



ALL SAINTS'

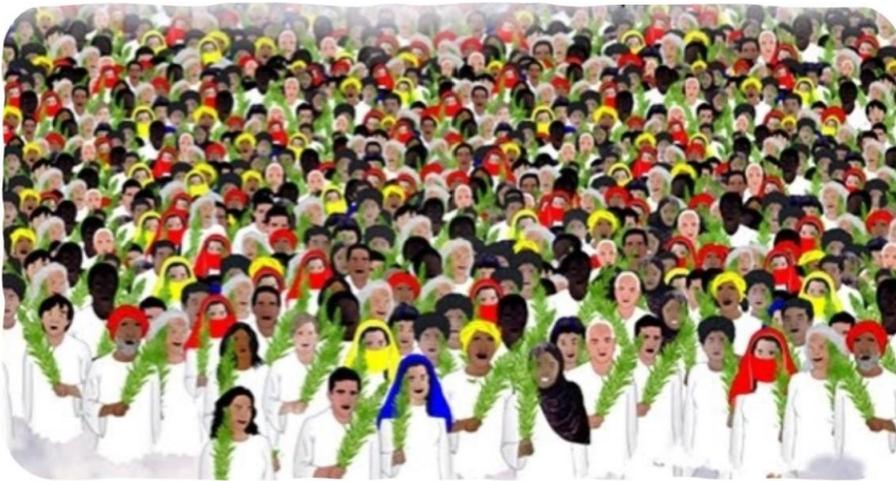
CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY — May 8 & Beyond

"Who Are the Good Shepherd's Sheep?"



The Fourth Sunday of Easter always brings us the theme of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, even when the Gospel readings vary from Year A to B and C, and some years the references may be more obvious than others.

The Gospel in Year C centers around Jesus' identity as the Messiah, God's Anointed One, the Christ, and the Jews being unclear and confused about it. They want a clear-cut statement from Jesus about Himself being the Messiah or not, although they do not seem prone to believe that He is the one.

The notion that prevailed among Orthodox Jews at the time made a close connection between the coming of the Messiah and the restoration of Israel's kingdom to the glory it had had (more imaginary than historically factual) in David's time. It was even expected that Israel would actually become the political and religious center of the world.

It was also connected to the notions of universal peace, justice, harmony, and the resurrection of the dead, for those who believed in it.

They had heard about the powerful signs Jesus was making in terms of healing people and bringing them back to life, as well as feeding multitudes with a scarce supply of food. But they had not heard anything about this person becoming a king and launching a liberation movement that would put an end to the Roman domination and would make Israel the greatest of nations.

Jesus replies to their inquiry by making it clear that they cannot perceive His true identity simply because they do not believe that He comes from God. The reason for this—as Jesus tells them—is that they do not belong to His sheep.

The sheep recognize their shepherd and follow him when they hear his voice. Such is the close relationship that is established between them and the shepherd. And the reason for this closeness is the tender caring love that the shepherd shows for his sheep.

God's love is for all His creatures, and especially for us human beings. Having been created in His image and likeness we should be able to perceive God's love for us and spread it out to the rest, but unfortunately this does not always happen.

There is something in our human nature that can make us so self-centered, so selfishly oblivious of the others' sufferings and needs, that we become indifferent and only care about our material wealth and well-being. When that happens, we deafen our ears to the shepherd's call and go out of the fold.

A human shepherd can bring his sheep back to the fold forcefully. He will do so because he knows that the sheep's very lives depend on being within the fold. But God made us free to make our choices and will only bring us back through persuasive loving methods, never by force.

By sending His beloved Son to our rescue, even to the point of self-sacrifice on the cross, God has shown us His loving care in the most obvious way. What could be more lovingly persuasive?

Even so, many are still stubbornly pretending they can make it on their own, and do not want to heed the Shepherd's voice.

But there is wonderful hope. In the Book of Revelation, John has a vision in which there is an uncountable multitude from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, robed in white, with palm branches, and worshiping the Lord. It is said of

them that they are the ones who have gone through the great ordeal and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

When the Book of Revelation was written there was great persecution against Christ's followers, so many of them suffered and were even martyred. There has been a multitude of Christians who have suffered in different ways for their faith throughout history. Even nowadays, in places where there is freedom of religious expression, people who are consistently Christian often suffer scorn and rejection from many.

In John's vision these are precisely the sheep that the Lamb calls by their names.

“They will hunger no more, and thirst no more, the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; and the Shepherd will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Father Carlos E. Expósito

Readings for The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 13:15-16, 26-33 Revelation 7:9-17 Psalm 100 John 10:22-30

CALENDAR

Note: We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer are held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

SUNDAY The Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

Christian Formation every second and fourth Sunday of the month at

11:30am Studying *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* by John Philip Newel – Rector's Study

A Spanish Mass will be held on the first, second, fourth (and fifth) Sundays each month at 1pm. Everyone is welcome.

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

THURSDAY Spanish Class 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Flower Room. Taught by Fr. Carlos

FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary Chapel

SUNDAY The Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

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OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gift
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
www.allsaintschurch.org