

February

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Saturday, February 1, 2020
(Lec. 322)

- 1) 2 Samuel 12:1-7a,
10-17
- 2) Mark 4:35-41

SATURDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor of
BVM)

FOCUS: Jesus is with us during the difficult times.

Most of us, at one time or another, face personal storms in our lives that cause us to seek Jesus' help. Sometimes, high winds and big waves in our lives settle down shortly after we pray for help. At other times, however, they seemingly go on without end. It's important for us to realize that the Lord is with us either way – sometimes to calm our seas, and other times, to provide us the strength we need to carry on.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the prophet Samuel, the Lord sends Nathan to David, convicting David of his sin, and telling him that his child will die as a consequence. In the Gospel from Mark, Jesus and his disciples are in a boat when a squall arises. The disciples are afraid, but Jesus calms the storm.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, she may weather difficult times with holiness and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may God guide them in governing in an ethical manner, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those in need, especially those struggling through harsh winter weather, may God bless them with the assistance they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may God hear and answer our prayer for eyes to see and ears to hear those in need, 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: Merciful Father, we humbly ask you to accept our prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2020

(Lec. 524)

- 1) Malachi 3:1-4
- 2) Hebrews 2:14-18
- 3) Luke 2:22-40
or 2:22-32

**THE PRESENTATION
OF THE LORD
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Jesus Christ is the salvation prepared for all nations to see.

The feast of the Presentation of the Lord invites us to celebrate the truth that Christ is the light of all nations, and the long-awaited glory of Israel. As we celebrate God's presence among us, we are invited to reflect on our calling to bring his redemptive light into our world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Malachi describes the one who will prepare a way before the Lord when he comes to purify his people. The author of Hebrews describes how Jesus came to share in flesh and blood like God's children so as *to expiate the sins of the people*. In the Gospel, Jesus is taken by Mary and Joseph to be presented in the Temple; he is recognized by Simeon and Anna as *the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our God, who is always faithful to his promises, invites us to bring before him our needs and hopes.

- 1) For members of the Church throughout the world, may the outpouring of the Holy Spirit sanctify each one of us in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations and peoples, may God open their hearts to the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alienated from their faith, may God grant them his faithful and healing presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For children in our faith community, may God help bless them with wisdom and a growing desire to be close to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they come to share in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, you sent your only Son into the world to enlighten our hearts and fill us with hope and faith. Hear our prayers, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, February 3, 2020
(Lec. 323)

- 1) 2 Samuel 15:13-14,
30; 16:5-13
- 2) Mark 5:1-20

MONDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Blaise,
Bishop and Martyr;
Saint Ansgar,
Bishop)

FOCUS: God's power and God's mercy are manifest in the person of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ wields the power of the Father. We see in the Gospel that the power of unclean spirits is nothing compared to the power of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, King David is informed that the allegiances of his people have transferred to his son Absalom, and David is deeply troubled by this. In the Gospel, Christ encounters a young man *who had an unclean spirit*. He casts the unclean spirits out of the man and into a herd of swine, which then rush into the sea.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now turn to God, who hears our prayers and acts with mercy.

- 1) For the Church, may the healing power of God reconcile her members to one another, and bring justice where it is due, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political leaders, may God bless them with wisdom and forthrightness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the chronically ill, may the healing compassion of Christ be made present for them through their families, caretakers and all who support them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may we be strengthened by our prayers and by the Eucharist in which we partake, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they receive their eternal reward in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of love, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers. Through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, February 4, 2020
(Lec. 324)

- 1) 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b,
24-25a, 30–19:3
- 2) Mark 5:21-43

TUESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We can trust Jesus with all our needs.

While he was on earth, Jesus brought healing to those in physical distress by being there for them when needed. We, too, can have confidence that he is with us – through the Eucharist and in prayer.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading from the Second Book of Samuel, David's son, Absalom, is killed, and David mourns him deeply. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a woman who touches his garment, and then he raises a young girl from the dead.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to our heavenly Father with these petitions, knowing that he loves us and hears our prayers.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all the leaders of the Church, may the light of Christ continue to illuminate their every step, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them to wise decision-making as they strive to bring peace to our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with fear or depression, may God's never-ending love bring them healing and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who are preparing to enter the Church this Easter, may God, and the prayers of this community, strengthen them on their journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be at peace with our loving Father for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we ask that you hear our petitions and answer them according to your perfect will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, February 5, 2020

(Lec. 325)

1) 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17

2) Mark 6:1-6

WEDNESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Agatha,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: We can put our trust in God.

