

MARCH

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Friday, March 1, 2024

(Lec. 234)

- 1) Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a,
17b-28a
- 2) Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

FRIDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Is Jesus the cornerstone of our lives?

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. Have we built our house upon Jesus, which will last eternally, or on earthly pursuits such as wealth or pride? Let us not discover too late that our cornerstone crumbles when put to the test of the final judgment.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear the beginning of the story of Joseph, favorite son of the Israelite patriarch Jacob. Joseph's brothers, jealous of his favorite-son status, sell him into slavery. In the Gospel, after Jesus tells the parable of the tenants, the chief priests and Pharisees *were attempting to arrest [Jesus]* but didn't because they feared the crowds.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn now to our loving Father with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For members of the Church throughout the world, may the outpouring of the Holy Spirit sanctify each of us in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God grant them understanding hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are burdened by sin, may they find forgiveness and mercy in the arms of our loving Savior, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered in this holy place, may the Holy Spirit bestow upon us the gift of piety, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us in faith, may they find peace in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we humbly ask you to accept our prayers in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

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Saturday, March 2, 2024

(Lec. 235)

1) Micah 7:14-15, 18-20

2) Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

SATURDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: *Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.*

The Lenten season provides an opportunity to experience once again the abundant mercy of God through our self-denial and celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation. By telling the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus demonstrates the unconditional and abundant nature of God's mercy. It is this mercy that encourages us to confess our sins and seek reconciliation with the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Micah offers a prayer of praise for the greatness of God, and for his great mercy and faithful presence to his people. In the Gospel, Jesus responds to the complaints of the Pharisees regarding his welcoming and eating with sinners by telling the parable of the prodigal son.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Today's Scripture reminds us that God is faithful, kind, and merciful. Let us bring our needs before him with confidence and trust.

1) For all Christians as we continue our Lenten journey, may the Lord lead us to a deeper conversion from sin and help us experience more fully God's compassion and healing, let us pray to the Lord.

2) For leaders everywhere, may the Holy Spirit give them courage and wisdom in serving their people, let us pray to the Lord.

3) For communities and neighborhoods that face violence or poverty, may God restore peace and security to them, let us pray to the Lord.

4) For this faith community, may the Holy Spirit guide us in conforming our hearts and minds to the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.

5) For our beloved dead, may they come to dwell in the house of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of salvation, in your goodness you draw us to yourself. Please listen to the prayers we have made for the salvation of the world, we ask through Christ our Lord.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

(Lec. 29)

- 1) Exodus 20:1-17
or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
- 3) John 2:13-25

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF LENT**

FOCUS: Have zeal for the dwelling place of the Lord.

Jesus has such reverence for the temple, God's dwelling place, that he overturns tables and drives away those who are abusing its true purpose. This place here, where we are gathered and will receive Jesus in the Eucharist, is God's dwelling place as well. Let us allow Jesus to cleanse our hearts and our minds, that he might renew us as his dwelling place, his temple.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God delivers his commandments. Paul explains to the Corinthians that the challenge the Gospel poses to Jews and Gentiles is also the power and wisdom of God to those who receive it. In the Gospel, Jesus drives the money changers out of the temple. When questioned about this, Jesus says he would rebuild the temple in three days if it was destroyed. Later, his disciples understood this to be a prediction of his resurrection.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord's goodness, let us bring before him our prayers for the Church, the world, and ourselves.

- 1) For all the faithful, may the Holy Spirit continue sanctifying and teaching us in the ways of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God guide them in the ways of peace and prosperity for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are experiencing struggles or adversity, may God strengthen their faith and pour out upon them his consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may the grace of the Holy Spirit make us courageous witnesses to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died with the hope of the resurrection, may God reward them with eternal joy in his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Holy and eternal God, hear the prayers we have brought before you and answer them in accordance with your divine providence. Through Jesus Christ, we pray.

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Monday, March 4, 2024
(Lec. 237)

- 1) 2 Kings 5:1-15ab
- 2) Luke 4:24-30

MONDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Casimir)

FOCUS: We welcome God's unexpected mercy.

It is easy to become accustomed to the familiar and fear change. As followers of Jesus, however, we are called to expect the abundantly unexpected mercies of God and rejoice in them.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Gentile army commander Naaman is unexpectedly healed of leprosy by the Hebrew prophet Elisha, leading him to believe in the God of Israel. Jesus recalls that story, and Elijah's healing of a Gentile woman, to caution his audience about rejecting a prophet in their midst, but their response is indeed rejection as they try to kill him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We come together as children of God, and turn to him with our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) For the Church, may she be emboldened by God in spreading her message of salvation to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may God lead them in prudent and loving decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who grieve the loss of a loved one, may the Holy Spirit bring them comfort and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may Christ inspire us to generously share the gifts we have been given, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they reap the eternal rewards in heaven for having lived a faith-filled life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we entrust ourselves to you by living as faithful followers of your Son. We ask that you hear these prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, March 5, 2024
(Lec. 238)

- 1) Daniel 3:25, 34-43
- 2) Matthew 18:21-35

TUESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: We are called to forgive without limit, as God has forgiven us.

