



"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 – AUGUST 9TH, 2026

HEARING HIS VOICE

Thinking and Doing God's Saving Will



Almost everyone normally believes they are thinking and doing what is best for them. Very few people would consciously conceive a plan of action that would lead to self-destruction and death; and yet, in most cases, most of us inadvertently follow paths in our lives that end up making our lives less wholesome, and even miserable.

The greatest misconception that has pervaded our modern society (and had already pervaded most civilizations in the past, including that of Jesus' time) is that our self-centered ideas of self-satisfaction and self-sufficiency must be what determine our mindsets and actions in the world.

These egocentric conceptions (no matter how much we try to sugar-coat them by rationalization) eventually lead to greed, prejudice, exclusion of those who are "different", hatred, or even worse, total lack of love for our fellow human beings and the rest of creation.

We may become so accustomed to this mindset, which in most cases is subtly sanctioned by the influential representatives of society, that it is really hard to break these patterns by our own efforts, no matter how hard we try.

This is when the words in this Sunday's Collect become so relevant: "Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will..."

Notice the affirmation about our dependence on God for our very existence here. Once we become aware of this fact, our mindset starts to shift. Then follows the idea that it is through the spirit granted to us by God's grace that we can think and do what is right, and live according to God's will.

This is the humble and essential recognition that we depend on God's help to make things right for us. It will not be through our self-sufficient determination that our mindset and actions will be set right, but through God's saving help.

This does not imply that we are just passive agents in God's plan of restoration for His people. We are certainly free to decide whether we wish to cooperate with God's will or not. But we are also left to face the consequences of our free and responsible decisions.

It is hard to silence the noise that constantly surrounds us, the voices that repeat arguments and try to convince us that we are the masters of our lives and we do not need divine guidance and redemption of any kind. Sometimes we expect to find God's true voice in something that speaks louder than the voices that assail us, just as Elijah may have thought he would find God's presence in the roaring wind, an earthquake, or a fire, in the passage from I Kings. But Elijah was only able to hear God's true voice in the sound of sheer silence, and he heeded that voice.

It is only when we silence the inner noise of our minds that the outer useless chatter of this world has planted in them, that we can actually start to hear God's real intent for our lives and the lives of others.

As the psalmist states so beautifully in Psalm 85, "I will listen to what the Lord is saying, for He is speaking peace to His faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to Him."

In his Letter to the Romans, chapter 10, St. Paul reinterprets what prophets like Isaiah and Joel had stated about hearing God's word, heeding it, believing in Him, and being saved, referring to our faith in Christ, the awaited Messiah, in whom all is recapitulated and fulfilled. Paul boldly states, "because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

In the passage of Jesus walking on the stormy waters to help His disciples (Matthew 14:22-33) the disciples first believe Him to be a ghost, and even after His reassuring words, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid", Peter insists on hearing His voice commanding him to walk on the water to Him. Hearing His command Peter is able to walk on the water towards Jesus, but then he becomes afraid because of the high wind and the waves, and starts to sink.

But Jesus reaches out to him and saves him.

Yes, even when we are able to hear the divine voice and command distinctly and heed it, there may be times when we falter, not because we are faithless, but "of little faith". But our saving Lord will always reach out to us, because of His immeasurable love for us.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 13:9-18 + Romans 10:5-15 + Matthew 14:22-33
+ Psalm 85:8-13

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 August 9th, 2026 The Eleventh 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