

APRIL

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**YEAR A
WEEKDAYS II**

Wednesday, April 1, 2020
(Lec. 253)

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

WEDNESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: God sets us free to love and live in him.

The three men in today's reading demonstrate a deep and abiding faith. Their witness demonstrates a profound freedom to love God fully. The source of this freedom is God himself. May our faith always grant us the courage to follow their example and remain true to our beliefs.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to worship a false god and are thrown into the fiery furnace. God saves them, and King Nebuchadnezzar praises their God. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the Jews who believe in him to remain in his word so they will know the truth and be set free.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord hears the cries of his people. Let us now bring our prayers and petitions before him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Lord make us worthy of his call in our lives to serve him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all public officials, may God increase their conviction for upholding the dignity of every human person, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are in prison, may the Lord lead them to a freedom found in faithfulness and discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the grace of God free us in pursuing his work and his will above all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died this day, may the Lord welcome them into his eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, receive these prayers that we bring to you in the name of Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, April 2, 2020
(Lec. 254)

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

THURSDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Francis of Paola,
Hermit)

FOCUS: We are heirs to the promises of God.

God fulfilled his covenantal promise to give Abraham an heir and descendants, even in his old age. Abraham's fatherhood, physical and spiritual, and his faith, are at the foundation of our salvation history. His faithfulness to the covenant opens the door for our faithfulness: For as descendants of Abraham, we, too, are heirs to the promises of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God establishes a covenant with Abraham promising him and his descendants that he *will be their God*. For their part, Abraham and his descendants must remain faithful to the covenant. In the Gospel, the Jews refuse to believe Jesus' claims to intimacy with God, and primacy over their father Abraham.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's providence as did Abraham, our father in faith, we offer our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) That Christ may continue to strengthen the faith of Church leaders in their work of witnessing to the Gospel this Lent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all who are elected to lead nations and peoples may be guided by the just hand of God in all their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the Holy Spirit may give comfort to those who struggle with chronic illness or pain, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our Lenten practices may be inspired by Jesus' own prayer and fasting, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That God may bless our faithful departed and grant them eternal rest with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of Covenants old and new, hear our prayer and grant all we need, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, April 3, 2020
(Lec. 255)

- 1) Jeremiah 20:10-13
- 2) John 10:31-42

FRIDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Persevere in the Lord despite hardship.

At times, we may encounter negative reactions to sharing God's word or doing good works in the name of the Lord. We can look to the example of Jeremiah, who demonstrates trust in the Lord, and Jesus himself, who never ceases speaking the truth even in the face of persecution. With God's grace, we, too, can persevere in the Lord despite hardship.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

After being persecuted for his prophecies, Jeremiah begins to despair, saying that he has lost friends. Still, he trusts the Lord. In the Gospel, some Jews threaten to stone Jesus for blasphemy. Jesus encourages them to at least believe in his good works. He returns *to the place where John first baptized*, and in that place many come to believe.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord of hosts, let us gather our needs and petitions and offer them to him.

- 1) For all ministers of the Church, may the Lord bless them in their demonstration of Christ's love through good works, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all government leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in their work, and encourage them in policies that recognize the dignity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle to meet their daily needs, may God strengthen them with a spirit of fortitude and perseverance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may Christ enter our hearts more deeply as we prepare to enter Holy Week, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may the Lord grant them eternal rest in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you are the source of all that is good. With confidence, we ask you to look favorably on the prayers we bring to you in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Saturday, April 4, 2020
(Lec. 256)

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

SATURDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem
Saint Isidore,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus gathers together all the children of God.

The Lord tells the prophet Ezekiel that the people of Israel will be one nation, united under one shepherd. We know, now, that God's plan for unity with him includes not just the Israelites, but all people and nations. Through the Incarnation and the Paschal mystery, Jesus gathers together all the children of God, and we are all called into his kingdom. May we strive to live in accord with this call.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ezekiel prophesies regarding God's covenant with the Israelites. They will not remain a divided nation, for they are God's chosen people, and his *dwelling shall be with them*. In the Gospel, the chief priests and Pharisees worry over what to do about Jesus, and one of them, Caiphas, prophesies that Jesus *was going to die for the nation*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As sons and daughters of God, we offer him our prayers this day.