King David's call for a census was a sin against God, for the people were the Lord's, not the king's. It showed a lack of trust in God, and magnified David's desire to be in control. While knowledge is good, David's experience shows us that, in the end, all of creation belongs to God, and therefore what we seek and why we seek it ought to align with our relationship *to* him, and our ultimate trust *of* him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

King David calls for a registration of the tribes of Israel, and then regrets this sin. The Lord offers him *three alternatives* for punishment. David chooses pestilence, and begs God to punish only him and not all the innocent people. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches in the synagogue, but the people take offense at him because he is one of their own. They don't believe he could have any authority to teach or prophesy.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Entrusting ourselves to the care of the Father and the intercession of Jesus, we offer these prayers.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the heart of the Good Shepherd be their guide as they seek to lead lives of holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God empower them as they work to defend the dignity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer oppression for their belief in Christ, may God protect them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in this faith community living through a time of strife, may the Holy Spirit unify them and increase in them the gifts of love and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God bring them to their eternal reward in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, with humble hearts we bring our needs before you, in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Thursday, February 6, 2020
(Lec. 326)

- 1) 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12
- 2) Mark 6:7-13

THURSDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM

Saint Paul Miki and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: Take courage and observe God's commands.

As Jesus sent out the Twelve, who began preaching repentance and driving out demons, one can imagine Jesus repeating David's words: Take courage and observe God's commands. A simple directive, yet challenging to follow when our human frailties cause anxiety or a need for full control. But we are upheld by the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the grace of our faith and the sacraments.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A dying King David reminds Solomon to follow the laws of the Lord according to the covenant between God and David. Faithfulness will result in David's heirs always reigning. In the Gospel, Jesus sends the disciples out in pairs to preach and drive out demons, taking nothing more than a single tunic, walking stick and sandals.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With reliance on our good and gracious God, let us bring him our concerns.

- 1) For those entrusted with spreading the Gospel, may God strengthen them in faith and bless their efforts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may God guide their hearts in making just and wise decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and for those who care for them, may they be comforted by our loving God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Holy Spirit enlighten our hearts as we seek to follow God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the departed faithful, especially those who have no one else to pray for them, may they rest in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, all goodness comes from you. Look with kindness upon the prayers brought before you, which we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus.

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Friday, February 7, 2020
(Lec. 327)

- 1) Sirach 47:2-11
- 2) Mark 6:14-29

FRIDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God strengthens and favors those who love him and call upon his name.

Both King David and King Herod wield great power, and are able to defeat any opposition. King Herod allows others to influence and manipulate him into unjust use of his throne. In contrast, King David calls upon and praises God with every deed. Thus God strengthens, favors and exalts David's throne.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recounts the virtues of King David. Because David loved and praised God, God gave David victory over enemies, forgave David's sin and established David's throne. In the Gospel, King Herod's daughter requests the head of John the Baptist. Though Herod fears John, Herod keeps his oath before the crowd and has John beheaded.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We call upon the name of our Most High God as we present our petitions before him.

- 1) That our Holy Mother Church may continue to receive the help of Christ in using her prophetic voice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all leaders of states and nations may be guided by the Almighty in the just use of power, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those unjustly accused, imprisoned or punished may be comforted by the peace of Christ and given courage for their ordeal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community may grow in holiness and a spirit of thanksgiving, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be embraced by the Lord in eternal salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God Most High, you blessed David when he called upon your name. We, too, seek your blessing in answer to our prayers, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, February 8, 2020
(Lec. 328)

- 1) 1 Kings 3:4-13
- 2) Mark 6:30-34

SATURDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Jerome Emiliani;
Saint Josephine Bakhita,
Virgin;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: God grants a wise and understanding heart to his servants.

