



# ALL SAINTS'

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## 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 — May 29 & Beyond**

**"Filling and Lifting Us Up to Him"**



As we approach Ascension Day, there is a tradition in the western church to pray for prosperity in agriculture, fishing, commerce, and industry, including the stewardship of creation, on the three days preceding Ascension Day. These three days are known as Rogation Days. Also, the Sunday before these three days has come to be known as Rogation Sunday.

Although the observance has become optional in the Episcopal Church, we can still find some references to the proper use of the Earth's resources and its blessings in the readings for this particular Sunday.

In the reading from the Book of Acts (Acts 14: 8-18) when Paul rebukes the Lycaonians for trying to offer sacrifice to him and Barnabas as gods after they cured a man crippled from birth, Paul reminds them that even when they had not directly received God's revelation through Scripture and through His Son, God has always given all peoples witness of His goodness towards all human beings, by giving them rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling them with food and their hearts with joy.

The reading from the Book of Revelation, on the other hand, shows a vision of the New Jerusalem, the city that represents God's home with us.

It is interesting to notice the absence of a temple in this city. This is a good reminder to us that the church is just a temporary means to an end, and not an end in itself.

In the vision of this new state of being where God will be all in all, there is no need of separate places for worship, simply because our lives will be in complete harmony and communion with the living God, with one another, and with the whole of creation.

There are interesting images in this vision, and some of them cannot be taken too literally if we are to understand what they point to.

No need of moon, sun, or any lamp, and the total absence of night may not sound too appealing if we take it literally. Who wants constant bright day without the natural succession of light and darkness? Those who live in polar parts of the earth where there is daylight for about six months, and night for the same period do not find it particularly agreeable.

What the vision probably means is that God will so strongly illuminate our souls with His constant presence that we will never feel darkness in our lives anymore.

We human beings long for a life full of good health, harmony, justice, peace, and abundance of all necessary goods, and love among all creatures. The idea of a New Creation is appealing to all, as long as we can still recognize it as what God created in the first place and "saw that it was good indeed" as the first book of the Bible states.

Looking at some pictures of Mars the other day, I was struck by the idea of humankind having to live there one day. The sky looked colorless and it gave me a bad chill. How devastatingly desolate the place looked! That is certainly not the new Earth I would

like to inhabit!

When thinking about a New Creation we should not think of an alien or unrecognizable environment. Although it is true that we have distorted much of the original good in creation and in ourselves, and it is also true that nature can sometimes cause harm to us (earthquakes, hurricanes, and plagues are a good example), creation is still essentially good and human beings have been created in the image and likeness of God's goodness. In times when we hear about so much hatred and inhumanity, and people killing one another in wars, it is hard to recognize this essential goodness that inhabits us all and is an essential part of all that surrounds us.

However, we do not believe in a god who made a failed creation experiment and will someday make a second attempt to remedy it, but in the God of the Bible who created all in His goodness and made us like Himself, so that we became stewards of the unceasing re-creation that --as the beautiful image of the river of the water of life, and the tree of life depicts in the Book of Revelation—will ultimately bring us all, together with the whole creation, to a greater degree of harmony, peace and wholeness, where suffering, decay, hatred, lack of love, and death will no longer have place.

Father Carlos E. Expósito

Readings for The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:1-11    Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20    Psalm 47    John 17:20-26

## 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    The Seventh Sunday of Easter

**10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church**

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://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

11:30am Studying *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* by John Philip Newel – Rector's

## Study

A Spanish Mass will be held on the first, second, fourth (and fifth) Sundays each month at 1pm. Everyone is welcome.

**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 Chapel

**SUNDAY** Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday

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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](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)