



*"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 – APRIL 26TH, 2026**

## **THE MEANING OF “THE GOOD SHEPHERD”**

### **Christ Is Our True Gate**

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is really familiar and endearing to practically all Christians. It has inspired hymns and songs, paintings and sermons throughout the centuries. In fact, this image that Jesus uses takes its inspiration from the Old Testament, where God Himself is presented as the true shepherd of His people, and the rulers and spiritual leaders of the nation were often criticized by the prophets for not shepherding the people as they should have.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter always brings us the image of the Good Shepherd, in different variants, according to the Church Year we are in. This particular Sunday's Gospel reading highlights the imagery of Jesus as the gate to the sheepfold, an image that relates to that of the Good Shepherd, but has its own relevant message.

The gate is an entry and departure point. It is the place that leads in and out, from and to a different place or realm. It is through the gate that the sheep are led out by the shepherd to the places where they find good pasture and water, and shaded spots where they can rest. It is also through the gate that they are led back to their sheepfold to spend the night in safety. Thus the gate and the one whose voice the sheep recognize as the shepherd's, who calls them by name and leads them through that gate, become a bonded image of safety and comfort for them.

If anyone comes to the sheepfold through another place, the sheep will not trust that person. If anyone whose voice they do not recognize calls them, they will not follow that person. The sheep instinctively do what unfortunately we sometimes fail to do. They know for sure who their true shepherd is, whereas we at times fail to recognize Him in our own lives.



How can we recognize the true gate that leads us to abundant life?

In our lives, we are presented with many different gates and leaders inviting us to go through them. There are gates which seem to lead us to success, to wealth, to things and feelings that promise to give us the greatest satisfactions in our lives. They lure and entice us, showing us glistening landscapes on the other side, and beckoning to us. These are the gates of self-centeredness and self-complacency. If we go through them, we may avoid discomfort and find temporary pleasures, but in the end, they will prove to be totally misleading, leaving us with a deep sense of emptiness and senselessness in our lives.

It is in Jesus Christ and His Way of Love that we find the true gate that will lead us to a purposeful life. He is standing at the gate and calls us by name, because He truly knows each of us personally. He knows who we truly are—created in God’s image and likeness as beloved children in spite of our sins. He knows our struggles and weaknesses, our pains and joys. And He loves each of us unconditionally.

Going through this gate will not make our lives more comfortable. We may have to “endure pain while suffering unjustly”, as St. Peter reminded the converts in his First Letter. We will have to leave our senseless life of self-centeredness behind, which is not always easy to do. But only then will we find the true joy of sharing “with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people”, as the lives of the first followers of Christ is described in the Book of Acts.

Then, as Psalm 23 reminds us, God’s “goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

*Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector*

## READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Act 2:42-47 + 1 Peter 2:19-25 + John 10:1-10 + Psalm 23

# 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**     **April 26th, 2026**     **The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**10:00 AM Mass in All Saints' Church**

Join Zoom Meeting from our website at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

**Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children**

Ages 5 to 12 in the Parish Hall, from 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM

**Christian Formation for Adults (the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)**

Youth and adults around noon after the Mass in the Library

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://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](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

[www.edsd.org](http://www.edsd.org)