



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 November 15 & BEYOND

Living in the Day of the Lord



In his First Letter to the Thessalonians, Chapter 5, the Apostle Paul writes about the day of the Lord to Christ's followers in this church. The Hebrew Scriptures often speak about the day of the Lord as a day of judgment and fulfillment of God's will on earth, and several prophets refer to it as a terrible day of destruction and death, when the wicked will find that no measure of material riches will save them from God's consuming wrath.

Paul makes reference to this day, and relates it to a second coming of Christ, which biblical scholars agree that he expected would happen soon, but Paul makes a clear contrast between the fate of those who are in darkness and Christ's faithful followers as the children of light.

Paul is certain that the children of light, those who persevere in Christ's faith, even amid great tribulations and the danger of losing their lives, and courageously put into practice His Way of Love; those whose sure hope is salvation thanks to Christ's

self-giving on the Cross, will have a glorious destiny: the joy of sharing in Christ's very life, a love-filled life lived in communion with our Creator, our fellow human beings, and the whole of creation.

He also makes it clear that those who have died in this faith will share this glorious destiny with the faithful who are still living when this day of the Lord comes.

As for the moment when this is expected to happen, however, Paul gives no clue to the Thessalonian Christians. He simply says, "you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." Here he follows what is written in the Gospels about what Jesus Himself declared in relation to this day.

It is true that Paul hoped for this day to come soon, even in his lifetime, although he may have changed his views in this respect when it did not happen. But the fact is that in his letter to the Thessalonians he does not encourage them to focus on the future time or day of this event, but on the strength of their faith, on their loving deeds, on their sure hope. In other words, he is encouraging them to live each day as if it were the day of the Lord.

Despite his convictions about the imminent coming of the day of the Lord, Paul's encouragement to the Thessalonian Christians was as valid then as it is today for us. We may or may not be awaiting a coming of this day soon in our present lives, but what really matters is the way we live each day of our lives.

If we choose to live in Christ's faith, practicing His Way of Love and courageously hoping for a better life for ourselves and the others by persevering in our faith in the transforming power of Christ's self-giving love, then we will have chosen to live in the day of the Lord rather than await for its coming on a distant future date. Then our lives will certainly reflect His loving life, and our light will shine for others to follow the path of salvation in God's time, which is always now.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 Psalm 90:1-8, 12 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10

Matthew 25:14-15, 19-29

CALENDAR

Note: This Sunday Mass is held in All Saints' courtyard at 9am. Next Sunday, November 22, and following Sundays Mass will be in the courtyard at 11am. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in the courtyard. All other gatherings will be Zoom meetings. Visit our web site for the Zoom link (see below).

SUNDAY The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00am Mass in All Saints' courtyard
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

TUESDAY Noon Mass in All Saints' courtyard

FRIDAY Noon Mass with Discussion and Insights into
Sunday's Lectionary at the Meditation.
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

SUNDAY The Last Sunday after Pentecost – Christ the King Sunday
11:00am Mass in All Saints' courtyard
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org