- 1) For the Church, may God use this season of Lent to purify and unify her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold positions of civic authority, may God inspire their hearts toward generosity and goodwill on behalf of the underserved, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who carry heavy burdens, may the easy yoke of Christ help to lighten their loads, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community who grieve the loss of a loved one, may God's peace be with them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died or will die today, may the Lord guide them into eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we ask that you receive our prayers and answer them according to your perfect will, through Christ our Lord.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020

(Lec. 37)

Procession with the Palms

- 1) Matthew 21:1-11

(Lec. 38)

Mass Readings

- 1) Isaiah 50:4-7
- 2) Philippians 2:6-11
- 3) Matthew 26:14–27:66
or 27:11-54

**PALM SUNDAY
OF THE PASSION
OF THE LORD**

FOCUS: We recall and commemorate the events of our salvation as we begin Holy Week.

As we remember the suffering and death of Jesus, we are drawn more deeply into the mystery of God's steadfast love for all humanity: God so loved the world that he sent his only Son that all may be saved.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Matthew writes of Jesus' celebrated entry into Jerusalem, where some of *the very large crowd ... cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road*. Isaiah prophesies of one who will *speak to the weary a word that will rouse them*. Paul writes to the Philippians about the total self-giving of Christ and his exaltation by the Father. In the Gospel, Matthew gives his account of the last hours of Jesus, including their Passover meal, his betrayal, and his passion, death, and burial.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence, let us bring our needs and petitions to the Father.

- 1) For the Church, as we begin our solemn remembrance of the events of our salvation, may God grant us a spirit of humility and devotion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the repentance and conversion of all hearts that have turned away from the Lord, and for the salvation of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with their faith, by God's grace may they be renewed in faith and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who will be reborn in the waters of baptism this coming Easter, may Christ's renewing power change their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they come to share in the fullness of eternal life in the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, as we recall and give thanks for the Paschal mystery, we ask you to hear the prayers we ask today, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 6, 2020
(Lec. 257)

MONDAY OF
HOLY WEEK

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

FOCUS: When we serve others, we live out Jesus' command to love one another.

Mary's ministering to Jesus is a participation in his passion and death. In her anointing, she foreshadows the burial to come. Her faith is a testimony for us all as she lives out the command to serve and love one another as Jesus loved and served his disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies of God's servant who *shall bring forth justice to the nations*. In the Gospel, Mary anoints Jesus' feet and Judas questions why the *costly perfumed oil* was not sold and the money given to the poor.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers to the Lord, who journeys with us and knows the needs of our hearts.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all clergy, may God give them courage in their vocation and strength in leading our Church in prayer during this Holy Week, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may God give them wisdom in making decisions that reflect the goodness of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle to see goodness or beauty in their lives, may God open their eyes to his generous work all around them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may God grant us purity of heart and clarity of vision in seeing clearly the redemption won for us through the Paschal mystery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be anointed by Christ as he welcomes them into his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Father, we ask that you generously respond to these, our needs and intentions, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, April 7, 2020
(Lec. 258)

TUESDAY OF
HOLY WEEK

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

FOCUS: Jesus enters humanity to save us.

Jesus brings perfect goodness into our broken world. God promises to be with us – to transform our suffering with his love. Jesus fulfills that promise in his life, suffering, and death, saving us by entering into our humanity.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah describes God's intimate care and help at every moment of the servant's life, a servant who will be *a light to the nations, that [the Lord's] salvation may reach to the ends of the earth*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that one of them will betray him. Peter asks why they cannot follow Jesus, saying: *I will lay down my life for you*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the God who walks with us always, we bring our needs to our Lord and Savior.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may Christ strengthen us as we share the good news of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders and those who carry responsibility for the welfare of others, may Jesus guide them in the ways of servant leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are struggling or suffering, may God's love and presence with them bring consolation and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those gathered here, may God open our hearts more fully and increase our faith in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the loving presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of love and tenderness, we know that you carry us in our struggles. Hear our prayers today and give us all we need to do your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 8, 2020
(Lec. 259)

WEDNESDAY OF
HOLY WEEK

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

FOCUS: Through repentance and reconciliation, we are offered the life of the Kingdom.