Throughout our salvation history, those who have led and served God's people best are the ones who ruled with right knowledge and understanding of God. King Solomon asked for *an understanding heart* because he knew he served God, not himself. God sent Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, who gathered all peoples to himself with the heart of a Good Shepherd. He served the Father, as a faithful Son. To his true servants, those who act in loyalty and obedience to his will, God grants a wise and understanding heart.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God grants Solomon's request for *an understanding heart* to govern God's people. In the Gospel, Jesus saw a vast crowd, *and his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep* in need of a shepherd to lead them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As Solomon trusted God with his humble request, we, too, now submit our prayers to our loving God.

- 1) That the Church may continue to be graced with shepherds after Christ's own heart who lead his Church with loving care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the leaders of nations may be blessed with the compassion of Christ in serving their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have left the faith due to doubt, disillusionment or despair may be embraced in the warm and loving arms of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who desires that none be lost, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all in this faith community who suffer grief from the loss of a loved one may be consoled by the gift of hope, and the grace of understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the deceased may be shepherded by our compassionate God into the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, in your wisdom grant our prayers according to your holy will. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and King.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020

(Lec. 73)

- 1) Isaiah 58:7-10
- 2) 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
- 3) Matthew 5:13-16

**FIFTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We are the salt of the earth.

Light is an important image in our readings today. True disciples of Jesus witness to others and help illuminate their way to God. As salt of the earth, our deeds must always lead others to Christ, or else we are like flavorless salt.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Isaiah, the Lord says to care for others, and then *your light shall break forth like the dawn*. Saint Paul writes to the Corinthians of Christ crucified. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples they are *salt of the earth* and *the light of the world*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Because God is our stronghold in times of need, we petition him with our prayers.

- 1) For missionaries who bring the light of the Gospel to distant lands, may they be blessed with the Spirit of Wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, governments and international bodies, and for all who seek an increase in charity throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have no voice, may the Lord grant them a stronghold of faith and advocates to defend them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of believers, may God be our guide as we seek to be his salt and light for the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be embraced this day by the light of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of Light, hear our prayers as we seek the grace to remain strong in our faith in the face of the challenges of this life. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, February 10, 2020
(Lec. 329)

- 1) 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13
- 2) Mark 6:53-56

MONDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Scholastica,
Virgin)

FOCUS: The Lord dwells among his people.

Unlike the other gods of Old Testament times, the God of the Israelite people – our God – does not live and reign and direct his subjects from some high place. He seeks to be in relationship with them, and to dwell among them. In King Solomon's day, he dwelt in the Temple. In the person of Christ, he dwelt among humanity in the world, healing them of affliction and sin, and still today makes his dwelling among and within us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord comes to dwell in the Temple that King Solomon has built. In the Gospel, people from many towns bring their sick to Jesus, and as many as touch the tassel of his cloak are healed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We acknowledge the healing presence of the Lord, and ask for his help as we lift up our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord strengthen and sustain her in her ministry of healing in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all elected leaders, may God inspire them in their work to protect the most vulnerable among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may the Lord heal them and grant them awareness of his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God's dwelling among us draw us ever more deeply to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died this day, may they live in the house of the Lord forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, we thank you and praise you for your holy presence. Receive these prayers and grant them according to your holy will.

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Tuesday, February 11, 2020

(Lec. 330)

- 1) 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30
- 2) Mark 7:1-13

TUESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Our Lady of Lourdes)

FOCUS: Worship the Lord, and give him honor by following his commandments.

It is good to dedicate holy spaces to gather the faithful before the Lord God. It is also good to have standards for how we should live. When the beauty of the holy places begins to overshadow the beauty of the hearts that worship in it, and hypocrisy regarding standards takes root in our behavior, then we have lost our way. Worship of God is not found in the structures that surround us, but in our loving obedience to his commands.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Solomon dedicates the newly built Temple to the Lord, *God of Israel*. In the Gospel, Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for their hypocrisy.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now offer our prayers to the Lord, 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 world leaders, may God grant them wisdom in making decisions that promote God's peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the elderly and the homebound, may the Lord fill them with his presence and comfort them with friendship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may God's Holy Spirit bestow upon us the gift of piety, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the Lord God welcome them to his dwelling place where they may offer him continuous praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, if it is pleasing to you, grant the prayers we have offered. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, February 12, 2020
(Lec. 331)

- 1) 1 Kings 10:1-10
- 2) Mark 7:14-23

WEDNESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Nothing on earth, only the evil that is born within the heart, can separate us from God.

