



"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 – SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2025

HIS ALL SHARING LOVE AND INFINITE ABUNDANCE

Holding on Fast to What Endures

Anxiety and fret are part of our daily lives, and there seems to be an increasing number of people suffering from mental distress that stems from chronic anxiety. As compared to the way people lived centuries or even decades ago, we now have a lot of household devices and other advances of technology that make our daily lives easier in many ways. However, it seems that people nowadays are more stressed out than ever, even when they seem to enjoy lots of material goods.

The fact is that anxiety is, above all, a mental condition framed by our mindset, and only a deep transformation of our mindsets will make us free of it. The Collect for this Sunday prays to God that we may "not be anxious about earthly things, but love things heavenly: and even now while placed among things that are passing, we may hold fast to those that shall endure." This is the clue to be rid of anxiety, and live purposeful lives based on the real and abundant gifts that our Creator has bestowed upon us all. Unfortunately, there is often a misunderstanding of what is contained in this and similar prayers.



"To love things heavenly" has often been taken as a reference to love of the afterlife, the life that God will continue to give us after our mortal bodies perish. It may be so in part, since God's kingdom, or the kingdom of Heaven as it is also known, is timeless and spaceless, and extends beyond our human understanding. However, the essence of the message here should not be lost in thinking only about our life beyond the grave.

In fact, the Collect calls our attention also to the here and now of our lives, when we are "placed among things that are passing away." What the rest of the readings for this Sunday remind us is mainly how to live properly in the world, so that our way of being reflects God's will for us.

The prophet Amos's message was particularly radical in denouncing those who exploit others by using fraudulent and greedy practices, thinking that by satisfying their egocentric inclinations they will attain an abundant life. But as the prophet warns, they only condemn themselves before God.

Psalm 113, in turn, reminds us that all praise and blessing is due to the Lord, our Creator, who also does justice and is merciful to those who lack.

In his First Letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul urges all the converts to Jesus' Way of Love to constantly offer prayers, supplications, intercessions, and also thanksgiving for all, and he makes special mention of kings and those who are in high positions, as among those for whom they ought to pray. The idea is not that those of higher social status are more deserving of the prayers of the faithful, but, as St. Paul himself points out, "so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity." Obviously, these influential people can make a difference in the life of the nations they lead, if they rule with justice and mercy for all.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday (Luke 16:1-13) brings us the Parable of the Dishonest Servant. This parable has been interpreted in different ways by scholars and commentators, and some of the recent interpretations have even pointed out how the actions of the manager "may be justified" in light of his subordination to someone who has obviously exploited others even more.

With all due respect to scholars, I venture to affirm that this was not Jesus' intention at all. When He mentions that the master "commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly" He is in no way justifying dishonesty and shrewdness of any sort. He is simply affirming that "the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light." This is a fact. And some dishonest people even boast of their shrewdness and praise that of others. But the crux of the matter lies in the term Jesus uses to refer to the wealth of this world: "dishonest wealth."

Why does Jesus generalize all worldly wealth as "dishonest"? Simply because everything ultimately belongs to our Creator, and therefore to all of us, in a non-excluding way. To claim wealth as exclusively "ours" is a fallacy in God's eyes—a fallacy that we have made legal in our world.

Loving "wealth" in this excluding way and clinging to this mindset can only bring anxiety and misery to our lives. Only when we realize how everything we really are (and have) are the pure reflection of God's all-sharing love for all in His infinite abundance, can we partake of the genuine joy of possessing the "things heavenly" the Collect refers to.

Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Amos 8:4-7 + Psalm 113 + 1 Timothy 2:1-7 + Luke 16:1-13

CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10:00 AM. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

SUNDAY **September 21st, 2025 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
10:00 AM 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 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM

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
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