Lent comes to a close today and we prepare for the Blessed *Triduum* – these “three days” of liturgically unfolding the Paschal mystery of Christ, leading to the Mass of the Resurrection at the Easter Vigil. In our readings today, we see Judas agree to turn Jesus over to the chief priests for 30 pieces of silver. We acknowledge that our sinfulness betrays Jesus as well, and that through repentance and reconciliation we are offered the life of the Kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies about the one who will have a *well-trained tongue* from God; who will *speak to the weary a word that will rouse them*; and who will not give in to those who beat him. In Matthew’s Gospel, the disciples follow Jesus’ command to prepare the Passover meal. As he shares the evening meal with them, he announces that one of them will betray him, and confirms it is Judas when Judas asks if it is he.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we remember the passion of Christ during this Holy Week, we turn to the Father to present our prayers to him.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may God continue to fill his heart with love and his words with wisdom as he leads the Church through challenging times, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected leaders, may the passion of Christ inspire them in making good choices for those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live with painful illnesses, may they experience God’s comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here today, may we, with the help of God’s grace, continue to grow in faith and unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rejoice in the salvation earned for us by the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, as our hearts mourn the pain and suffering of Jesus, we trust that you will hear our prayers. We offer them in the name of your Son, Jesus, our Lord.

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Thursday, April 9, 2020
(Lec. 39)

**THURSDAY OF
HOLY WEEK
(HOLY THURSDAY)**

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

FOCUS: God continues to make a covenant of love and fidelity with his people.

Today, as we begin the solemn *Triduum*, we hear about the covenants that God has made with his people – first, with the people of Israel on the night of the Passover, and during the Last Supper, a covenant with the people who follow Jesus. Jesus is the Passover Lamb, innocent and laying his life down to establish God’s new covenant.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord gives instructions to Moses and Aaron as to how to prepare their households for his Passover: The night where he will *go through Egypt, striking down every firstborn of the land, both man and beast, and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt*. Paul writes to the Corinthians of Jesus’ giving of his body and blood as the new covenant, and of his command: *Do this in remembrance of me*. In the Gospel, Jesus washes his Apostles’ feet and says, *I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Tonight, as we begin our three-day celebration of our redemption, we approach our saving God with the needs of our world.

- 1) For all priests, may God continue to purify and sanctify them in their holy orders, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For nations and peoples torn by conflict, may the Lord grant them his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all people who are oppressed, may they receive the grace of perseverance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the Lord’s abundant blessing upon this faith community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in the faith, may God bring them to himself for a life of eternal joy and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you always have at heart the salvation of your people. Hear our prayers and the needs they represent and answer them as you will, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, April 10, 2020
(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: God gives us life through Jesus' death and in the sacraments.

Today as we hear the passion narrative, venerate the cross, and receive Communion, we remember how much God loves us. He loves us enough to suffer and die, to transform the cross into the tree of life, and to abide with us in the sacraments.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading is a prophecy from Isaiah which speaks of the suffering servant. In the Letter to the Hebrews, the author assures his community that Jesus is a *high priest who is [able] to sympathize with our weaknesses ... yet without sin*. In the Gospel, John narrates the final hours of Jesus' life, beginning with Judas' betrayal of him and ending with his burial.

THE SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS

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Saturday, April 11, 2020
(Lec. 41)

**HOLY SATURDAY
EASTER VIGIL**

- 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

New Testament Readings

- 8) Romans 6:3-11
- 9) Matthew 28:1-10

FOCUS: In his great love for us, God became human and died to save us from death. Through him, we will enjoy fullness of life with him forever.

From the beginning of time, God revealed his love for us. Though humankind turned away again and again through the ages, God repeatedly and faithfully offered his love and protection, finally sending his Son who died to save us. Nothing can separate us from the love of God, for Christ has even conquered death.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God is the source of all light and life and every good thing. Let us turn to him and offer our prayers.

- 1) For Pope Francis, all bishops, clergy, and leaders of the Church, may God's wisdom, compassion and mercy guide them as they share the Good News of salvation with all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civic authorities, may their decisions and actions be motivated by God's plan for peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who feel lost, abandoned, excluded, or rejected, may God's love and mercy present in his Church lead them home to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those welcomed and initiated into the Body of Christ tonight, may God's overwhelming love affirm their gifts and inspire them to share the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in Christ, may they know the fullness of joy in sharing the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord of eternal life, you conquered death so all may have life with you. Hear the prayers of your people and answer them according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020

(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
Matthew 28:1-10 (Lec. 41)

**EASTER SUNDAY
OF THE RESURRECTION
OF THE LORD
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: We demonstrate our belief in the empty tomb by the way we live our faith.

