



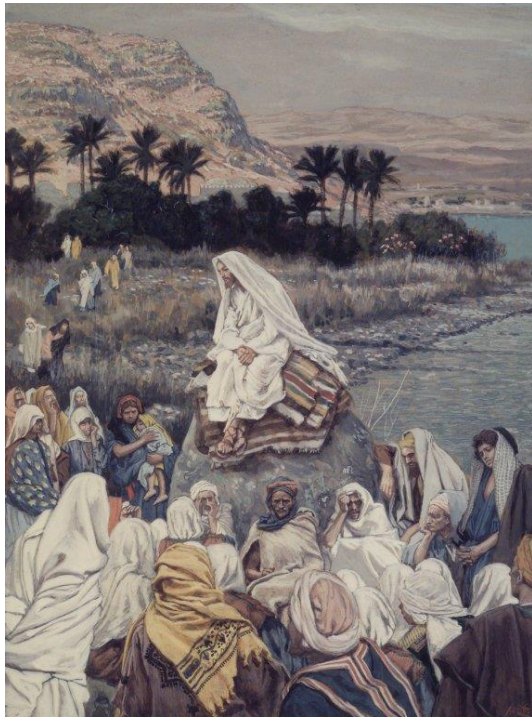
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"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 — February 23rd, 2025

“Transformed by the Imperishable Gift”



Transformed by the Imperishable Gift

This Sunday, as we reflect on the theme of love, as stated in the Collect, we are reminded of how love binds together all things and forms the very foundation of peace and virtue. Without love, we are "accounted dead before God," a stark reminder of its essential place in our lives. Our readings today explore different facets of love, from the forgiveness seen in Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers to the radical love Jesus describes in the Gospel of Luke. But it is the passage from 1 Corinthians 15 that calls us to a deeper understanding of love's transformative power.

In 1 Corinthians 15:35-50, Paul speaks about the mystery of the resurrection and the transformation of the body. He contrasts the natural body with the spiritual, saying, "What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable." This powerful image emphasizes the transformative nature of love—it changes us, even at our most fundamental level. Just as the seed must die before it can bloom, the Way of Love, as exemplified by Christ, requires a kind of death to self. It is a dying to old ways of being that are rooted in selfishness, pride, and division, and a rising to new life in the love of God.

Paul's words about the body are more than just theological abstractions—they are a call to live differently now. We are not only waiting for a transformation after death; we are called to embody the transformation today, through the love of God. Paul stresses that the perishable must put on the imperishable, and the mortal must put on immortality. This transformation is not just a change of form, but a change of heart, a change in how we relate to one another and to God. Love is the force that shapes this transformation.

As we reflect on this, we might consider the way in which our own relationships are transformed by love. In the reading from Genesis 45:3-11, 15, we see a powerful image of reconciliation. Joseph, once betrayed by his brothers, now offers them forgiveness. Instead of responding with anger or bitterness, he responds with love, allowing the family to be restored. Here, love is seen as the bridge between brokenness and healing. The act of forgiveness is not just a moral choice; it is a reflection of God's transformative power in our lives. Joseph's willingness to forgive is an embodiment of the love that Paul speaks of—love that can bring about a radical transformation in our relationships and in our world.

In Psalm 37, the psalmist also speaks of the connection between love and peace. The passage calls on us not to fret over the wicked, but to trust in the Lord and to "commit our way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act." Here, love is not just a passive feeling but an active trust in God's care and justice. It is this trust that allows us to love others with the same heart that Joseph and Paul describe. In love, we are free from the need to control or manipulate, knowing that God is already working to bring about peace and healing.

Finally, the reading from Luke 6:27-38 presents the radical call of Jesus to love not just those who love us, but even our enemies. He tells us, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." This teaching, though difficult, is the ultimate expression of the kind of love Paul describes—love that transcends boundaries and human limitations. It is a love that comes from God alone, a love that can change the very nature of our relationships. It is through this love that we can embody the transformation Paul speaks of, putting on the imperishable and living lives that reflect the eternal love of God.

As we continue our Epiphany journey and approach Lent, may we reflect on the love that transforms us, as individuals and as a community. May the Holy Spirit pour into our hearts the greatest gift of love, so that we may be a living witness to its power to heal, restore, and reconcile. In this love, we are made whole and new.

Readings for *The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany*:

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 + Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42 + 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
+ Luke 6:27-38

CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

SUNDAY February 23, 2025 The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

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 for Adults (the 2nd and 4th Sundays)

Youth and adults around Noon after the Mass in the Library

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

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