



September 30, 2026 Newsletter
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Thérèse of Lisieux: Love in Small Things

October 1 is the feast day of Thérèse of Lisieux. She never traveled far as a missionary or led a public ministry. She spent most of her adult life in a Carmelite convent in France. Yet her understanding of faith has reached people around the world. Born in 1873, Thérèse entered the convent as a teenager. There she came to believe that holiness could be found in ordinary acts done with love: a patient response, an unnoticed kindness, a prayer for someone in need. She called this her “little way.” It offered a path to God for people whose lives might never include a grand or visible achievement.

Thérèse also knew illness, doubt, and suffering. She died of tuberculosis in 1897, only 24 years old. After her death, her writings were published as *The Story of a Soul*, introducing countless readers to her trust in God’s mercy. Her life invites us to ask a simple question: What small act of love can I offer today?

Sermon reflection from Fr. Tryggvi

This morning, the Gospel shifts our attention from the challenges of living together as a community to the deeper question of authority. No longer is Jesus having teaching moments with his disciples, but now he's in Jerusalem and faced with the first round of questioning from his adversaries: "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Just prior in the Sunday lectionary, with Jesus's rounds of teachings, it had become evident that words without actions are just that, empty words. But words with actions, bring about change. So, it is not enough to say that we belong to God if we don't begin to embody the characteristics that show what it means to belong to God. Just as we received God's mercy and forgiveness, so should God's mercy and forgiveness be embodied in how we treat fellow children of God.

By offering the parable of the two sons in today's Gospel further illustrates that words alone do not establish credibility and faithfulness. What matters is whether our actions embody what we claim to believe. It is not enough for the chief priests and the elders to claim authority as interpreters of God's law if their lives are not bearing witness to God's mercy and justice, forgiveness and reconciliation, and desire for wholeness.

Ultimately, Jesus leaves us with a question rather than an easy answer: Who is Jesus, and by whose authority does he speak? Perhaps we do not need to answer that question too quickly. Instead, we are invited to pay attention to it—and to ask whether Jesus' authority is visible in the way we live. If we claim to belong to Christ, then the life of Christ should surely be visible in our own lives.

Questions for contemplation this week:

Where might I be more willing to receive from God, than to rejoice when a neighbor and/or stranger is/are the recipients of God's grace.

If someone were to observe my life without hearing what I say I believe, what might my actions reveal about the God and/or the Christ I claim to follow?

Peace, Tryggvi+

~~~~ **Announcements** ~~~~

**Stewardship season is upon us!**

This week we celebrate God's abundance. In creation, in our community, and in our lives, God provides more than enough. How will you share from your plenty?

**Bishop's Visitation**

Please note that we have had to reschedule the Bishop's visitation. The Bishop's visitation is now set for **November 29**, the first Sunday of Advent.

**Foyer Dinners**

Hopefully you saw the special communication last week concerning foyer dinners. If you are interested in joining a small group that has dinner together throughout the year at each other's homes, please consider joining Foyers. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, or you can email Maryann at Maryann.Dartnell@gmail.com.

**Construction Update**

All of the upstairs and downstairs demolition is complete. Demolition is crucial to give the contractor knowledge of existing systems and construction in order to plan going forward. Right now, the mason is busy installing the brick surround for the porch and ramp. Framers will come next to build the porch and handicapped ramp, then do the framing for the bathrooms and storage on the first floor and the bathroom

and storage on the second floor. We should be seeing interior finish samples to choose from very soon. This week, we should have a schedule for construction going forward.

**Rota and Readings**  
**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 4, 2026**

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

1st Reading: Hudson

2nd Reading: Hilsman

Altar Guild: McCauley-Burriss-Harrell

Flower Guild: Eskew

Organ Tech: Simpson

Vestry of the Day: Bloom

[Link to readings](#)

First Reading: Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalms 19: 1-4, 12-16

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

**Parish Prayer List**

Fr. Dann Brown, Susan Crosher, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Mary Ann Edelman, June Harrell, Anita Hunt, Kate Jackson, Beth Tamplin Jones, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Gloria Leo, Jack Leo, David Medlock, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Monaray Powers, Lynne Roach, Bobbie Rushing, Kathie Schmidt, Helga H. Stefnisdóttir, Wayne Tankersley, Betty Thomas, Etawanda "Tink" Wade, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Eric Wiemann, Jim, Caroline Hill, Beth, Steve Huggins, Betty Camnitz, Bob Kite, Reese Freyer IV

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

**Anniversaries in October:** **10** Rick Crown and Richard Simpson **16** Beth and Tim Pridgen **27** Terry 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, 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!](#)

**To add a name to the prayer lists, either restricted or public, email:** [prayer-list@adventmadisonga.com](mailto:prayer-list@adventmadisonga.com).

**Prayer list requests go to Tim and Fr. Tryggvi only.** You can always add names to the register at the back of the nave. For other pastoral care requests such as inquiries about weddings, baptisms, or funerals, use of the Memorial Garden, requesting Eucharistic visits and short-term meals following surgery or during illness, email [pastoral-care@adventmadisonga.com](mailto:pastoral-care@adventmadisonga.com).

**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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