



"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 – MAY 17TH, 2026

IN THE COMFORT HE GIVES US, WE PRAY

We Are Not Left Comfortless

The week between Ascension Day and Pentecost has a distinctive spiritual character. The great celebration of Easter has not ended, and yet there is a quietness now in the Church's life. Christ has ascended; the Spirit has not yet come in fullness. The disciples stand in an in-between place, looking upward even as they are sent back into the world. That tension is captured beautifully in the Collect appointed for the Seventh Sunday of Easter.



It begins in triumph: Christ reigns in glory. Yet immediately it turns to a plea born of human vulnerability: "Do not leave us comfortless." The prayer understands something essential about Christian life. Faith does not remove uncertainty, fear, or suffering. Rather, it asks for God's presence within them.

That theme runs deeply through the Epistle from 1 Peter. Peter writes to Christians who are facing hardship and social pressure, and he tells them plainly: "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you." Suffering is not presented as proof that God has abandoned them. Instead, Peter says that in suffering they share in the life of Christ Himself.

This is important, because the Collect does not ask God to spare us from every trial. It asks that we not be left alone in them. Christian comfort is not avoidance; it is companionship. The promise of the Gospel is not that believers will never know anxiety or loss, but that Christ remains present and faithful through all of it.

Peter continues: "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God." Ascension reminds us that Jesus reigns as King, but the Church responds to that kingship not with triumphalism, but with humility and trust. The disciples after the Ascension are not powerful by worldly standards. They are waiting, praying, uncertain about what comes next. The Church in every age recognizes something of itself in that posture.

Perhaps the most tender line in the Epistle is also the one most closely connected to the Collect: "Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." Scripture here speaks honestly about human fear. Anxiety is not dismissed or shamed. Instead, believers are invited to entrust themselves to the care of God. The confidence of faith lies not in our own steadiness, but in the One who holds us.

Peter also urges vigilance: “Discipline yourselves; keep alert.” The season after the Ascension is not passive waiting. The disciples are not told to stand gazing into heaven forever. In the reading from Acts, they ask Jesus whether this is the moment when the kingdom will finally come in fullness. Jesus redirects them away from speculation and toward witness. Then, after He ascends, they return to Jerusalem and devote themselves to prayer together.

That small detail matters. They wait communally. The answer to uncertainty is not isolation, but prayer shared in community. The Church learns to wait together.

The Gospel from John deepens this assurance. Before His departure, Jesus prays for His disciples. Even as He leaves them, He does not abandon them. The Ascension is not the story of Christ disappearing, but of His entering more fully into the glory of the Father while still holding His people in love. The disciples remain under His care.

And over all these readings sounds the joy of Psalm 47: “God has gone up with a shout.” The psalm celebrates divine kingship and victory. Yet the other readings keep that triumph from becoming shallow or sentimental. Christ reigns but the Church still waits, still suffers, still hopes. Glory and vulnerability belong together in the Christian life.

That may be why this week in the Church year feels so recognizable. We too live in an in-between time. We do not yet see the fullness of God’s kingdom. We know anxiety, uncertainty, and weariness. Yet the Collect teaches us what to pray: not simply for escape, but for the sustaining presence of God: “Do not leave us comfortless.” And the witness of these readings is that God does not. Christ reigns. Christ prays for His people. The Spirit is coming. So the Church waits as the disciples did: together, prayerfully, humbly, and with hope.

Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Act 1:6-14 + 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 + John 17:1-11 + Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

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 **May 17th, 2026** **The Seventh Sunday of Easter**

10:00 AM Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our website at www.allsaintschurch.org

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

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5 to 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