Peter and the beloved disciple rush to the tomb and believe. We rush toward many things in our busy lives – does our rushing around include paying attention to how God is working in our lives, and speaking to us? We show we believe the tomb is empty by the way we live our faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Peter speaks to his listeners about *what has happened all over Judea* – the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Paul tells the Colossians they have been raised with Jesus and therefore need to seek *what is above*. In the Gospel, Mary of Magdala brings the news of the empty tomb to Simon Peter and *the other disciple whom Jesus loved*. Peter and the beloved disciple rush to the tomb.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we give thanks for the risen Christ living among us, we petition the Father to hear our prayers.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they be fortified by the risen Lord's word working in them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected leaders, may God's wisdom guide them in their work to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those afflicted with pain or sorrow, may Jesus, the Divine Physician, console and comfort them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who gather here today, may the Holy Spirit continue to increase in us the virtues of faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have fallen asleep in the Peace of Christ, may they be embraced by the risen Lord this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and merciful God, who raised your Son to new life, we ask that you hear the prayers we offer, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 13, 2020
(Lec. 261)

- 1) Acts 2:14, 22-33
- 2) Matthew 28:8-15

MONDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Along with the earliest Christians, we are witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are witnesses in the same way as the first disciples. We have heard the good news of the resurrection of Christ and have encountered him in Word and sacrament. Our mission, then, is to take this Good News and proclaim it to others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter, standing with the Eleven on Pentecost, proclaims the good news that God has raised Jesus from the dead, and that the Holy Spirit has been poured forth as promised. In the Gospel, *Mary Magdalene and the other Mary* hurry from the empty tomb and encounter the risen Christ. Meanwhile, soldiers are bribed to lie about the body of Christ being stolen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In faith and hope in the good news of Christ's resurrection, let us turn to God as we give voice to our prayers.

- 1) For the Church of Christ, may the power of the Holy Spirit work through her in proclaiming the Good News and the mercy of God in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For Christians throughout the world persecuted for their faith, may God uphold and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poor and vulnerable in the world, may God lift them to lives free from suffering and fear, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Holy Spirit grant us grace in our lives and joy in our mission of proclaiming the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be united with the saints in heaven giving glory to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, confident in your mercy and filled with faith and hope in the promise of Easter joy, we ask that you hear our prayers, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 14, 2020
(Lec. 262)

- 1) Acts 2:36-41
- 2) John 20:11-18

TUESDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *Repent and be baptized, every one of you.*

Mary Magdalene recognizes the Lord when he calls her *Mary!* Likewise, God has called us each by name at our baptism, and he asks that we go out as his disciples to be his hands and feet in the world. When we take time for the Lord, and nourish our relationship with him, we are better equipped as his disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter preaches on the day of Pentecost, exhorting listeners to *repent and be baptized*. In the Gospel from John, Mary Magdalene meets the risen Lord and announces the encounter to the disciples.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence that God is always with us, let us offer him our prayers.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the risen Lord inspire our witness to the Gospel each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may God guide them in working together to address the needs of the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are discouraged by illness, may God bring them full healing of mind and body, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists and those who minister to this faith community in the liturgy, may God bless their efforts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom by the communion of saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we entrust our prayers to you in the holy name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, April 15, 2020
(Lec. 263)

- 1) Acts 3:1-10
- 2) Luke 24:13-35

WEDNESDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: It takes faith to see what our eyes cannot perceive.

In our Scriptures today, recognition is accompanied by wonder. The people in Acts are amazed at the healing of the beggar. The disciples' eyes are opened to recognize Jesus by his breaking of bread. Looking back, they identify a burning in their hearts while he was speaking to them. It takes faith to see what our eyes cannot perceive.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the name of Jesus, Peter and John heal a man who has been crippled since birth. He enters the Temple with them, praising God, and those who recognize him are amazed. In the Gospel, two disciples encounter the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus. He opens the Scriptures to them, but they do not recognize him until he breaks the bread.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hope in the Resurrection, we offer our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) For leaders of the Church, may God's wisdom flow in and through them in their witness to God's saving love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For areas of the world afflicted by violence, may God's hand raise up leaders who offer peaceful solutions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families facing conflict, may the Holy Spirit lead them in embracing understanding and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we receive eyes of faith to recognize the face of Christ in others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died with Christ, may they rise with him to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we confidently bring all our needs to you in love and hope. We ask that you answer them according to your will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, April 16, 2020
(Lec. 264)

- 1) Acts 3:11-26
- 2) Luke 24:35-48

THURSDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise.

In our readings today, Peter is surprised that a Jewish audience does not recognize Jesus as the fulfillment of the Scriptures, and Jesus questions why the disciples should be surprised to see him. We see that even those who are called and chosen sometimes need help to see and understand with the eyes of faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Peter admonishes the crowd for being amazed at the healing of a man who was crippled. He reminds them how Jesus fulfilled the words of the prophets. In the Gospel, the resurrected Jesus appears to the disciples, saying, *Peace be with you*. Jesus also speaks of his fulfillment of the words of the prophets.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: One in faith, united in baptism, we offer our needs and the needs of the world to God, our Father.