The king in the parable forgives the servant's entire debt. Our entire debt has been forgiven by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Yet if we withhold forgiveness from others, Jesus warns that God will withdraw his forgiveness from us. The kingdom of God belongs to those who forgive as generously as God has forgiven them.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Standing in the fire, Azariah calls on God to remember his covenant, to be received by God with a contrite heart, and for God to deliver them for his glory. Jesus tells Peter that he must forgive 77 times. He tells the parable of an unmerciful servant and warns that his Father will treat those who do not forgive the same way.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us call on God's mercy as we offer him our petitions.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may bring about the flourishing of vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and Church ministry in the coming years, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Lord may guide all nations in the ways of existing in peace with one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That Christ may bless and protect all Christians who are persecuted for their faith, strengthening them in their conviction, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Lord may soften our hearts toward anyone who has wronged us so that we might imitate God's forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may be welcomed into the peace and happiness of everlasting life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God, in your limitless mercy, hear the prayers of your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, March 6, 2024
(Lec. 239)

- 1) Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
- 2) Matthew 5:17-19

WEDNESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Witness to the faith in word and deed.

In today's first reading, Moses reminds the Israelites to pass on their faith to their children and their children's children. They do so by remembering the goodness of God and then observing the commandments in return. This passage is a good reminder for us because our witness to the faith can have a profound effect on our families, co-workers, and friends.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Moses encourages the Israelites to observe the commandments of God carefully. In doing so, they will give witness to other nations. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that he has come not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. Jesus stresses obedience as the mode of living within the kingdom of heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hearts full of gratitude, we offer these prayers to God our Father.

- 1) For the leaders of our Church, both lay and clerical, may God's Spirit be their guide in building unity within the body of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, may the Gospel of Jesus be preached to all with boldness and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alone or homebound, may the Lord fill them with his presence and comfort them with friendship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Lord's commandments shape our lives and his grace conform us ever more to his heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us in the light of faith, may they rest in peace in the fullness of God's grace and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, every good gift comes from you. We humbly ask you to look upon these prayers and grant them according to your holy will, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, March 7, 2024
(Lec. 240)

- 1) Jeremiah 7:23-28
- 2) Luke 11:14-23

THURSDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saints Perpetua and Felicity,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: *If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

As we continue our Lenten journey, our readings today emphasize the need to be open to the Lord. This season we work diligently to listen to the Lord, and to make a return to him when we have walked in ways other than those in which he has commanded us. We are given the gift of faith, making way for the Lord in our hearts, and giving us the grace to stand with him in his kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeremiah speaks for the Lord, telling the people to listen to the Lord, and saying that *faithfulness has disappeared*. In the Gospel, Jesus drives a demon out of a man who was mute. Once healed, the man can speak again. Some in the crowd question Jesus' power and where it comes from to do such things.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's care and concern for us, we raise our voices in prayer to him.

- 1) For the Church and her ministry to the poor and marginalized, may the Lord infuse her messengers with mercy and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold elected office, may the Lord strengthen their commitment to care for the most vulnerable, especially the elderly and the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from chronic medical conditions, may the Lord bring them comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may the power of God's grace bring peace and understanding to our every encounter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the Lord bring them to eternal peace in his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we bring our prayers before you with confidence that you will hear and answer them. Grant what we ask according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, March 8, 2024
(Lec. 241)
1) Hosea 14:2-10
2) Mark 12:28-34

FRIDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John of God,
Religious)

FOCUS: *Return, O Israel, to the Lord, your God.*

God's love is the focus of today's readings. The prophet Hosea describes how God loved the people of Israel and this gives us a template for knowing how to love others. This example of love illuminates the meaning of the greatest commandment. Loving God and loving others can bring about lives of reconciliation and peace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God calls the people of Israel to return to him. God's wrath has faded and he will welcome the Israelites back with comfort and healing. In the Gospel, a scribe questions Jesus and Jesus responds by giving his followers the greatest commandment.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Turning to God with humble hearts, we bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all who lead the Church, may God guide them and fortify them in their Gospel mission, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials and leaders, may God grant them the courage to lead with wisdom and prudence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all struggling with depression or anxiety, may the Lord pour his grace upon them and grant them healing and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may the manifestation of God's kingdom in our midst empower us in bearing good fruit for him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they soon be brought into the fullness of God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of healing and comfort, we ask that you receive our prayers with your abundant generosity and mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, March 9, 2024
(Lec. 242)

- 1) Hosea 6:1-6
- 2) Luke 18:9-14

SATURDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Frances of Rome,
Religious)

FOCUS: Humility is the necessary disposition for faith.

