



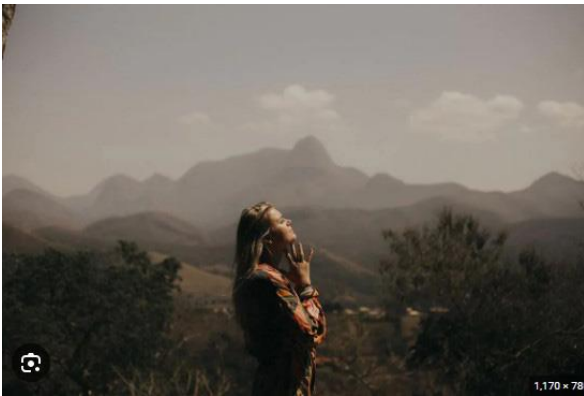
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"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 — March 10, 2024

“By Sheer Grace”



One of the main tenets of our Christian faith is the fact that the salvation we have received from our heavenly Father through Jesus Christ our Lord is by grace only, and is by no means the result of any merits on our part. This has always been an essential truth in the mainline Christian tradition, but it became somewhat obscured by the practice of

indulgences in the Roman Catholic Church in medieval times and was one of the main reasons why the Protestant movement arose.

Being saved and justified by grace only, through faith, is a prevalent thought in St. Paul's writings, and Martin Luther and the rest of the reformers in the 16th century adhered to this principle as the guiding one in their reform.

James' letter, with the phrase “faith without works is dead” seemed to contradict this principle, and the idea that these two writers had opposite views in this respect has been held by many.

However, if we take a closer look at what St. Paul is saying, there is no real opposition here, but simply a different kind of emphasis. What St. Paul wants to make clear in his writings is the idea that we, as finite sinning human beings, should by no means have the pretense that we have gained God's favor through our good works and thus deserved our redemption through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

In his letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2, St. Paul makes the point about undeserved salvation by grace through our faith in Christ crystal clear. He states, “But because of His great love for us, God, in His rich mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”

St. Paul calls this totally undeserved redemption “the incomprehensible riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”

But notice how St. Paul himself recognizes that good works is the natural expression of a true faith in God’s redemption through His grace. In the same letter, further on, he adds, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

According to this idea, the way things were planned by our Creator included that in His Son, we were also created to do good works. Doing good works then, is the way that we should and should have always acted, if we reflect God’s loving image in our own beings.

But this gives us no reasons to boast. It was God’s loving will that we were created in His image and likeness, and even when we strayed away from His path, He never tired of calling us back again and again, and even sent us His incarnate Son to bring us back to Him.

If we look at it from a human standpoint, God’s love and grace is irrational. It is given so undeservedly! But that is exactly why it is grace, and nothing but grace!

The only thing our all-loving Creator asks us is to let His grace fill us, and guide us back to Him, and to remember how His beloved Son was eager to sacrifice Himself, so that we might have life, and have it in abundance for ever more.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito

Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent: 2 Chronicles 36:14-23 Ephesians 2:4-10
Psalm: 122 John 6:4-15

CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday during Lent Great Litany, Via Crucis held in All Saints’ Church

SUNDAY March 10 The Fourth Sunday in Lent
10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available at www.allsaintschurch.org
Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children
Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am
Adult Christian Formation Meets this Sunday, March 10 at noon
in the Rector's Office and the Library

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

THURSDAY Spanish Class on Thursdays, from 1pm-3pm in the Library.

FRIDAY 11:30am Great Litany
12:00pm Via Crucis
12:40pm Way of Love Lenten Study Group (Rector's Office)

SUNDAY March 17, 2024 The Fifth Sunday in Lent
10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available at www.allsaintschurch.org
Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children
Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am
Adult Christian Formation Meets next on Sunday, March 24 at noon
in the Rector's Office and the Library

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