Jesus reminds us that an exclusive focus on the exterior observance of social rules and laws, such as the dietary laws of his time, can make us lose sight of the fact that it is in the heart that evil thoughts, actions and intentions are born. These are what we should be concerned about as they truly have the power to separate us from God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the queen of Sheba praises God for the wisdom with which he has blessed Solomon, and is moved to make an abundant gift to the king. In the Gospel, Jesus explains to his followers that the food one eats doesn't have the power to separate us from God. Rather, it is the evil that is born within the heart, and which leads to sin, that has such power.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the mercy and compassion of the Lord, let us bring before him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For all the Church, may the wisdom of the Lord continue to guide her every action, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those who govern, may the Holy Spirit bless them with an abundance of understanding and prudence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who feel alone or abandoned, may the Lord strengthen and comfort them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may the Lord increase in us the gifts of faith, hope and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the Lord lovingly welcome them into the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers, and ask that you answer them in accordance with your divine mercy. We make this prayer in Christ's name.

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Thursday, February 13, 2020
(Lec. 332)

- 1) 1 Kings 11:4-13
- 2) Mark 7:24-30

THURSDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Blessed are they who observe what is right, who do always what is just.*

Solomon fails to commit exclusive loyalty to God, resulting in the Lord's disappointment and withdrawal of favor. Despite everything God has given him, including a heart of understanding, Solomon – in the end – still gets it wrong. In contrast, the Gospel's Syrophenician woman exhibits a humble persistence and an understanding of who Jesus is (he has come for the salvation of both Jew and Gentile). As a result, Jesus heals her daughter. Both of these readings show us that what we say, and what we truly believe, matter.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recounts King Solomon's adoration of the gods of his foreign wives, resulting in consequences for his progeny. In the Gospel, Jesus is approached by a Syrophenician (Greek) woman, who begs him to drive the demon out of her daughter. Jesus challenges her regarding "who should be fed first," and after her response is pleasing to him, he cures her daughter.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With earnest hope, we bring our needs to the Lord, trusting that he hears and answers our prayers.

- 1) For our Church, may the Lord bring about her fullness of beauty as she serves as Christ's hope and healing to all in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those who govern, may the Lord grant them strength, courage and tenderness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who feel despair or hopelessness, may God lift the cloud of darkness and fill them with hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our neighbors in need of prayers, may God enfold them with his mercy and grant them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they soon rest in the loving arms of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, taking to heart our needs and concerns, grant us these prayers we place before you. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Friday, February 14, 2020

(Lec. 333)

- 1) 1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19
- 2) Mark 7:31-37

FRIDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Cyril,
Monk,
and Methodius,
Bishop)

FOCUS: Jesus heals us from all afflictions and sin.

Jesus uses his healing touch, and his words, to cure the man in the Gospel today. Likewise, it was Jesus' sacrifice on the cross that healed humankind of all that separated us from God. In reconciling us to the Father, Jesus heals us from all afflictions and sin.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Ahijah tears his new cloak into 12 pieces and gives 10 to Jeroboam, keeping one for the sake of David and another for Jerusalem. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a deaf and mute man, and the crowd disregards Jesus' order to be silent about it.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith that God desires only our good, we come to him with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may the grace of God continue to strengthen and nourish her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our world, may Christ's peace touch the hearts of leaders and influencers and lead them to harmony, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have experienced violence or trauma in their lives, may God bless them with peace and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Holy Spirit guide us as we work together to make our community a welcoming and loving place, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be received into eternal happiness with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, in your mercy we ask that you hear our prayers today. Through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, February 15, 2020

(Lec. 334)

- 1) 1 Kings 12:26-32
13:33-34
- 2) Mark 8:1-10

SATURDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor of
BVM)

FOCUS: Jesus takes our offering of gifts and multiplies them for others.