As God's children, we, as sinners, must humble ourselves before him who sent his Son to redeem all things. Those who are self-righteous do not have room in their hearts to receive the love and mercy that God pours out – the love and mercy of eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Hosea exhorts the people to *return to the Lord*, to come to know the Lord, and to live in his presence. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about a Pharisee and a tax collector. In it, the Pharisee has a disposition of righteousness in prayer while the tax collector humbly asks for God's mercy. Jesus says that the humble will be exalted while those who exalt themselves will be humbled.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We now turn to our God, who is the source of all grace, and present our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church during this Lenten season, may God continue to help us grow in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may God help them in fulfilling their roles with servants' hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For women in difficult pregnancies, may God provide them with the strength and support they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For we who worship and share community here, may the Holy Spirit help us recognize Christ in one another and in our neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, especially those who have no one else to pray for them, may they be welcomed into the kingdom of heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, you know our every need. Hear and answer the prayers we bring before you, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

(Lec. 32)

- 1) 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23
- 2) Ephesians 2:4-10
- 3) John 3:14-21

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT**

FOCUS: Offer gifts of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving out of love and gratitude to our merciful God.

We offer our humble gifts of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to God out of gratitude. We recognize that all is gift. God has poured out his grace upon us. We joyfully draw near to the giver of all good gifts in the spiritual practices we take up in this season.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading chronicles the fall of Jerusalem because of the people's unfaithfulness, and the fulfillment of the prophecies through Cyrus, king of Persia. In his Letter to the Ephesians, Paul speaks of the richness of God's mercy and *the immeasurable riches of his grace*. The Gospel tells of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus and the immense love God has for us.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord calls us to follow him as his friends and disciples. Let us offer the prayers of this community to him who knows what we need.

- 1) For the Church, may we be filled with God's love and may the guidance of the Holy Spirit be our strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they be given the grace to act in accordance with God's will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all oppressed by darkness or evil, may the light of Christ draw them to God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may we be strengthened by the immeasurable riches of God's grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they be embraced this day by the loving arms of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, receive and answer these prayers we offer you with hearts full of gratitude, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, March 11, 2024
(Lec. 244)

- 1) Isaiah 65:17-21
- 2) John 4:43-54

MONDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: *There shall always be rejoicing and happiness in what I create.*

As we enter the fourth week of Lent, our Scriptures provide encouragement to keep us focused. The official who sought healing for his son was desperate and came *to* Jesus; this life-giving encounter should serve as an example for us. Let us not stand on the sidelines during these next few weeks of Lent, but instead seek an encounter with our God, who is ever-merciful and patiently waiting for us to come to him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading the Lord speaks through Isaiah, saying he will create *new heavens and a new earth*, where there will *always be rejoicing and happiness*. In the Gospel, Jesus heals the son of a royal official without ever going to the man's home or seeing the child. The official's *whole household came to believe*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together let us raise our voices in prayer to our loving Father.

- 1) For all clergy, may the wisdom of the Holy Spirit be their guide as they continue Christ's work on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and local leaders, may God work in and through them in protecting the dignity and sanctity of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are experiencing grief, may the grace of the Holy Spirit offer them comfort and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us gathered here, may the disciplines of this Lenten season help us live our faith more fully, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in God's grace, may they rest in eternal peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: All powerful Father, hear our prayers and grant them according to your holy will. We offer them in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, March 12, 2024
(Lec. 245)

- 1) Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12
- 2) John 5:1-16

TUESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: God creates, sustains, and restores life.

In Ezekiel's vision of the new Israel, the temple will be the source of abundant life, restoring once arid land to fertility. Creatures and plants alike will flourish, providing sustenance and healing for the people. In the Gospel, it is Jesus' words rather than the waters of the pool that heal. Jesus is the source of new life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In a vision, Ezekiel sees water flowing from the temple to form a river where every sort of creature will live. The trees on its banks will provide food and medicine. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a man who had been ill for 38 years by telling him to *rise, take up [his] mat, and walk*. The Jews began to persecute Jesus for healing on the sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers to the Father, who provides for our needs.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may help all members of the Church grow in love of and fidelity to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may strengthen the efforts of world leaders to bring peace to their lands and prosperity to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit may find comfort in the shelter of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all in this community who have closed their hearts to God may be blessed with the certainty of God's love for them and seek the grace to reconcile, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may experience new life in the city of God with our loving Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, true source of every blessing, look with favor upon the prayers we offer today in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, March 13, 2024
(Lec. 246)

- 1) Isaiah 49:8-15
- 2) John 5:17-30

WEDNESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Jesus came to save us from our sins and to offer us a share in the eternal life of the Triune God.

