



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."*

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER April 25 & Beyond

That They May Have Life, and Have It Abundantly



The Gospel reading for this Sunday (John 10: 11-16) is the second part of the discourse about the Good Shepherd in chapter 10 of John's Gospel. But in the middle of the discourse, just before verse 11, which starts the section read in Year B, we have these words by Jesus, "I came

that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

He uses this phrase to define His purpose as the Good Shepherd of the sheep. Indeed, we may say that the whole imagery of the Good Shepherd, the sheep, the hired hand, and the wolf hinges around this phrase. It is all about abundant life.

What is abundant life? When do we feel that our life is full and worth living? Is it when we obtain a lot of material things or other achievements? Some of these things

can give us a momentary sense of contentment, but in the long run we will feel lacking again, unless our life is lived with the assurance that we are loved by our Creator and that we have been put on this earth to bear the beams of love for those around us.

Jesus is certainly our Good Shepherd. He is the one who can give us this assurance through His self-sacrifice and boundless love towards us. But we could expand this image.

Who are the people in our lives who have been there for us when we needed them most—the ones who have pointed to us the abundance that was already there, but we could not perceive? Those are also good shepherds in our lives. And there may be times when we have been good shepherd for others as well. We have been tended sheep, and so have others in relation to us.

And then there are those who have failed us. They only show up when the pay is good enough, and when there is no major danger threatening them. They have been detrimental in our lives, making us doubt about the reality of love and goodness. Unfortunately, there have been times when we have failed others as well.

Who or what could be the wolves in our lives? Who or what snatches away our abundance, our assuredness in God's self-giving love for us and our unconditional love for others? It may be someone who leads us astray, making us follow false leaderships and causes. It may also be our overdue concerns for material gains, our busyness, our self-centeredness.

Jesus gives us all these images for us to ponder on our own lives, on our different roles in this drama, on the people and forces that affect us, and on abundance as the ultimate goal of our life. He is not giving us easy answers or solutions, but He is definitely pointing to Himself as the one who makes this abundant life possible for us and asks us to follow in His footsteps to make it possible for others as well.

As we celebrate the Good Shepherd Sunday, let us never forget that this Good Shepherd came that we may have life, and have it abundantly.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:23-37 Psalm 23 1 John 3:1-8 John 10:11-16

CALENDAR

Note: We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom.
The service time is 10am.

SUNDAY Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday) 10:00am 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

TUESDAY Noon Mass in All Saints' courtyard

FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in All Saints' Courtyard

SATURDAY Societies of Mary Day of Devotion All Saints' Courtyard
11:00am Rosary
11:30am Mass

SUNDAY Fifth Sunday of Easter 10:00am 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