- 1) For the Catholic Church throughout the world, may God guide and encourage all believers in their faith and reliance on Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of all nations, may God grant them wisdom and strength in building peaceful communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are grieving the loss of a loved one during this Easter season, may God provide comfort through the hope of the Resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in this faith community who are sick in mind or in body, may God give them courage as they face the difficulties of treatment and recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may God grant them rest and eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we thank you for humbly hearing our prayers. Accept our petitions in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, April 17, 2020
(Lec. 265)

- 1) Acts 4:1-12
- 2) John 21:1-14

FRIDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, we are saved.

God's revelation is a powerful thing, guiding us even when we are unsure of its presence. In the Gospel, Jesus reveals himself to the disciples through the sign of a multitude of fish, and in sharing breakfast with them. It is this same Jesus, the Nazorean, who is present with us today in the Eucharist. By him we are saved, and in him we have life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter and John are interrogated by leaders who question how they have performed miracles. Peter proclaims that it is through Jesus, who was rejected and has become the cornerstone. In the Gospel, Jesus appears to his disciples, and is recognized by them through the large catch of fish of which he spoke, and in the breaking of the bread.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as one people, we place our needs and desires before God our Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis in his role holding the Chair of Peter, may Jesus' strength and power continue to flow through him in his ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those appointed to civic authority, may God give them wisdom in working with humility and steadfastness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from disabilities, may God's grace shine through to them abundantly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us on our Easter journey, may God's revelation of life conquering death continue to help us grow in faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful who have died, may they praise God in the company of the angels in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and ever-powerful God, you showed us the way of salvation through your holy Son. Hear and answer the prayers we offer today, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, April 18, 2020
(Lec. 266)

- 1) Acts 4:13-21
- 2) Mark 16:9-15

SATURDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The risen Christ appeared to his disciples and is present among us today.

After a period of disbelief, the disciples encounter the risen Christ, and he sends them out to *proclaim the Gospel to every creature*. We, too, know and encounter the risen Christ in the Scriptures and sacraments, and within and among us through the power of the Holy Spirit. As his earliest disciples were charged to do, so are we: Let us *go and announce the Gospel of the Lord*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Despite being threatened by the leaders, elders, and scribes, Peter and John maintain that *it is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard*. In the Gospel, the risen Christ appears to Mary Magdalene, and then two other of his companions. He then appears to the Eleven, and rebukes their unbelief, then instructs them to preach the Gospel to the world.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Like the disciples, we are called to spread the Good News of Jesus. Let us now offer our prayers of petition to the Father.

- 1) For the Church, called by Christ to proclaim the Good News to all creation, may she bear abundant fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may God have mercy on those who do not know him and bring them out of darkness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those unjustly persecuted, may God be their strength in persevering in their time of trials, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith, may the Holy Spirit guide us in our witness to the faith, inspired by the witness of the disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the deceased, may they come to share in the resurrection through God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear the prayers we present to you today. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020

(Lec. 43)

- 1) Acts 2:42-47
- 2) 1 Peter 1:3-9
- 3) John 20:19-31

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER
or DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

FOCUS: We are reconciled to God, in his Divine Mercy, through his Son.

The Church continues to celebrate and give thanks for the mystery of the Resurrection. God has anointed his only Son as our Savior and Redeemer. So with hearts full of hope, joy, and faith, let us be reconciled to God in his Divine Mercy and share that mercy with the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Luke describes the early Christian community, as *they devoted themselves to prayer, the communal life ... [and] ... the breaking of bread*. Peter's Letter stresses the *living hope* that believers now have *through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*. In John's Gospel, the resurrected Jesus appears to his disciples, saying, *Peace be with you* and showing them his wounds. He breathes on them, and says, *receive the Holy Spirit* and grants them the authority to forgive sins. Later, he convinces Thomas of the truth of the Resurrection.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers before our merciful and loving Lord.

- 1) For the Church, that as the body of the risen Christ here on earth, God's Holy Spirit may guide us in proclaiming the truth and hope of the Resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace and justice in the world, may Easter grace be with all nations and peoples in turning away from division, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle each day to make ends meet, may God grant them a spirit of fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all here who have been reborn in the waters of baptism or joined us at the table of the Lord this Easter season, may the risen Christ be their rock and their guide, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they share with the saints the reward of eternal joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, as we celebrate this Divine Mercy Sunday, we ask you to hear our prayers through Christ, our risen Lord.