Lent is a time of hope and renewal. Far from us being left to our own devices, God is at work through his Son, using our Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and sharing to bring about a change in our hearts. It is God's grace and the promise of his mercy that allow us to accept the offer of eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord says he will comfort his people and show mercy to the afflicted. Like the love of a mother for her child, God says he will never forget us. In the Gospel, in response to the question of the Jews regarding the sabbath, Jesus says that the work he does is the work entrusted to him by the Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to God, the source of all that is good, and present our prayers to him.

- 1) For all Christians, as we continue our Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, may we experience anew God's faithfulness and so come to share in the promise of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who are preparing to be baptized this Easter, may they have a deeper awareness of God's loving and transforming presence in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer trials of any kind, may Jesus sustain them and grant them hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Holy Spirit pour out upon us his steadfast love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and ever-loving God, hear and answer us as we lift these prayers to you. We ask through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, March 14, 2024
(Lec. 247)

- 1) Exodus 32:7-14
- 2) John 5:31-47

THURSDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: *These works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me.*

In the Gospel, Jesus asks the people how they can believe in him when they seek praise from each other but do not seek the praise that comes only from God. Perhaps this is a question for us today as well. Are our eyes fixed on Jesus? Or are we often too distracted by daily concerns to give God our full attention and praise?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God tells Moses that the people have broken their covenant with him, and have become *depraved* and *stiff-necked*. Moses implores God on their behalf, and God relents in the punishment he had threatened to inflict. In the Gospel, Jesus asks his audience to listen to his words, and reminds them that the Father has sent him to accomplish *these works*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: United as the body of Christ, we turn to our merciful Father with our prayers.

- 1) That God may send his Spirit of wisdom upon Pope Francis and all his Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the world may be united by Jesus, the One Bread come down from heaven to save us all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That Jesus, the Divine Physician, may shine his healing light on all who are burdened by any kind of difficulty, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Christ may have a place in the hearts and homes of all of us gathered here, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died in the light of faith may be judged mercifully and welcomed into the Lord's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, look with favor on your children and hear the prayers we offer this day, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, March 15, 2024

(Lec. 248)

- 1) Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22
- 2) John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

FRIDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: The Lord is with us.

As we continue our Lenten observance, our Gospel speaks of the growing threats facing Jesus. Under fire by his critics, he is careful about where he goes, and yet he remains faithful to the One who sent him. Let us remember that the Lord is with us no matter our circumstances; he is more powerful than any enemy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from the Book of Wisdom, the wicked reflect on their errant ways, not able to see the ways of God. In the Gospel, Jesus goes to Jerusalem to observe the Jewish feast of Tabernacles. There, he is confronted by the authorities who try to arrest him but are unsuccessful because his time had not yet come.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's power and protection, we bring our prayers before him with one voice.

- 1) For the Church and her work to build God's kingdom on earth, may the Spirit continue to guide her in fulfilling her mission, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold political office, may the Lord guide them in using their authority for good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer persecution of any kind, may the Lord console them in their turmoil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly as we continue to pray, fast, and give alms this Lenten season, may the Lord grant us perseverance for our journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may the Lord bring them to perpetual peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, you sent your Son to reveal your glory to us. Listen to our prayers today and answer them according to our need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, March 16, 2024
(Lec. 249)

- 1) Jeremiah 11:18-20
- 2) John 7:40-53

SATURDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: We pray humbly to see and believe in the works of God.

As with the people in the Scriptures today, it is easy to let doubt creep in rather than do the hard work of looking for God's truth in every instance. We can always turn to Jesus and ask him to show us the path of life and send his Spirit to help us discern the truth and act on it for the good of the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeremiah laments the people's rejection of him and God's message, and he relies on God's just judgment. The Gospel describes division in the crowd over Jesus' words, and the guards say: *Never before has anyone spoken like this man.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God who calls us to salvation and healing, let us offer our petitions this day.

- 1) For Church leaders, may God continue to guide them in leading the faithful to profess the truth of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political leaders, may the Holy Spirit inspire them in seeking and promoting peace in their countries and throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who feel estranged from God, may the Lord's love and mercy embrace them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may God grant us the faith and fortitude to depend on him in times of adversity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of Christ, may they soon rest in his eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of salvation, you call us back to you this Lent. In your healing and merciful love, grant these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

(Lec. 35)

- 1) Jeremiah 31:31-34
- 2) Hebrews 5:7-9
- 3) John 12:20-33

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

FOCUS: Choose the path of surrender in service to the Lord.

