



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 — March 23rd, 2025

“Lent – A Time for Turning and Renewal”

Lent – A Time for Turning and Renewal



The word Lent comes from Old English referring to spring season and lengthening of the days – when the days get longer and the earth turns warmer, renewing the landscape. The season of Lent is traditionally considered a “penitential season” – one where we look deeply into ourselves, mindful of God and His laws, and regret our misdoings so deeply as to change our hearts and minds leading to new spiritual habits and understandings. This is like coming out of a spiritual winter and entering a spiritual spring with new healthy growth and a warming of our hearts.

In the Old Testament reading for this third week of Lent (Exodus 3:1-15), we see Moses, now just a lowly shepherd, turning aside to the burning bush that doesn't burn and where he hears the true name of God from God Himself! Who wouldn't be afraid? God then asks Moses to do what seems impossible and assures Moses that He will be with him. This gives Moses the strength to turn from his current life to go back to Egypt and accomplish the freedom of his people, the Hebrew slaves, despite the power of Pharaoh. Moses is destined to help his people renew their connection to God, to turn away from the winter of their life in Egypt.

The psalm for this week is Psalm 63:1-8. Like newly sprouting seeds seeking the warmth of the sun, the psalmist is eagerly reaching for God, “my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you”. In this, we recognize that God is the True Source of all things and the Protector of our souls – One to be praised, respected, trusted, followed! “For you have been my helper... my soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.” But how easily we

can forget that God is this entwined with our daily lives! We worry about having “enough” when we really do have plenty – but our definition of “plenty” is often different than God’s definition. If we turn and focus on God in our minute-to-minute lives, we will be renewed and more able to recognize that “plenty” with God is much more filling than over-indulgence.

Saint Luke records (Luke 13:1-9) Jesus and His followers talking about folks who had died due to circumstances beyond their control. Jesus tells them that such things can happen even to innocent people, but that doesn’t exclude the need for each of us to be aware of our own sins and to repent of them. Then Jesus tells them about an unproductive fig tree that the master wants to cut down. The gardener asks for one more year to show it can be fruitful – to spare it from judgement and give it another chance to “turn over a new leaf” and be renewed with the gardener’s help. Jesus is our Gardener – giving us an opportunity to turn from our sinful ways and renew our soul in God’s love that we may be

Paul, in his First Letter to the Corinthians (10:1-13), reminds us of Moses’ story and the meaning of it for the church in Corinth. Paul sees them as falling into many behaviors contrary to what Jesus would want, things that are offensive to God and must be stopped! He is quite harsh with his words to this church but concludes this passage with “All are tested in life, but God is at work to give us courage to face life’s tests.”

As the Collect for this Sunday says, “Almighty God, You know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul...”

- Barbara Wilder

As part of Fr. Carlos’ open invitation to write reflections during Lent, this week’s reflection was written by Barbara Wilders.

Readings for the *Third Sunday in Lent*

Exodus 3:1-15 + 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 + Luke 13:1-9 + Psalm 63:1-8

CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10:00 AM. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

SUNDAY March 23, 2025 The Third Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM 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 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM

Christian Formation for Adults (the 2nd and 4th Sundays)

Youth and adults around Noon after the Mass in the Library

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

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

www.edsd.org