Monday, April 20, 2020
(Lec. 267)

- 1) Acts 4:23-31
- 2) John 3:1-8

MONDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit is our teacher and guide.

The Holy Spirit changes us. The Third Person of the Trinity is a powerful force in the lives of Christians, transforming us into children of God in baptism and emboldening us to share Christ with others and live out our faith. The Spirit guides the whole Church as he has from the beginning. The gifts and fruits of the Spirit empower us to live the Gospel and further the kingdom of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

After Peter and John had been released by the Sanhedrin, they returned to their growing community of believers. The group's prayer praises God and asks for his help in proclaiming the Gospel. The Holy Spirit responds powerfully. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a puzzled Nicodemus that one must be born in water and Spirit in order to *see the Kingdom of God*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we offer our prayers to our heavenly Father, let us be mindful of the needs of the Church and the world.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide him as he shepherds his flock, the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God grant them the courage and wisdom in protecting the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who do not yet believe in God, may the Lord stir in their hearts a desire to know him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Holy Spirit increase in us the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, particularly those who have no one else to pray for them, may the Lord welcome them into the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, maker of heaven and earth, we ask you to hear the prayers of your family gathered here today. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus.

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Tuesday, April 21, 2020
(Lec. 268)

- 1) Acts 4:32-37
- 2) John 3:7b-15

TUESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Anselm,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Live in the Spirit, for that is where abundant life is found.

The radical nature of the first Christian community is clear: Selling their possessions, the earliest believers put the needs of the community before their own individual desires. This generosity and selflessness is the result of living in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, to which all believers are called.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Luke describes the first Christian community, defined by their solidarity and life of sharing all things in common. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks with Nicodemus, telling him, *you must be born from above*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As sisters and brothers in Christ, we gather our prayers and petitions and offer them to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the Church and all believers, may the Holy Spirit always be our guide, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil and religious leaders, may God speak wisdom into their hearts as Jesus did for Nicodemus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are trapped in physical or spiritual bondage, may life in the Spirit lead to freedom and redemption, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God inspire us in our life of community, prayer, and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may God lead them into the glory of his Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of all goodness, we ask that you listen to our prayers, and answer them according to your will. Through your Son, Jesus, our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 22, 2020
(Lec. 269)

- 1) Acts 5:17-26
- 2) John 3:16-21

WEDNESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *Whoever believes in [Jesus] will not be condemned.*

The Temple authorities' motivation for arresting the Apostles is not religious or theological, but emotional. They are jealous of the Apostles' popularity. We must not let worldly distractions or human emotions separate us from Christ's saving power.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Out of jealousy, the high priest has the Apostles arrested. They are released from prison by an *angel of the Lord*. When they are discovered preaching in the Temple, they are brought before the court. In the Gospel, John writes that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son to save it. Those who reject the Son condemn themselves.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God gave his only Son to the world, so that we might be saved through him. With faith in his saving power, we offer our prayers to the Father.

- 1) That Church leaders may have a spirit of humility as they serve in Jesus' name, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That political leaders may have the guidance of the Holy Spirit to bear the fruits of peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That prisoners may be treated with dignity, and restored to right relationship with society upon their release, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community of believers may be guided by God's grace in all we say and do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who died believing in Christ may be saved through him and have eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of love and mercy, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, April 23, 2020
(Lec. 270)

- 1) Acts 5:27-33
- 2) John 3:31-36

THURSDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint George,
Martyr;
Saint Adalbert,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus has opened the gates of heaven for those who have faith in him.

The early Church finds its roots in the word of God, as the disciples bravely preached to the people. We are told, *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life*. Jesus has opened the gates of heaven for those who have faith in him, and we rejoice in the power of his Word and his resurrection.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Peter and the Apostles are brought before the Sanhedrin and reminded that they were given *strict orders ... to stop teaching in [Jesus'] name*. But Peter and the others respond, *We must obey God rather than men*. In the Gospel, John writes that God the Father *loves the Son* and assures eternal life to those who follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together we join our voices as we turn to the Father, in complete faith and trust, to present our needs.

- 1) For the Church and her leaders, may God's grace fill them with strength and enthusiasm in spreading the Easter message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority throughout the world, may the Lord guide them in the ways of peace, justice, and conflict resolution, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened with physical, emotional, or mental pain, may God's loving grace heal them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Holy Spirit help us to focus our hearts on embracing his Word and nurturing our lives of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of our brothers and sisters who have died, may God welcome them into his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our petitions, which we offer in faith and trust that you will take care of our needs, in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Friday, April 24, 2020
(Lec. 271)

- 1) Acts 5:34-42
- 2) John 6:1-15

FRIDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen,
Priest and Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus feeds us, provides for us, and shepherds us.