We want to serve and follow the Lord, but we also want to enjoy our lives and ensure that our children and grandchildren have a good life. In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to choose the Lord first, and the Father will honor whoever serves him. Choosing the path of surrender in service to him glorifies God and allows us to produce much fruit, including care for our own families.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah prophesies the Lord will one day establish a new covenant with his people whereby he will write his law *upon their hearts*. The author of Hebrews says that Jesus' *prayers and supplications* were heard because of his reverence. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that the time for him to fulfill his purpose is upon him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: United in spirit, let us bring before the Lord our prayers for the Church and for the world.

- 1) For bishops, priests, and all in religious life, may the Holy Spirit continue to bless them and their ministry with abundant spiritual fruits, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern nations, may the Lord guide their decisions on the path that leads to peace, justice, and the flourishing of their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of violence, may the Lord bring them healing and consolation, and render his justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered at this liturgy, may the grace of the Eucharist strengthen our resolve to be the body of Christ in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all our beloved dead, may our Savior draw them to himself and welcome them at the table of his heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, in your goodness hear our prayers and answer them in accordance with your holy will. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, March 18, 2024
(Lec. 251)

- 1) Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17,
19-30, 33-62
or 13:41c-62
- 2) John 8:1-11

MONDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Cyril of Jerusalem,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus is the source of mercy and forgiveness.

Finding fault in others, or even falsely accusing others, is often easier than acknowledging our own sin. Jesus does not throw stones at us, and tells us not to throw stones at others, or mock them for their sin. Rather, he calls us to take ownership of our own thoughts, feelings, and actions – turning to him who is the source of mercy and forgiveness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear of the *God-fearing woman, Susanna* who was wrongly condemned to death and the intervention of Daniel who saved her, serving as God's instrument of justice. In the Gospel, a woman caught in adultery is brought before Jesus to be condemned. Instead of condemning her, Jesus challenges everyone: *Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With earnest hope, we bring to God our prayers and petitions, entrusting them to his holy will.

- 1) For all who serve the Church, may God infuse them with joy and wisdom as they preach the word of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For policymakers, may God's guidance inspire in them a renewed commitment to the value of all human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live alone or experience loneliness or separation from loved ones, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the community gathered here, may we, nourished by the holy Eucharist, be strengthened in our efforts to lead others closer to Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died with hope in the promises of Christ, may God shed his mercy and peace upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we lift up our prayers and ask you to look favorably upon them, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, March 19, 2024

(Lec. 543)

- 1) 2 Samuel 7:4-5a,
12-14a, 16
- 2) Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22
- 3) Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a
or Luke 2:41-51a

**SAINT JOSEPH,
SPOUSE OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Joseph *was a righteous man.*

Like Abraham before him, Joseph is *a righteous man* who trusts in the Lord's promises. He knows that if Mary's pregnancy is discovered before they are living together, she will likely be stoned to death as an adulterer. Trusting the angel who tells him that the child is conceived by the Holy Spirit, Joseph takes Mary into his home, providing Jesus a place in the messianic lineage of David.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Through the prophet Nathan, God promises David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. Paul writes to the Romans that the promises God made to Abraham are guaranteed to all who have faith, as Abraham was made righteous through faith. In the Gospel, when Mary is found with child, Joseph wants to divorce her quietly, but he does as the Lord commands and takes her into his home.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's promises, let us offer our prayers to the Father.

- 1) That the Church may continue to grow in number and faith as she bears witness to God's kingdom here on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all government and civic leaders may be endowed with wisdom and prudence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That husbands and fathers may be blessed with the courage, righteousness, humility, and faith of Saint Joseph, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us gathered here may be emboldened by the Holy Spirit in following God's call for our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may soon come to live in God's kingdom forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, through baptism you have adopted us as your children. Hear our prayers and answer them through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

(Lec. 253)

- 1) Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95
- 2) John 8:31-42

WEDNESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: *If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples.*

As we move closer to Holy Week, we hear Jesus trying to reach people on a deeper level, often meeting resistance and refusal of the help he was offering. Let us not make the same mistake. Let us humbly ask Jesus how we can serve him better in order to attain our goal of being with him forever in heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego survive the raging fire as they refuse to bow to false gods. In the Gospel, Jesus tells many of those following him that he has come to free them from slavery to sin, but they do not understand. They remain ignorant to the real work he is doing on earth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's love for us, let us approach him with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) That all members of the Church may be given the gifts of charity and fortitude in spreading her message of salvation to those still in darkness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may be empowered by the Holy Spirit in serving their people as Christ came to serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all suffering from mental illness may feel God's healing love, and may they receive the support and care they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we in this faith community may grow closer to God every day through prayer and the sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may join the angels and saints in giving glory to God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, source of all good things, hear our petitions and grant us what we truly need. We ask all things through your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, March 21, 2024
(Lec. 254)

- 1) Genesis 17:3-9
- 2) John 8:51-59

THURSDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: The Lord remembers his covenant forever.

