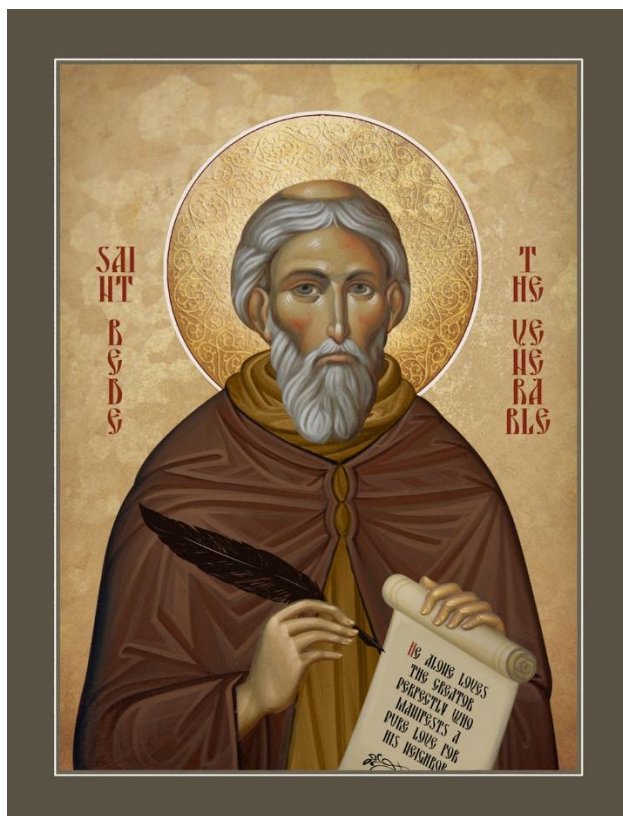




The Episcopal Church of the Advent
May 26, 2026 Newsletter
Day of Pentecost



Monday was the feast day of Bede, also known as the Venerable Bede, was an English monk, scholar, theologian, and historian who lived from about 672 to 735. He spent nearly his entire life in the monasteries of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow in Northumbria, where he became one of the most influential writers of the Early Middle Ages. His most famous work, *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, earned him the title “Father of English History.” Bede wrote extensively on theology, Biblical interpretation, language, and the calculation of calendar dates, especially Easter. He also helped popularize the Anno Domini dating system (“A.D.”), which became standard throughout medieval Europe. Skilled in Greek and Latin, he made important Christian writings accessible to Anglo-Saxon readers and greatly shaped English Christianity and scholarship. After his death in 735, devotion to Bede spread widely. His remains were eventually placed in Durham Cathedral, and in 1899 Pope Leo XIII declared him a saint and Doctor of the Church.

Athens Choral Festival: “Elijah” concert
Saturday, May 30, 8:00 PM
Hugh Hodgson Concert Hall, Athens
Joseph Napoli, Conductor

Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah* (1846) is a dramatic oratorio depicting the life of the Old Testament prophet Elijah, based on 1 Kings and 2 Kings. It tells the story of his battle against pagan worship, miraculous feats, persecution by Queen Jezebel, and ultimate ascension to heaven in a fiery chariot. The role of Elijah is sung by Jeremy Galyon, a wonderful bass who sang with us at Carnegie Hall in 2024. He has sung many concerts there and sings at several opera companies in the U.S. including the Metropolitan Opera in New York. We have 56 singers coming from eight states to perform this concert. It would be nice to have a contingent from Advent

Church in attendance that night. O. J. Booker is singing in this concert. Tickets: \$15 and can be ordered here: <https://ugapac.venue.net/events/ACF> —Joe Napoli

Wednesday, June 3, "First Wednesday" Drop-in

Host: Becky Strickland

Address: 575 Village Road

Join your fellow parishioners and guests in a casual gathering from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. Please bring a appetizer, snack, dessert, or beverage to share, and feel free to bring a guest.

Flames of Fire, Hearts of Peace: Reflections on Pentecost Sunday & Memorial Day

This past Sunday was a rich one. We gathered at Advent to celebrate two significant occasions at once — Pentecost Sunday and Memorial Day — and the juxtaposition between them gave us much to carry into the week.

