



"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 26TH, 2026

HIS LOVE AND GUIDANCE

Held Fast by the Love That Does Not Let Go

The Collect appointed for this Sunday asks for a grace that is both simple and demanding: that God, our ruler and guide, would help us "so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal." It is a prayer for perspective. We live amid the pressing concerns of each day: responsibilities, disappointments, hopes, anxieties, joys. Yet we are reminded that these passing realities are not the whole story. Beneath them, surrounding them, and drawing them toward their true end is the steadfast love of God.



That confidence reaches its fullest expression in this week's reading from Romans. St. Paul does not deny the reality of weakness; in fact, he begins there. "The Spirit helps us in our weakness," he writes, "for we do not know how to pray as we ought." There is something wonderfully liberating about that admission. We often imagine that faith requires certainty, eloquence, or spiritual strength. Paul suggests otherwise. There

are seasons when words fail us, when prayer feels dry or confused, when all we can bring to God is silence, longing, or tears. Yet even then we are not abandoned. The Holy Spirit prays within us "with sighs too deep for words." Before we can find the right words, God has already heard the deepest cry of our hearts.

That assurance shapes everything that follows. Paul's declaration that "all things work together for good for those who love God" is not a promise that every event is itself good, nor that suffering is somehow desirable. Rather, it is a proclamation that God's redeeming purpose is never defeated by the brokenness of the world. Even those experiences that seem meaningless or painful can, in God's hands, become part of the patient work of shaping us into the likeness of Christ. The God who protects those who trust in Him does not always shield us from hardship; more often, he accompanies us through it, bringing life where we could see only loss.

The other readings illuminate this same truth from different angles. Solomon, standing at the beginning of his reign, asks not for wealth or victory, but for "an understanding mind." He recognizes that wisdom itself is God's gift, not a human achievement. The psalmist delights in God's commandments because they give light and direction, even while lamenting that others ignore them. And in the Gospel, Jesus gathers together a series of brief parables about the kingdom of heaven: a tiny mustard seed becoming shelter for many, a little amount of yeast quietly transforming an entire batch of dough, a treasure worth surrendering everything to possess, a pearl beyond price, a net gathering fish of every kind. Again and again, the kingdom appears almost hidden, easy to overlook, yet infinitely valuable. God's work is often quieter than we expect, but no less powerful.

Perhaps that is what the Collect invites us to notice. We spend so much of our lives navigating the temporal: deadlines, appointments, changing circumstances, the steady passing of time. These things matter; they are the ordinary fabric of our vocation as disciples. Yet they are not ultimate. The eternal is already present, often in ways as small as a mustard seed or as hidden as yeast in dough. Every act of mercy, every faithful prayer, every choice for wisdom over self-interest, every quiet confidence that Christ is with us even when we cannot see the way ahead are signs of God's kingdom at work.

Paul's final words have comforted generations of Christians because they answer one of the deepest fears of the human heart: Can anything separate us from God's love? His answer is unequivocal. Not hardship or distress. Not persecution or danger. Not death or life. Not powers present or powers yet to come. Not anything in all creation. The foundation of our hope is not our ability to hold tightly to God, but God's unbreakable hold on us in Christ Jesus.

As we move through another week in the season after Pentecost, perhaps this is the perspective we most need. We pray for wisdom like Solomon's, delight in God's ways with the psalmist, seek the kingdom above all treasures with the disciples, and trust, even in weakness, that the Spirit is praying within us. We ask, with the Church, that God would guide us through the passing realities of this world without losing sight of the eternal life already begun in Christ.

For in the end, it is not our strength that carries us. It is the love of God from which nothing and no one can ever separate us.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 3:5-12 + Romans 8:26-39 + Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
+ Psalm 119:129-136

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 26th, 2026 The Ninth 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