



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 4th, 2025

"Behold His Redeeming Work"



Behold His Redeeming Work

Where can we turn our eyes in today's world to perceive Christ's redeeming work? In a world full of conflict, war, and hopelessness for so many, guided by the self-centered agendas of the wealthiest, and blindly followed by masses with little power of discernment, what is the hope that Christ's message of new and resurrected life can still transform and redeem people's lives?

This is a crucial question, and yet, we should not pose it in a sarcastic or defeatist way. If we take a look at the history of humankind, going back to the times of Jesus and even centuries before, we can notice how a similar thought pattern pervaded the lives of those who were then on this planet. And if we look at more recent times, the picture is not any different.

The Collect for this Sunday exhorts us to "open the eyes of the faith, that we may behold Him in all His redeeming work."

What does opening the eyes of the faith imply? Faith has wrongly been equated to an intellectual activity, but its true essence implies a total inner transformation of one's life. True faith is a deep conviction whose basis is not empirical knowledge. It affects much more than the mind. It brings about a change of our whole behavior and attitude in our daily lives, and constitutes the driving force for feats that might have seem impossible for us before.

In chapter 9 of the Book of Acts we read about the conversion of St. Paul (whose name was Saul). Here was a man whose religious convictions led him to persecute those of the Way—Jesus' early followers—in a relentless way. Then he had an overwhelmingly dramatic and personal encounter with the Lord Jesus while he was on the way to Damascus to imprison more of Jesus'

followers. As a result he was physically blinded, and then one of Jesus' followers restored his eyesight. From this moment on, Paul became a real militant believer, a powerful apostle and evangelist, who spread the Good News of Salvation to the gentile world.

It is interesting that the narrative tells us that "something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored." This may be a way of emphasizing that his blindness was something heavy and dense. It may make reference to a blindness that goes beyond the physical, and that affected his whole previous life.

If we look at Saul's vision before his conversion we see much in common with the negative picture we depicted in our opening paragraph. He saw a world where the Roman Empire subjected other nations to their rule and exploited them, and where conflict and even armed uprisings constantly took place. His was a world where the masses blindly followed the "authorized" way of thinking—a way that he himself had rigorously followed.

What Saul could not see before his encounter with Jesus was that the Way of radical, unconditional love—God's all-embracing love for—all had burst into the world, in the very land where he was living, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, and that He whom the religious and political powers of his land had put to death on a cross, had been raised to a new and glorious life, thus transforming the lives of thousands of followers, and giving them the greatest and most certain hope: the hope of a resurrected life lived in God's unconditional love, and shared with all humans, all living beings, and the whole of creation.

This is what we, Christ's followers in every generation, are invited to open our eyes to—despite the brokenness surrounding us—and to share this life-transforming vision with every person we come in contact to, that the world may eventually be transformed into what our Creator has always meant it to be.

Readings for *the Third Sunday of Easter*

Acts 9:1-20 + Revelation 5:11-14 + John 21:1-19 + Psalm 30

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 May 4, 2025 Third Sunday of Easter

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