



"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 8TH, 2026

WITH HUMILITY AND TRUST COMES GRACE

Hope That Does Not Disappoint

This coming Sunday invites us to sit with one of the most quietly revolutionary passages in all of Scripture: St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans 5:1-11. In the midst of a season that calls us to self-examination and repentance, St. Paul speaks words that feel less like admonition and more like steady ground beneath our feet: "Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." And then, even more daringly, he tells us that hope "does not disappoint."

Those words sound differently depending on the kind of week we have had. Lent can sometimes feel like a spiritual endurance test. We examine our lives. We notice where we are dry, impatient, distracted, or afraid. We try to pray more honestly. We attempt to fast from habits that dull us. Yet St. Paul does not begin with our effort. He begins with what has already been given: peace with God. This is the peace that flows from being reconciled, embraced, justified by grace.

St. Paul insists that in Christ we are no longer negotiating with God. We stand, he says, "in grace." The image is almost architectural: grace as the space in which we live and move. And yet, St. Paul does not pretend that suffering disappears. Instead, he weaves it into the story of hope. "We boast in our sufferings," he writes. Suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope. This is not a glorification of pain. It is a testimony that nothing, not even hardship, falls outside the redemptive arc of God's love.



As Christ's followers in our own time, we know something about uncertainty. We live in a culture that often confuses hope with optimism. Optimism depends on favorable outcomes. Hope, in St. Paul's vision, depends on God's character. "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." Hope is not wishful thinking; it is participation in a love already at work within us.

The other readings this week echo this deep current of trust in the midst of dryness. In Exodus 17:1-7, the Israelites quarrel with Moses in the wilderness, crying out for water. Their thirst quickly becomes accusation: "Is the Lord among us or not?" It is a question that surfaces whenever we feel abandoned, whenever prayers seem unanswered. Yet water flows from the rock, reminding us that God's faithfulness does not evaporate simply because our trust does.

Psalm 95 continues the theme, warning against hardening our hearts “as in the rebellion.” The psalm holds together two postures: exuberant praise and sober self-awareness. “Today, if you hear his voice...” The invitation is always present tense. Lent, perhaps, is mainly about softening what has grown hard, about allowing hope to irrigate dry places within us.

And then there is the luminous encounter in the Gospel of John 4:5–42, where Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well. Here thirst becomes a metaphor. Jesus speaks of “living water” that becomes in us “a spring gushing up to eternal life.” The woman arrives at the well alone, carrying the weight of her complicated history. She leaves as a witness, carrying good news to her community. Something in her has shifted from defensiveness to testimony.

In each of these texts, thirst, whether physical or spiritual, exposes vulnerability. The Israelites thirst in the desert. The psalmist thirsts for attentive hearts. The Samaritan woman thirsts for dignity and truth. And St. Paul reminds us that beneath all our thirst runs a deeper reality: “While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.” God’s love precedes our response. It meets us before we tidy ourselves up.

What might it mean, this Lent, to live as though hope truly does not disappoint?

Perhaps it means trusting that the slow work of endurance in our own lives is not wasted. The patience we practice in strained relationships, the prayers we offer when words feel thin, the faithfulness of showing up, are not small things. They are the shaping of character. They are the soil in which hope grows.

Perhaps it also means loosening our grip on self-reliance. If hope is rooted in God’s poured-out love, then we are not its engineers. We are its recipients. The Collect for this Sunday asks God, who sees that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves, to keep us both outwardly and inwardly. It is a prayer of humility and of trust. We acknowledge our limits, not as a confession of defeat, but as an opening through which grace flows.

So we continue our Lenten journey, not pretending we are never thirsty, not denying the desert places, but listening for water in unlikely rocks, watching for grace in conversation at unexpected wells, and daring to believe that the hope placed in us by the Spirit will not, in the end, disappoint.

Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Exodus 17:1–7 + Romans 5:1–11 + John 4:5–42
+ Psalm 95

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 **March 8th, 2026** **The Third Sunday in Lent**

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

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