Fidelity is one of the hallmarks of the Christian life. Just as God is faithful to the covenant first made with Abraham and later restored in Christ Jesus, we, too, are called to be faithful to our baptismal relationship with the Lord. Lent gives us an opportunity to reflect on that fidelity – to look to the Lord for strength and the courage to serve him without ceasing.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recalls the covenant God made with Abraham. In the Gospel, Jesus reveals his divine identity to the people but is met with accusations of blasphemy and the threat of stoning.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as a community of faith, we bring our prayers to our merciful God.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may Christ grant us fortitude as we go forth, announcing the Gospel of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit be their guide in their efforts to promote peace and prosperity for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have strayed from God's covenant, may the Lord help them to know again his steadfast love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are sick in this community of faith, may they come to know the healing consolation of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, as you once heard the prayers of your Son, Jesus, hear now our prayers and petitions. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, March 22, 2024

(Lec. 255)

1) Jeremiah 20:10-13

2) John 10:31-42

FRIDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Jesus' good works show that he is the Son of God.

Although Jesus asks the Jewish authorities to believe his words because of the works they have seen him perform on behalf of the Father, they are not able to see Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises. Let us recommit to studying Scripture in order to hear Jesus' words more fully and be more attentive to God's power at work in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeremiah's friends have turned against him and seek to trap him, but he still trusts in the Lord to be his champion. In the Gospel, the authorities in Jerusalem are ready to stone Jesus for blasphemy. They try to arrest him, but he escapes across the Jordan.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us entrust our petitions to the Lord, who hears the cry of the poor.

1) For the Church, may Christ continue to bless her with all she needs to bring his love to the world, let us pray to the Lord.

2) For political leaders, may God fill them with his zeal in their efforts to protect the most vulnerable members of society, let us pray to the Lord.

3) For all who suffer at the hands of others, may the Lord grant them reprieve, and bring them justice, let us pray to the Lord.

4) For all of us gathered here, may our faith be strengthened by the good works God is performing here and now, let us pray to the Lord.

5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they soon rest in the perfect goodness of God's presence in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, you have made us your sons and daughters by virtue of our baptism. Hear our prayers and answer them in accordance with your holy will, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, March 23, 2024
(Lec. 256)

- 1) Ezekiel 37:21-28
- 2) John 11:45-56

SATURDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo,
Bishop)

FOCUS: *I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

The prophet Ezekiel brought a message of hope to the Israelites at a time when they desperately needed it – to be united as one nation and to live under a covenant of peace with God, who would dwell among them. Although waiting on God’s promises can be difficult because God’s ways are not our ways, we must never forget that he keeps his promises. Let us, then, persevere in hope and with a longing for the kingdom of heaven and eternal happiness with God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Ezekiel prophesies the restoration of Israel. He says a new covenant of peace will be made, and God will dwell with them forever. In the Gospel, many expect Jesus to enter the holy city of Jerusalem, but threats to his life force him to remain outside the city.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We now bring our prayers to the Lord, who safeguards us.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord bless her with an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of nations, may God envelop them in his care and allow peace to flourish throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle endlessly to find healing, may God have compassion on them and give them strength in their ordeal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this assembly preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation, may the grace of the Holy Spirit fill their lives with abundant blessings, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to enjoy eternal life in heaven and behold the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, hear and answer our prayers in the grace of your divine providence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2021

(Lec. 37)

- 1) Mark 11:1-10
or John 12:12-16

(Lec. 38)

- 1) Isaiah 50:4-7
- 2) Philippians 2:6-11
- 3) Mark 14:1–15:47
or 15:1-39

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

FOCUS: *Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

During his journey to Golgotha, Jesus goes from hailed hero to crucified criminal. He surrenders out of obedience to his Father and love for us. As followers of Jesus, we, too, can face loss and sacrifice. Jesus knows what it means to sacrifice out of love. We journey together through loss, never alone, but always united with Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Gospel for the procession, Jesus enters Jerusalem amid an enthusiastic crowd. In the first reading, Isaiah speaks for the Lord, despite opposition. In the second reading, Paul writes to the Philippians that Jesus emptied himself, *becoming obedient to the point of death*. Mark's Gospel tells the story of Jesus' passion and death.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, we share our needs with the Lord, who humbled himself to be one with us.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may sanctify the Church in her observances of this solemn week, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God's exaltation of the name of Jesus may bring people of all nations to their knees, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That God may not abandon the distressed, the dying, or those sentenced to death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Jesus may journey together with us through experiences of loss and sacrifice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may enter the heavenly Jerusalem, joining the angels and saints in giving glory to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear these prayers and petitions that we bring before you with humble hearts and answer them in accordance with your holy will. In Christ's name we pray.

