



"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 22ND, 2026 TO BE UNBOUND: MORE THAN FREEDOM

Unbounded by Christ's Love

As we come to the last Sunday before Holy Week, the Collect reminds us that it is God's power alone which "can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners", and that if we, through God's grace, love what God commands and desire what He promises, then our hearts will "sure be fixed where true joys are to be found."

This is a humble declaration of our lack of self-sufficiency to free ourselves from the powers of sin and death, and of our total reliance on God's grace and power, through His beloved Son's unbounded love for us, and the abundant flowing of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to affect this redemption.

Loving what God commands and desiring what He promises may sound sweet and easy, but in fact we need to realize how often our self-centered instincts and addictions prevent us from fulfilling this. Our minds have been so consistently molded to follow our impulses of self-preservation and self-gratification, to compete against others, and to reject those who look or think differently, that little space is left in our minds to follow the true teachings of Him who has come to show us the true way of unconditional love.



If we are familiar with the Sacraments of the church, we know that Baptism, the Sacrament that makes us part of God's true family and Christ's body—the Church—shows us that we need to die to our old self, and then be raised with Christ to our new life in Him.

The phrase "dying to our old self" may sound quite dramatic or even symbolic, but in fact unless it happens effectually there is little hope for us to be able to embrace the new joyful and abundant life we have been promised.

But here is the good news: we have to really desire this with our whole being, but Christ's Spirit already living in us through our faith is the one who will carry out the transformation, only if we allow Him to.

The passage from the Book of Ezekiel this Sunday (Ezekiel 37:1-14) tells us about really dry bones in a valley that come back to life by the power of God's Spirit. Though this is clearly understood to be symbolic and referring to the people of Israel in exile, and how God has promised to restore their lives, the passage is also a bold statement about God's infinite power, surpassing our common understanding of things.

In his Letter to the Romans, chapter 8, verses 6-11, St. Paul makes a clear distinction and opposition between setting our minds on the flesh and setting them on the Spirit. The former equates death, whereas the latter means life and peace. It should be noted that the way St. Paul uses the term "flesh" here is not to refer to the body as something to be despised. The term is used by him to refer to those instincts and tendencies of our human nature that enslave us to sin and death.

Notice that he says to his readers "But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit." He does not mean his readers are no longer in the physical world—that would be illogical. What he does mean is that those who really follow Christ's Way have the power of God's Holy Spirit within them, already transforming their lives and giving them a foretaste of the true joys we have been promised in the fulfillment of our resurrected and glorified life in Him.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday brings us the narrative of Lazarus's death and resurrection after four days. This is an extremely rich narrative with a multitude of aspects that could be the subject of sermons or reflections. However today I would like to call our attention to a single phrase, "Unbind him, and let him go."

We know that it was the custom of the Jews to bind the corpses with linen stripes. The phrase may be simply taken at face value, as a command from Jesus to allow the resurrected Lazarus to have mobility and be set free. However, there might be a deeper meaning implied here. Lazarus had been bounded before his death by what our Collect this Sunday reminds us: the unruly wills and affections of sinners. His temporary physical death may have effected in him the death of his former old self, and now he needed to be unbounded to the new life given to him by Jesus Christ Himself.

May we be unbounded together with Lazarus.

Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Ezekiel 37:1-14 + Romans 8:6-11 + John 11:1-45
+ Psalm 130

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 22nd, 2026** **The Fifth 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

www.allsaintschurch.org

www.edsd.org