



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**THIS SUNDAY November 17 & BEYOND**



## **Some things will end; some things are eternal**

Anybody walking into a large, massive, building (whether historical or a newly architecturally designed one) will usually begin to take note of the walls, the windows, the floors, the air space, the construction, and the artistic design work. Congress Hall in Philadelphia, or Washington, D.C., Hagia Sophia in Turkey, St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican, St. Paul's Cathedral or Winchester Cathedral, London, a brand new Football Stadium (like is being built for the Raiders in Las Vegas), even the unfinished La Sagrada Familia Basilica by Antoni Gaudi in Barcelona, all fill that description; you may have your own favorite, awe-inspiring building.

The second Jewish Temple in Jerusalem was like that before it was destroyed by the Romans around 70 AD. So was the first Temple that Solomon built, before it was destroyed by the Babylonians. For many people visiting those temples for the first time, the experience was overwhelming.

The experience is close to looking out over the San Diego Bay at dusk on an October day and being in awe of the splendiferous display of the setting sun colors of deep orange, vibrant rust, thick rouge, moving to deepening shades of blue. Just amazing.

What an awesome God we have who has designed in His creation such displays; and has allowed human beings to be able to craft such spanning brick and mortar.

Into those thoughts and views and praises and thanksgivings for God comes the Gospel (the Good news of Jesus Christ) where the apostles and disciples were taking in all the exquisite detail of the Jerusalem Temple, and Jesus had a reply. The following piece of scripture from Luke is the record of that visit and response:

*”When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, ”As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”*

Something paraphrased like this: “Get your cell phones out now, boys, and take a picture, because this will all be gone before you know it.” And, of course, it was destroyed only 30+ years after Jesus prophesied it would happen.

The good thing to note, I think, is that Jesus did not say that architectural beauty was a waste of time; he didn’t say not to appreciate such adornment as if it was a waste of money; he didn’t say that such efforts by men was a stench in the nostrils of God; he didn’t deny that humanity can build such for and to the Glory of God.

Besides the prophesy of all being torn down, as the Romans would do, he was saying something about what the Temple represented in terms of the relationship between God and His People. He was saying that one expression, more specifically one Covenant that had been initiated by God and ratified daily by any one of His Faithful People, was coming to an end. The NEW Covenant was that testified to in the realized arrival of the promised Messiah; “testified” so that we can also call the Christian scriptures the New Testament (as contrasted to the OLD Testament). The destruction of the Temple would thus symbolize the end of the Covenant of Moses, and that the Covenant of the Messiah had been ushered into existence.

Jesus, the Word of God, as identified by John’s Gospel, and in the Revelation given to John on Patmos island gives rise to the new testimony as also God’s Word, or the Word of God, along with the Old testament. And God’s Words, given by Jesus on that day with the disciples in the Temple, inspired by Jesus’ Holy Spirit, would give rise to the awareness we Christians have of both the Old and New Testament – even if the Old is in fact Old because the New has come to fulfill it – being the inspired Word of God.

If you want to learn more about Jesus’ Words, prophecy, revelation, the Messiah, the fulfillment of the Old Covenant, and your relationship with Him as you look for HOPE for things to come for you, then begin by reading the Bible. It is the good thing to do, and it won’t hurt you to do it.

Fr, Robert G. Eaton, Interim Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost  
Malachi 3:13-4:2a, 5-6 Psalm 98:5-10 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19

## CALENDAR

**SUNDAY: The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost**

8:30am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn Mass (Church)

9:00am-3:00pm Annual Arts and Crafts Show & Sale & Music (Parish Hall)

AA Meeting

7:00pm Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

*—The entrance to the church is on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue—*

*Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.*

**TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)**

**FRIDAY AA Meetings**

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

**SUNDAY The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Christ the King Sunday)**

8:00am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn Mass (Church)

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)