



"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 – JULY 12TH, 2026

WE SHALL PRAY SO WE MAY KNOW

What We Ought to Do



The Collect appointed for this Sunday contains a prayer that is both humble and profoundly practical. We ask God to “mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them.”

Most of us recognize ourselves in those words. Knowing what to do is not always easy. We face decisions about our families, our work, our finances, our health, our communities, and our relationships. Even when the choice seems obvious, finding the courage, patience, or perseverance to act faithfully can be another matter altogether. The Collect wisely acknowledges that we need two gifts from God: wisdom to discern the way and grace to walk it.

St. Paul's words in Romans point us toward the source of both. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Those may be among the most liberating words in all of Scripture. Our lives with God do not begin with guilt or fear but with God's gracious act in Christ. We are not trying to earn God's acceptance through flawless living. Rather, because we belong to Christ, we are invited to live a new kind of life: one animated by the Holy Spirit.

Paul contrasts life "according to the flesh" with life "according to the Spirit." These words are sometimes misunderstood. Paul is not dismissing our physical bodies or the goodness of creation. Instead, he describes two fundamentally different ways of living. One is centered on the self, its fears, ambitions, resentments, and illusion of self-sufficiency. The other is centered on God, whose Spirit continually draws us toward love, hope, reconciliation, and life.

That contrast is remarkably relevant today. Every day we encounter voices competing for our attention. Some encourage anxiety, division, endless comparison, or the pursuit of success at any cost. Others invite us toward compassion, generosity, forgiveness, and trust. The Christian life is lived in the midst of these competing influences. Paul's encouragement is not that faithful people never struggle, but that God's own Spirit is already at work within them, patiently shaping hearts and minds after the pattern of Christ.

The other readings deepen this same promise. Isaiah compares God's word to rain and snow that water the earth. Just as the earth quietly produces seed for the sower and bread for the hungry, God's word accomplishes God's purposes, often in ways we cannot immediately see. The psalm celebrates creation overflowing with God's abundance: streams filled with water, fields clothed with grain, hills girded with joy, and valleys singing together. God's grace is not scarce. It is abundant, generous, and life-giving.

Jesus' familiar parable of the sower reminds us that the same life-giving word is scattered everywhere. The difference lies not in the generosity of the sower but in the condition of the soil. We are all, at different times, each type of soil Jesus describes. Sometimes our hearts are hardened by disappointment. Sometimes worries choke out hope. Sometimes enthusiasm fades when faith becomes costly. Yet the parable is ultimately a story of extravagant grace. The sower never stops sowing. God never tires of planting the seed of the kingdom in ordinary human lives.

Perhaps this is where all four readings come together. We pray to know what we ought to do. God answers not simply by handing us a list of instructions, but by giving us God's own Spirit, planting God's word within us, and nourishing us with grace as faithfully as rain waters the earth. Christian discipleship is less about striving to become someone else and more about allowing the Spirit to cultivate what God has already planted.

May we always be open to that Spirit, trusting that the God who sows so generously will also bring forth a harvest of faith, hope, and love in us.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isaiah 55:10-13 + Romans 8:1-11 + Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
+ Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-14

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 July 12th, 2026 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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