



"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 3RD, 2026

SHARING A PLACE IN HIS HOUSE OF LOVE

The Way to God's Home

"In my Father's house there are many dwelling places" is probably one of the most quoted lines from St. John's Gospel in Memorial Services and Requiem Masses. It is the favorite passage chosen by relatives and priests alike for the occasion.

However, these words were not uttered by Jesus in reference to someone's passing from this world, but in anticipation of His own passion and death. He wanted to reassure His disciples that they would not be left hopeless when He would no longer be with them physically.



As I have pointed out on other occasions, the Jews, unlike the Greeks, were not prone to use abstract language. They conveyed the greatest truths using the language of this concrete physical world. Therefore, when Jesus wants to convey the idea of communion with God, He uses the image of dwelling in His house, and He refers to the disciples' spiritual growth prompted by Him as "preparing a place for them."

Although in Jesus' words here there is a clear reference to eternal life, the life that cannot be contained by the short span of biological existence, it must also be clear that this communion with God can and should start in the here and now of our lives.

The way to gain the true and abundant life that has always been intended by God for us is what Jesus has shown His followers: the way of unconditional, self-giving love. When Jesus claims to be "the way", He is not referring to a doctrinal alignment, but to a way of living our lives.

We must not forget that He also stated, "not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, The only people who will enter are those who do what my Father in heaven wants." (Matthew 7:21-23)

When Jesus claims to be the way, the life, and the truth, His primary aim is to point His followers to do the Father's will. His claim that "nobody comes to the Father except through me" is not to be understood as an exclusionary doctrinal statement, but rather as a clear statement that He is the perfect human incarnation of the Father, the Word made flesh, and He has come to show us in human form, both in His loving words and deeds, the God we cannot comprehend with our limited minds.

Following this Way of unconditional love, in which only the truth of a life lived in His love is acceptable, can and will in many cases place us in conflict with others who refuse to accept this truth. This is what happened to Stephen, the first Christian martyr, who was stoned to death for proclaiming the truth of Jesus as the Christ, as St. Luke tells us in the Book of Acts, chapter 7.

The ones who stoned him did not do so out of pure evil hatred, but because their hearts and minds were closed by their doctrinal prejudice. This was clearly shown by covering their ears—they could not stand hearing that Jesus was seated at the right hand of God, as Stephen saw in his glorious dying vision.

In his First Letter, the Apostle Peter insists that those who have wholeheartedly made the decision to follow Jesus as the true way to real life have become “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

This is who we, as present-day followers of Christ, are also called to become, and by faithfully treading on His Way we will share a dwelling place in God’s House of Love.

Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Act 7:55-60 + 1 Peter 2:2-10 + John 14:1-14 + Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

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 3rd, 2026** **The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

10:00 AM Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our website at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at 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 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