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Monday, March 25, 2024
(Lec. 257)

MONDAY OF
HOLY WEEK

- 1) Isaiah 42:1-7
- 2) John 12:1-11

FOCUS: *Here is my servant whom I uphold ... he shall bring forth justice to the nations.*

In the Gospel, Mary, the sister of Lazarus, anoints the feet of Jesus with costly, perfumed oil. Judas is indignant, believing it a waste of money. John points out, however, that Judas did not make his comment based on any genuine feelings for the poor, but *because he was a thief*, and Jesus tells Judas to *leave her alone*. As followers of Jesus, we are called to refrain from rash judgment and self-interest, and trust the Lord enough to leave things in his hands. We can do this only if we remain close to Jesus, the Suffering Servant who continues to give himself entirely for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies of God's chosen servant, *my chosen one with whom I am pleased*. In the Gospel, Jesus is dining with Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Mary anoints Jesus' feet and Judas questions her actions.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Raising our voices with trust in our heavenly Father, we present our prayers for ourselves and the world.

- 1) For Church leaders and all who faithfully serve, may God bless them with strength as they lead the flock entrusted to them by God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may the Holy Spirit guide them in their efforts protecting the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with fear or depression, may God's never-ending love bring them healing and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may the graces of this sacrament inspire us as we go forth filled with the glory of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may they experience the freedom of God's mercy in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you have lovingly bestowed on us your gifts of peace, hope, and joy. Hear the prayers we present today through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, March 26, 2024
(Lec. 258)

TUESDAY OF
HOLY WEEK

- 1) Isaiah 49:1-6
- 2) John 13:21-33, 36-38

FOCUS: Through the passion of Christ, God's people are raised up and reconciled with the Father.

During Holy Week, we can sometimes lose sight of what is on the other side of the crucifixion. We journey deeply into the passion of the Lord, why? Because restoration and a gathering of the people to God is at hand. Through the passion of Christ, the people of God are raised up and reconciled with the Father.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah prophesies the Lord's servant coming to bring a new birth and restoration to the people of Israel. In the Gospel, Jesus reclined at table *deeply troubled*, as he predicted that Judas was about to betray him and Peter would deny him three times.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We bring to the Lord our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For Pope Francis, the Vicar of Christ on earth, may God continue to bless him and sanctify him in his ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national leaders, may the Lord show them the path to promoting the common good for all persons, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all with chronic illnesses, may they be upheld and strengthened through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the people of this faith community, may God's providential love for us encourage and sustain us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God grant them his peace in his glorious kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we bring to you our prayers, entrusting them to your holy will, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, March 27, 2024
(Lec. 259)

WEDNESDAY OF
HOLY WEEK

- 1) Isaiah 50:4-9a
- 2) Matthew 26:14-25

FOCUS: Through his passion and death, Jesus saves the world.

Jesus does not dissuade Judas from betraying him. He knows that the course has been set; he is committed to doing his Father's will. In these final Gospel passages before Jesus' death, we see the depth of his human nature. Jesus brings perfect goodness into the physical and spiritual pain he experiences, thereby securing our salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah prophesies the Suffering Servant will willingly undergo death, trusting always in the Lord. The Gospel recalls Jesus' final meal with his disciples and how Judas betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Remembering God's great mercy and love, we entrust our prayers to him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Lord help us die to ourselves and to seek first the good of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in our world, may Christ's victory over sin and death transform and heal our broken world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, may Christ who knew pain and suffering in his own life fill them with healing and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are preparing to be received in the Church this Easter Vigil, may they be filled with joy and the knowledge of God's love for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glorious resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, in the mystery of your Son's cross and resurrection you reveal to us your great mercy and love. Please hear and answer the prayers we offer this day, through Christ our Lord.

Thursday, March 28, 2024

(Lec. 39)

- 1) Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
- 2) 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- 3) John 13:1-15

THURSDAY OF
HOLY WEEK
(Mass of the
Lord's Supper)

FOCUS: Jesus offers himself as the new Paschal Lamb, for the life of the world.