God loves us so intimately that he not only took on our humanity, but he also gives us himself in the Eucharist so that we remain in union with him. Jesus, the Son of God made flesh, feeds us, provides for us, and shepherds us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Acts, a Pharisee named Gamaliel orders Peter and the Apostles to be put outside and warns the council to be careful what they do with them. He notes that if the Apostles' activities are of human origin, they will fail, but if they are from God, the Sanhedrin will not be able to overcome them and they will be *fighting against God*. In the Gospel, John recounts the multiplying of the loaves and fish. Jesus withdraws to the mountain because he knew the people would want to make him king.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together as the people of God, we bring him our prayers and petitions, trusting in his perfect love for us.

- 1) For Church leaders, may God embolden them as they shepherd the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God's spirit of peace move them in carrying out their responsibilities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may Christ, the Divine Physician, bring them healing and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here and for our family and friends, may God open our hearts to the grace offered through the Holy Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they experience the fullness of God's love and mercy in his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear our prayers today we ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, April 25, 2020
(Lec. 555)

- 1) 1 Peter 5:5b-14
- 2) Mark 16:15-20

**SAINT MARK,
EVANGELIST
- FEAST**

FOCUS: We are called to *proclaim the Gospel to every creature.*

Jesus' mandate in today's Gospel was clear; it is our duty to act on it and become active participants in sharing the Good News. Heeding Saint Peter's advice in the first reading, let's do so with humility and steadfastness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Saint Peter's Letter, he exhorts his audience to continue in their lives of faith in humility and to resist temptation. In the Gospel, Christ gives a command to his disciples to preach his message all over the whole world and to baptize. He then ascends into heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing of the Father's great love for us, we offer our prayers with confidence and trust.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God bless our efforts to proclaim the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For areas of the world struggling for peace within their borders, may the Holy Spirit lead them in building just societies for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alienated from God and his Church, may the Holy Spirit open their hearts to respond to Christ's message of love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us in this faith community, may God soften our hearts, that our lives may reflect the humility of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our loved ones who have died, may they find eternal rest in heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, you have asked us to lift our prayers to you. We ask that upon hearing them, you may respond in mercy and love, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020

(Lec. 46)

- 1) Acts 2:14, 22-33
- 2) 1 Peter 1:17-21
- 3) Luke 24:13-35

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: Let us rejoice in the good news of salvation: Jesus is God's promise fulfilled.

The joy of the Easter season is still with us as we rejoice in the risen Christ. He is truly present to us in the celebration of the Mass. He is the promise fulfilled, and we are nourished with his Word, and his body and blood. Just like those on the road to Emmaus, we know him in the breaking of the bread.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter proclaims to the Jews and all in Jerusalem that Jesus, *commended to [them] by God*, was also killed by them. But that God raised him up. Peter writes that all have been ransomed by the *precious blood of Christ*. In the Gospel, two disciples traveled from Jerusalem to Emmaus, discussing all that had happened. Jesus joined them, but they did not recognize him until they sat for a meal and *he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With complete faith in God, we join together in the presence of the Father to offer these petitions.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may Jesus, our head, grant us reconciliation and unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For war-torn nations, may there be peace in every place experiencing violence and war, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those saddened by loss or discouragement, may the promises of the risen Lord lift them from their despair, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this community who struggle with their faith, may God's word open their hearts and nourish them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have died, may they rejoice in the presence of our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we ask that you hear our prayers. We offer them knowing that you will take care of all our needs. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 27, 2020
(Lec. 273)

- 1) Acts 6:8-15
- 2) John 6:22-29

MONDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Eucharist feeds our soul and prepares us for eternal life.