The Fiftieth Day: The word Pentecost comes from the Greek word for "fiftieth," and it marks fifty days after Easter — the moment when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, the Virgin Mary, and the first disciples gathered in Jerusalem. The liturgical color of the day is red, a vivid reminder of the "tongues of fire" described in Acts 2:1–4. Alongside that passage, our Gospel reading from John offered us Jesus's parting gift to his followers: peace. Pentecost is not simply the closing chapter of the Easter season. It is a new beginning — the birthday of the Church. And as such, we renewed our baptismal vows

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Fire

Father Tryggvi invited us to picture that first gathering. Who were these people in the room? They were the disciples who had seen it all — the blind receiving sight, the mute speaking, five thousand fed with five loaves and two fish, a storm stilled on the Sea of Galilee. They had walked alongside Jesus through miracle after miracle.

And yet — they were also the ones who fell asleep in the garden when he asked them to stay awake. The ones who were slow to understand. The ones who were afraid even when Jesus said, "Fear not." They weren't the bravest, the brightest, or the most put-together. They were ordinary people with ordinary struggles. And they were the ones whose hearts God set on fire.

A Gift, Not a Goal

Father Tryggvi's message on this point was one many of us needed to hear. It's easy to feel like receiving the Holy Spirit requires the right devotional routine, the right words, or a certain level of spiritual sophistication. But that's not the story of Pentecost.

"Today we are reminded that this isn't about us or what we should accomplish," Father Tryggvi said. "It's about what we have done to receive God's favor. So if you get discouraged and don't pray because you don't know how — or you've convinced yourself you aren't spiritual enough — don't beat yourself up. God doesn't believe you are inadequate."

The Holy Spirit is a gift to be received, not a goal to be achieved. God's love reaches every part of who we are — the successful parts and the broken parts — and that love is what ignites the fire within us. Father Tryggvi offered us a simple prayer to carry through the week:

"Thank you, God, for loving me so much, so unconditionally. Please give me the strength and guidance to be the instrument of your compassion, mercy, and love in the world."

Holding Peace and Sacrifice Together

Celebrating Pentecost alongside Memorial Day creates what Father Tryggvi called "a challenging contrast." Jesus preached peace — and yet we live in a world that knows conflict and loss. Drawing on St. Augustine's just war tradition, he reminded us that those who serve do so in hope of protecting the innocent and restoring lasting peace.

He asked us to extend genuine gratitude to the service members we encounter — at airports, at events, in our daily paths — and to pause in remembrance of those who gave everything. Their sacrifice deserves our acknowledgment, not just on one Sunday, but whenever we have the chance.

We Are the Church

Father Tryggvi closed with a reminder of what Pentecost means for each of us today. The Church — Catholic in its truest sense, meaning universal — was born in that room two thousand years ago, from a group of imperfect, frightened, fire-filled people. And we are the continuation of that story.

"God loves us as we are," he said. "Powered by the working of the Holy Spirit within us, may we continue the journey that transformed those disciples. We are the instruments of God's word — speaking the language and living the actions of God in a world in so much need of healing." Amen.

Question for reflection: Where in your life is God calling you to stop striving and simply receive — to trust that you are already enough in His eyes?

Peace be with you, Kim

Rota for Trinity Sunday, First after Pentecost

May 31, 2026

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Simpson—10:30 A.M.T Pridgen

1st Reading: Quillin

2nd Reading: Hilsman

Altar Guild: Abbott- Strickland-Yost

Flower Guild: Eskew

Organ Tech: M Dartnell

Vestry of the Day: Urena

Readings for Trinity Sunday, First after Pentecost

May 31, 2026

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Parish Prayer List

Flossie Dodge, Kate Jackson, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, David Medlock, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, 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, Etswana "Tink" Wade, Robert Boswell, Helga H. Stefnisdóttir, Marcy Lay, Monaray Powers, June Harrell, Wayne Tankersley, Penny Lyle, Bobbie Rushing, Anna Marett, Mary Mack Jones

May Birthdays: **1** Matt Hurst, **2** Kate Smith Booker, **4** Poppy Grace Buck, **7** Zach Yost, **8** Gertrude Rainwater, Olivia Ramfos, **9** Beth Pridgen, **17** Charles Baldwin, IV, Rhodes Baldwin, **19** Pamela Hall, **22** Shelley MacMillan, **25** Luke Roman, **26** Lydia Adkins, **28** Brennan Easton, **29** Bill Kurtz, **30** Allison Lehman

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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