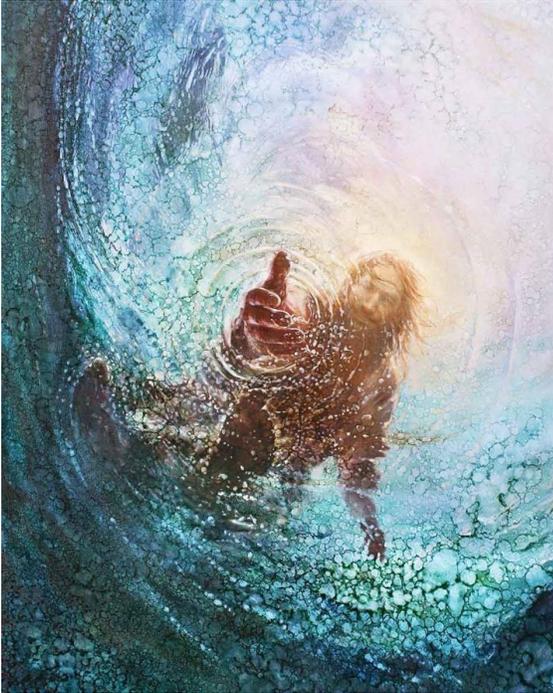




ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY May 26 & BEYOND”

“Trust in Jesus”



We are coming closer in our weekly celebrations of the Easter season to the moment when Jesus Ascends, and then the feast of the Holy Spirit, or Pentecost.

As a result, the Sunday gospels focus more and more on two themes: the departure of Jesus, and the coming of the Holy Spirit as the very presence of God in the whole world. In this Sunday's gospel lesson (May 26, 2019) from John's account of the last supper, also known as “The Last (or Final) Discourse,” Jesus tells the apostles that if they love him, they'll keep his

words. He says this not to lean on them or put pressure on them, but so that he and the Father can "make their home in them." And at the same time, making use of a very familiar phrase, he tells them to choose to not be afraid as he makes his departure. The phrase is, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” A little reflection will remind you that this is one of the phrases from one of the most common scripture lessons read at funerals. “I go to prepare a mansion for you”, is the other part of that phrase. This section of scripture read at funerals is actually from this same Gospel, this same Final Discourse, and spoken only moments earlier to the same apostles. In other words, Jesus says it once, and then says it again (and again). This is the grieving part of what the apostles and all the disciples will go through when Jesus departs in his Ascension into heaven. “Do not let them (your hearts) be afraid”, is the following phrase from “Do not let your hearts be troubled.”

That is so difficult to do, even as an act of will, when someone has died, and you see their coffin being placed into the earth. Is Jesus saying that you can WILL your way out of a natural emotional response to death and departure? It is, of course, possible to let ourselves be “stuck” in grief and not give ourselves the permission to

bring closure to a loved one's life and presence in ours. Sometimes we end up finding unhealthy patterns of behavior to compensate for that lingering grief, which can end up in addictions. On the other hand, we sometimes will beat ourselves up for thinking that we are being too selfish with our feelings of grief if WE think they have lasted too long, or if our acquaintances and even friends ask us why we're not "bouncing back." This is a generalization as an average done by therapeutic communities many years ago. But the general rule of thumb is an average time of grieving a close death is two years. That's an AVERAGE.

But I don't think Jesus in this Gospel is attempting to deny the natural, God-given, built in emotional processes. In this Gospel we need to see another reason Jesus says to his apostles to "not LET your hearts be troubled." And it can be seen in the next sentence in the discourse, where Jesus says to them, "You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.'"

Here we look forward, then, to what is coming. And that coming is Jesus, again!

"Don't worry, I'll be back." Something like that. And who more than Jesus Christ shall we trust to actually guarantee his own return. This will happen on the third day after they see him die on the cross in the Resurrection; this will also happen 10 days after they watch with their eyes as he ascends above, when on the day of Pentecost the SPIRIT of Jesus falls upon them; ultimately we will all see Jesus' final return at the end of time as we know it now, in Glory, and for the Final Judgment.

That, my friends, is a spiritual and theological "hat trick" as they say in soccer goals: Three ways to see Jesus return after he has left. But what if any of those apostles or disciples were to die themselves before any of those three returns? That's when Jesus famous words earlier in the discourse have comfort for us: "I go to prepare a place for you." So even if we should die now, "be not afraid", and "do not let your hearts be troubled," because you are safe to see Jesus again. You will not be left behind, or bereft of his presence.

Alleluia. Christ is risen indeed.

Fr. Robert G. Eaton, Interim Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Sixth Sunday after Easter

Acts 14:8-18 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:22-22:5 John 14:23-29

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: **The Sixth Sunday after Easter**

8:30a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

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

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

THURSDAY Ascension Day

6:15pm Mass (Church)

7:00pm Supper (Parish Hall)

FRIDAY AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

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

SATURDAY Society of Mary Day of Devotion

11:00am Rosary (St. Mary's Chapel)

11:30 Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

Noon Potluck Lunch (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY Seventh Sunday after Easter

8:00am Low Mass

10:30am Solemn Mass

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
www.allsaintschurch.org