Though Jesus fed the 5,000 with just five loaves of bread and two fish, he did not come to us to provide food for our bodies. He came to provide everlasting nourishment. His sacrifice of self, and his real presence in the sacrament, opens the doors to the Kingdom and gives us the help we need to stay on the right path toward it. In the Eucharist, we are transformed and prepared for eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Stephen, *filled with grace and power*, worked wonders and signs among the people and spoke to them with wisdom. In John's Gospel, the crowd searches for Jesus and finds him in Capernaum. Jesus tells them he knows they are looking for more signs, but that they should *not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life*. They should *believe in the one [God] sent*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers and petitions to our almighty Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may God continue to give him the courage and strength necessary for effectively leading our Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may the promptings of the Holy Spirit guide them in working to protect the sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have fallen away from the Church, may they hear the Lord's call to return and partake once again of the bread of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who give of their time and talent in this faith community as lectors, music ministers, catechists, and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they enjoy eternal bliss in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of all goodness, we thank you for hearing our prayers and ask that you answer them according to your will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 28, 2020
(Lec. 274)

- 1) Acts 7:51–8:1a
- 2) John 6:30-35

TUESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Peter Chanel,
Priest and Martyr;
Saint Louis Grignon de Montfort,
Priest)

FOCUS: The command to love does not come with exceptions.

Today's passages are about total love and commitment to God and his promises. Stephen never stops preaching the Gospel or living the command to love others. Even as he is being killed, he desires only the good for his murderers and prays for God's forgiveness of them. Jesus, as we know, gave his life for our sake, praying for his persecutors and those around him. The command to love, it seems, does not come with exceptions, but is a compass that points all to the truth found in Jesus and the commandments of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Stephen scolds his audience of scribes and elders, calling them *stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, [who] always oppose the Holy Spirit*. Yet as these people stone him to death, he prays to God, *Lord, do not hold this sin against them*. In the Gospel, the crowd asks for more signs and wonders, and references Moses and the manna in the desert. Jesus speaks of heavenly bread and proclaims, *I am the bread of life*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful that the Lord is gracious with his bounty, let us present our needs and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, as the Body of Christ in the world, may God bless her with purity and unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected leaders, may God grant them fortitude to rise above all that divides them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering religious or ethnic persecution, may God protect them from all harm and prejudice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our community who are newly baptized, may God give them strength to live out their baptismal promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find a place in heaven at the eternal banquet of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and merciful God, we offer these prayers, knowing in faith that you will answer them according to your will. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 29, 2020
(Lec. 275)

- 1) Acts 8:1b-8
- 2) John 6:35-40

WEDNESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER
(OBL MEM
Saint Catherine of Siena,
Virgin and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: God uses us, his followers, to call others to himself.

God is always drawing us to himself. The Father sent Jesus who tells his disciples of his readiness to accept anybody who comes to him. But who can come to Jesus unless they know about him? We are helped by the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father and Son to remain with us, and to help and empower us in our lives of faith. We, in turn, can bring people to Jesus by being witnesses of his life, as Philip was.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The passage from Acts describes the zeal of the disciples, such as Philip, even during persecution. The people of Samaria *paid attention* to Philip's words, and there was *great joy* in that city. Jesus, in the Gospel, tells the crowds that he will accept anybody whom the Father sends him. He is the bread of life, *and everyone who sees [him] and believes in him may have eternal life*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that God the Father wills the best for all people, we come to him now with our needs and those of our neighbors.

- 1) For Catholic missionaries, may God give them strength and courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For judges and all who work in law enforcement, may God, the perfect judge, bless them with the gifts of wisdom, justice, and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who bear the burdens of loneliness, infirmity, poverty, or lack of basic necessities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the children in this community, may the Holy Spirit help them grow in grace and knowledge of God's saving power, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may Jesus accept them to himself and bring them everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of compassion, you will eternal life for all of your children here on earth. Listen to our prayers and grant what is best, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, April 30, 2020
(Lec. 276)

- 1) Acts 8:26-40
- 2) John 6:44-51

THURSDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Pius V,
Pope)

FOCUS: Jesus is the bread of life, nourishing us now and forever.

Jesus is the bread of life. He is all we need for the journey of life. Jesus nourishes us with God's love, and strengthens us for life's daily challenges. We can partake of this bread both physically, in the Eucharist, and spiritually, by living each day as Jesus taught.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Philip converts an Ethiopian official and then continues his work of spreading the Good News. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that no one comes to him unless the Father draws that person to him. He also identifies himself as the bread of life, come down from heaven. He says whoever eats this bread will live forever.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the generous and unconditional love of the Father, let us offer these petitions for ourselves and for the needs of the world.

- 1) For Church leaders, may God guide their efforts in sharing the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who hold positions of civic authority, may the Spirit of the Lord lead them in serving their people with charity, justice, and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle each day to feed themselves or their families, may God give them strength and lift them from their difficulties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God grant us the zeal and faith of Philip as we announce the Gospel of the Lord in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they see God in all his splendor in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we bring these petitions, knowing that your love surpasses our understanding. We ask that you hear and answer our prayers according to your will, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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