



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 — November 26, 2023

"A Most Peculiar Kingship"



We start the church year with the joyful expectation of the Savior, the Christ, the Messiah, coming to the world to become God incarnate, coming to our own lives to reconcile them with the Creator and with the rest of humankind and creation, and coming at the end of the ages to fulfill God's saving plan so that God may be all in all.

And we end the church year with the bold proclamation of Christ's kingship and lordship in our lives.

It was Pope Pius XI who instituted the Feast of Christ the King in 1925, to respond to growing secularization and atheism. Although it is unofficially celebrated in some Episcopal parishes, it is not mentioned as such in the Episcopal calendar of the church year. However, the collect and readings for the last Sunday of the church year in the Episcopal Church all point to Christ as "King of kings, and Lord of lords."

The use of the terms *king* and *lord* in the Church have a biblical origin, of course, and may not be the favorite of contemporary people living in democratic republics. Although even in this country there are fans of the British royalty who delight in all

the pomp and pageantry of Buckingham Palace and its inhabitants, very few people in America would be willing to go back to colonial times and be ruled by a monarch.

A monarchy implies an autocratic form of government in which the will of one person decides the life of an entire nation or an alliance of nations. Nowadays this is rarely the case, even in countries where monarchies still exist, because there are other government bodies that counterbalance this kind of unilateral rule.

But in biblical times, and several centuries later, up to the Middle Ages and well into the Renaissance period, a king or queen had a real immense power. All the subjects of such monarchies could do was to hope and pray that their monarch would really follow God's guidance and would act in the people's best interests.

Interestingly, in the Hebrew Bible we do not always find the presence of monarchs. In fact, for centuries the Hebrew people would have God Himself as their true ruler, and would elect some among their people to represent them in cases where major decisions had to be made, or they had to battle against an enemy. These were the judges that we find in the Books of Judges.

It was only later, when they felt defenseless against the surrounding peoples who did have monarchies, that they started to think about the convenience of having a king. The prophet Samuel was at first reluctant to give them a king, and even warned them about the likely arbitrary decisions such a monarch would make in his own favor, and in total disregard of the people's benefits. But they would be undeterred in their decision, so Samuel gave them Saul as their first king.

Kings in Israel were thought of as the shepherds that would lead the people in God's name. They were respected, but they were never thought of as "divine" and had to be anointed by one of God's prophets in the presence of the people to become monarchs.

Unfortunately, starting with Solomon, and continuing with the different kings in the divided kingdoms of Judea and Israel, there were very few monarchs, who, according to the Books of Kings, "did good before God's eyes".

The prophets all denounced the unjust rule of these kings, calling them "bad shepherds", and some of them, like Ezekiel, speak in God's name, saying "I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out...I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down", says the Lord. "I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice."

God's kingdom is depicted by Ezekiel, not as an arbitrary unjust kind of rule, but as a rule based on loving care and justice.

Jesus always preached the rule of love, which is the ultimate law that should govern this world. He not only preached it, but submitted Himself willingly to it, by giving Himself in loving sacrifice for the whole world.

His kingship and lordship has nothing to do with an arbitrarily imposed power. We are totally free to accept or reject Him as the absolute ruler of our lives. If we do, however, we cannot simply let Him rule in our lives partially. Accepting his total lordship may be a gradual process in our lives, but total acceptance is the final goal.

What this lordship means is not the loss of our wills, but the totally voluntary alignment of our wills with His, knowing that there can be no better guide for the course of our lives.

Christ's rule is totally unpretentious. He is not even willing to retain His ruling power. According to St. Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians, "When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under Him, so that God may be all in all."

Fr. Carlos

Note: the picture above is the stained glass window at All Saints' Episcopal Church above the main entrance to the church on 6th Ave. Designed by Judson Studios in Los Angeles, CA.

Readings for The Last Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 34:11-17 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 Psalm: 95:1-7 Matthew 25:31-46

CALENDAR

Note: We continue worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer at 10:00am are held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel

SUNDAY November 26, 2023 Christ the King 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
Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children
Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am
Christian Formation Meets this Sunday, November 26 at noon in the
Rector's Office and the Library

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 **December 3, 2023 The First Sunday of Advent**

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

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

Christian Formation Meets next on December 10 at noon in the Rector's
Study and the Library

Christmas Holiday Arts and Crafts Show and Sale with food and music
9am – 2pm All Saints' Parish Hall

San Diego Coterie Annual Nutcracker and Christmas Carol Sing Along
2:30pm All Saints' Pariah Hall

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