



"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 – SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2025

THE LOVE OF GOD IS STRONGER THAN OUR FAILURE

Mercy Has Found Us



This Sunday's readings lead us into the heart of the Gospel: that God, in mercy, seeks us when we are lost, saves us when we cannot save ourselves, and transforms even our worst moments into testimony of grace. The Collect opens with stark honesty: "Without you we are not able to please you." It is a confession that would be disheartening if it ended there. But it doesn't. We ask God to "mercifully grant that His Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts." In other words, we plead for a heart ruled not by fear, guilt, or even willpower, but by grace.

St. Paul, in the Epistle reading (1 Timothy 1:12–17), tells a story of that kind of grace. "I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence," he writes. Paul isn't shy about his past. He doesn't attempt to clean up his history for the sake of his reputation. Instead, he holds it up as a mirror in which God's mercy shines all the more brightly: "But I received mercy... so that Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience." The former persecutor is now an apostle. His transformation isn't just a personal redemption; it becomes part of the Gospel itself. Grace is not an abstract idea to Paul. It is a lived event, engraved in his own flesh and memory.

This is the thread that connects all the readings. In Exodus, God is ready to abandon Israel after they melt down their gold to forge a calf. But Moses intercedes, and God relents, not because the people have repented, but because mercy defines who God is. Psalm 14 echoes the brokenness of humanity: "There is none who does good", but its lament is a prelude to salvation: "Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion!"

That deliverance comes most clearly into focus in the Gospel reading from Luke 15. Jesus tells two parables—the lost sheep and the lost coin. Both emphasize the joy of the one who searches and finds. These stories are not really about sheep or coins. They are about the heart of God.

Jesus is responding to the grumbling of the Pharisees and scribes who cannot understand why He would associate with sinners. But for Jesus, that is the whole point: “There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” We often read these parables from the viewpoint of the lost one. But today, consider them from God’s perspective: the tireless seeking, the refusal to let go, the joy of recovery. That is how God sees us.

Though Holy Cross Day is formally transferred to Monday, it casts its shadow over this Sunday, and not in a sorrowful way. The Cross is not primarily about guilt or punishment. It is about mercy. It is the place where divine love, expressed through the suffering of Christ, meets the worst of human sin and overcomes it, not by force, but by self-giving. The Cross stands forever as a sign that God does not abandon us, even when we have abandoned Him. Paul, Moses, the Psalmist, and Jesus all speak to that same mystery: the love of God is stronger than our failure.

As we gather this Sunday, we are invited to see ourselves not just as forgiven, but as found, as part of a great story of mercy that turns even our deepest regrets into a witness of God’s grace. Like Paul, we too can say, in humility and awe: “To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 32:7-14 + Psalm 14 + 1 Timothy 1:12-17 + Luke 15:1-10

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 **September 14th, 2025** Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
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