



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 August 9 & BEYOND

Why Do We of Little Faith Doubt?



Most of us are very familiar with the passage of Jesus walking on the water. It appears in the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, and John. Matthew, however, is the only Evangelist that introduces the incident of Peter walking towards Jesus on the water and the exchange of words between Peter and Jesus. This is the account we are focusing on this week.

The traditional and probably most accepted view of this incident is that Peter doubted, he was afraid when he noticed the high waves and the wind, and even though he had already walked a few

steps on the water, he started to sink and had to cry out to Jesus for help, because he had no steady faith. After holding his hand, Jesus said to him, "you of little faith, why did you doubt?" This is normally read as a rebuke, a scolding by Jesus, and many a sermon have been written around this theme. The prevalent idea is that we need to

have a firm and steady faith, not one that falters when faced with the hardships of life. Otherwise, our Savior will rebuke us and ask us why we doubt.

Having a solid faith that will allow us to praise God and face all our troubles in life with a blissful countenance and attitude may be a wonderful achievement, but how many of us are there yet? Let us simply for a moment put ourselves in Peter's shoes. He managed to walk a few steps on the stormy sea. Could we at least venture to take the first step? Would we even cry out to Jesus in total assurance that his grip would save us?

Peter was chosen by Jesus, not because he was perfect, but because He enabled him to gradually become a better follower, a better disciple. Peter tried to be faithful to the end. He did not flee when Jesus was arrested; he managed to stay close. And even when he denied Him when pressed by others, he did not simply run away. He was there, bitterly crying when he realized his weakness, but still present. After the resurrection, Jesus confronts him with the question of his love for Him three times, and in this way restores their mutual trust. From that moment on, Peter is even willing to give his own life for Jesus' Way of Love.

Jesus is a great teacher. He uses questions so that we can come to understand the deep causes of our fears, our failures. He may sometimes use phrases that sound like scolding, but His intention is always to bring out the best in each of us. And He always puts out His loving hand to help us out. No matter how little we may think our faith is, in this gradual process of becoming His followers, our faith is always in the process of getting stronger, with every hardship we face and overcome thanks to His helping hand. Our doubts are real. They are the fruit of painful situations that we have all faced in which we may have had a hard time finding Jesus' helping hand.

That is why the question is necessary. We need to understand why we doubt. We need to face the reality of our weakness, our fears, and our reluctance to depend on Christ. And we must also understand why others doubt. Why they are in despair. Why they have stopped believing in the good in this world. Where has our helping hand been? Where is it now? We proclaim that the Church is in the world to be Christ's lips, hands and feet. Is our hand extended towards those who doubt in the midst of despair, or do we only remember the rebuking part: "you of little faith"? We all need more faith. But we need to live out our faith, by going deeper into the cause of our doubts and fears, by overcoming them, by depending on Him who can make us defeat all doubt, and by extending our loving hand to those who try to remain afloat in the stormy seas of their lives.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jonah 2:1-9 Psalm 29 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:22-33

CALENDAR

Note: All Sunday Masses will be held in All Saints' Courtyard at 9am. All other gatherings will be Zoom meetings. Visit our web site for the Zoom link (see below).

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

TUESDAY Noonday Service
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

FRIDAY In Dialogue with Scripture at noon
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

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