



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 —October 23 & Beyond

"Saved for God's Kingdom"



"The Good News" is the phrase that we normally use to explain the term *gospel* (*Evangelion* in the original Koine Greek). Actually, this is what the term literally means. When the New Testament writers started to use the term, it simply meant *good news* with no specific connotation to it.

Obviously what the New Testament writers meant was not any kind of good news—that the taxes had been considerably decreased, for instance—but the Good News of Salvation proclaimed to all through Jesus' passion, death, and glorious resurrection and ascension.

Another term also used to refer to this Good News was *the Message*, which is the one used by St. Paul in the second reading passage for this Sunday (2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18).

We are all familiar with these terms and, if asked, most of us would affirm that we understand what this New Testament phraseology, which has been so many times repeated by the Church throughout the centuries, means.

It now comes to my mind that while I was a seminarian, one of my theology professors used to challenge us when we used the term *salvation*, by asking, “and what are we saved from?”

As seminarians, we always thought we knew everything there is to know about our faith—how wrong we were! — and we simply answered by repeating trite phrases like, “from sin and damnation, of course!” Such an obvious fact!

And it is true that we are saved from sin and damnation, but how can we express this “obvious” fact in more concrete terms? How do we relate this to our everyday living, to our everyday encounters with others, within the family life, in the neighborhood, in our work and study places, in our church communities?

Perhaps a good and deep reading of this excerpt of St. Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy can give us a better idea of what kind of salvation we Christians should aim for at all times.

In this part of the letter Paul starts by stating that he knows for sure that his physical life is about to end. Not because of old age or disease, but because he knows he will be executed due to his staunch and unwavering position in relation to Jesus’ message. His words to define this situation are, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

And he finishes this part saying, “The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for His heavenly kingdom.”

It may seem contradictory that the Apostle Paul talks about his upcoming execution while at the same time stating that he will be rescued and saved by the Lord. But let us pay close attention to what Paul says he will be saved from: “every evil attack.” And what he will be saved for: “His heavenly kingdom.”

He is not saying that the Lord will protect him from death (even this unjust death) or that his opponents will be prevented from attacking him, but that he will certainly

know how to respond to these attacks thanks to the inspiration of the Spirit of Truth, and his unwavering clinging to the Truth.

And he knows where the crown of glory that he is expecting will be given him: in God's heavenly kingdom, when God is all in all, when God's original plan of full and abundant life for all in true communion with Him, with one another, and the whole of creation becomes a reality.

So let us re-evaluate our wishes to be saved. Are we going to be whining and asking God to save us from the hardships of life, from our conflicts with others, from our discomforts, or even from physical death?

Or shall we rather ask God to save us from indifference, from lack of commitment to proclaiming His Way of Love with our words and actions, from lack of courage to forgive and love even those who have hurt us?

Yes, the Good News is news of Salvation. Let us then be clear what we are saved from and for.

The Rev. Carlos Expósito

Readings for The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Psalm 84:1-6 Luke 18:9-14

CALENDAR

Note: We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer are held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

SUNDAY Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

Christian Formation every second and fourth Sunday of the month at Noon. Topic: Communicating with God Rector's Study

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

THURSDAY Spanish Class 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Flower Room. Taught by Fr. Carlos

FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary Chape

SUNDAY The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

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

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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