Jesus commands his followers to remember him in the breaking of the bread. He is the Paschal Lamb whose blood is poured out for the sake of the world. When we remember Jesus' salvific actions at the Eucharistic table, we give thanks to him and to the Father who sent him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord gives Moses and Aaron instructions for the celebration of the Passover of the Lord. Saint Paul teaches that to eat the bread and drink the cup is to proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes. By washing the disciples' feet in the Gospel, Jesus offers them a model to follow, *so that as [he] has done for [them], [they] should also do.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we give thanks to God for the gift of the Eucharist, let us now offer him our prayers.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Lord continue to conform them ever more to his heart in humble service of love for his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For a greater respect for life throughout the world, from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all whose lives have been ravaged by religious persecution or violence, may the peace of Christ uplift and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may the Holy Spirit help us to always be a Eucharistic people who share God's gift of life with the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may the mercy of our loving God usher them into the fullness of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and merciful God, please accept, bless, and answer the prayers we have made through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, March 29, 2024

(Lec. 40)

- 1) Isaiah 52:13–53:12
- 2) Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
- 3) John 18:1–19:42

FRIDAY OF
THE PASSION
OF THE LORD
(GOOD FRIDAY)

FOCUS: *It was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured.*

On Good Friday, we come face to face with the darkness of sin, and the suffering that Jesus endured for our sake. Although we wait at the foot of the cross on this solemn day, we know that Jesus transforms the cross into the means of our salvation by his suffering and death. Let us thank God for his mercy and for the depth of his love for us – by Jesus' death on the cross he frees us from sin and death.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah prophesies the suffering of the Lord's servant, saying, *he was spurned and avoided by people, a man of suffering ...yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured.* The second reading says that Christ *became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.* The Gospel is the passion according to Saint John.

THE SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS

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Saturday, March 30, 2024

(Lec. 41)

- 1) Genesis 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a
- 2) Genesis 22:1-18 or 22:1-2,9a, 10-13, 15-18
- 3) Exodus 14:15—15:1
- 4) Isaiah 54:5-14
- 5) Isaiah 55:1-11
- 6) Baruch 3:9-15, 32—4:4
- 7) Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28

**HOLY SATURDAY
EASTER VIGIL**

New Testament Readings

- 8) Romans 6:3-11
- 9) Mark 16:1-7

FOCUS: *He has been raised; he is not here.*

These sacred and solemn three days culminate in the Resurrection. Our hope comes from the fact that Jesus broke the prison bars of death and was raised from the dead. There is always hope. There is always mercy for the sinner. Because of that, nothing can ever fully extinguish our joy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The readings for this most sacred night reflect God's work throughout history. In Genesis and Exodus, God creates everything that is, making man and woman in his likeness; he makes a promise to Abraham and his descendants; and frees the Israelites from slavery. The prophets speak of God's love and relationship to his people, his invitation to turn to him in all things, and his promise of salvation.

The Epistle reminds us of the new life in Christ we receive upon our baptism. In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene and the other women came to the tomb and there they saw a young man clothed in a white robe who said, *You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We come together as God's people, bringing our needs before him.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world as we celebrate Christ's resurrection, may the Lord fill us with a renewed zeal for sharing the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For nonbelievers throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit enkindle in them a fire of love for the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alone or away from family and friends during this Easter season, may the love and compassion of our Triune God bring them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are entering the Church on this holy night, may God, and the prayers of this community, strengthen them on their journey of faith, let us pray to the Lord.

5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they live eternally with the risen Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, we ask that you hear and pay heed to these prayers we offer, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

(Lec. 42)

- 1) Acts 10:34a, 37-43
- 2) Colossians 3:1-4
or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
- 3) John 20:1-9
or Mark 16:1-7 (Lec. 41)

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

FOCUS: *Yes, Christ my hope is arisen; to Galilee he goes before you.*

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Not even death could keep him from us. So mighty is his love that he transformed the evil of the cross into a blessing through which he can eternally unite us to God. He is here. He is risen, alleluia!

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter tells the story of Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection. In the second reading, Paul tells the Colossians that since they were raised with Christ, they must seek what is above. In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene discovers the empty tomb and runs to tell Simon Peter and *the other disciple whom Jesus loved*. The other disciple arrived at the tomb first; *he saw and believed*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord has promised to hear the prayers of the faithful. In faith we lift our hearts and intentions to him.

- 1) For the Church in this season of joy, may the Holy Spirit empower us to share the Good News with all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who serve in the judicial system and in law enforcement, may the Lord guide them in the ways of justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who do not yet believe or understand, may the light of the risen Christ draw them to faith and truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we be drawn more deeply into personal relationship with Christ through his loving power, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, may they rest in eternal peace in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of power and might, hear these prayers we offer you today, through the risen Christ, our Lord.