Today, Jesus is *moved with pity* for his followers, and cares not only for their spiritual needs, but for their physical needs as well. While the disciples question how to feed so many, Jesus takes what is offered, blesses and multiplies it, and feeds all who are present – with much left over. This miracle prefigures his own sacrifice, in which his body will be broken and shared for the world in the Eucharist. It also calls us to our offering of gifts to the Lord, so that he can multiply what we have for the sake of the many.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeroboam, fearing for his life, creates two golden calves and leads the people to sin by encouraging idolatrous worship. In the Gospel, Jesus takes seven loaves and a few fish, blesses them, breaks them, and gives them to the disciples to distribute, feeding a great crowd, with much left over.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We entrust our lives to God's care, and so let us offer our prayers to him,

- 1) For God's Church on earth, may the Lord continue to increase her in holiness and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may God grant them grace in prioritizing the needs of their communities, especially the vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, the anxious and the fearful, may God bring them healing of mind and of body, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local faith community, may God's grace empower us in living Jesus' example of feeding the hungry, caring for the neglected and respecting the life of every human being, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they be welcomed into eternal joy with Mary and all the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020

(Lec. 76)

- 1) Sirach 15:15-20
- 2) 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
- 3) Matthew 5:17-37
or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

**SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Jesus came to fulfill the law so that heaven could be opened to the righteous.

Jesus' teachings are not primarily about the joys and easiness of the Christian life, but rather about the commandments that our loving Father gives to us for our freedom and good. He, who is perfect love, made us in love and sent his Son out of love to teach us what it means to partake in his life – both here and forever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Sirach tells the people they can choose to follow the commandments, or not. But keeping the commandments will save them. In Saint Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, he writes of the greatness prepared for those who love God. In the Gospel from Matthew, Jesus teaches about the law. He says that he has come to fulfil the law, and that those who keep it will be called the *greatest in the kingdom of heaven*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, we bring our prayers to God and ask him to hear our petitions.

- 1) For the pope and all the clergy, may God sustain them in remaining faithful to his perfect law, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may God give them strength in working tirelessly to uphold the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may their suffering be joined with the suffering of Christ, and may they be consoled through this redemptive sharing of his cross, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here today and for those we love, may God open our hearts to the goodness of his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the mercy of God cleanse them so they may enjoy the fullness of his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear these prayers of your sons and daughters, we ask through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, February 17, 2020
(Lec. 335)

- 1) James 1:1-11
- 2) Mark 8:11-13

MONDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.

The Seven Holy Founders of the
Servite Order)

FOCUS: No sign is needed other than Jesus himself.

Frustrated and saddened by the Pharisees' doubts, Jesus refuses to offer the Jewish leaders a sign of his divinity or power. Jesus himself is the ultimate sign of God's presence, and love for us. We can trust and persevere in faith, because God gave all to us, in his Son, *generously and ungrudgingly*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading from the Letter of Saint James speaks of the generosity of God, who gives to all *ungrudgingly*, particularly to those who ask in faith. Through faith, we persevere in our *various trials*. In today's Gospel from Mark, Jesus encounters the Pharisees, who *argue with Jesus* and seek a sign from him, but no sign will be given to their generation.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We raise our voices in prayer to God and lift up our petitions for ourselves and for others.

- 1) For the Church, may God purify her through authentic, selfless leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may the Spirit help to unite people across cultures, races and religions, 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 the community of faith gathered here, may we grow in compassion and love through the grace of the Holy Spirit and the example of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in faith, may they be crowned with the glory of everlasting life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, we bring these petitions before you in hope for the good things that you wish to bestow upon us. Hear and answer them, we ask through Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, February 18, 2020
(Lec. 336)

- 1) James 1:12-18
- 2) Mark 8:14-21

TUESDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God is the giver of every good gift.

Jesus warns his disciples against the corrupting influence of the Pharisees, including their demand for signs. He reminds them of the signs they have just witnessed, precursors to the Eucharistic feast. Do they still not understand? God is the giver of every good gift. May we who have received the mysteries of faith have the gift of understanding.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

James writes in his letter that God is not the subject of temptation, but the source of every perfect gift. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples to beware the leaven of the Pharisees and Herod. When they misunderstand, he reminds them of when he broke the loaves and fed the crowds and asks them, *Do you still not understand?*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In gratitude for the new life we received at our baptism, we offer our prayers to the Father.

- 1) That members of the Church may always receive the grace to persevere in the face of temptation, 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 those who are hungry may receive their fill through the over-abundant love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community of believers may grow in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, through Word and sacrament, so as to continue to know and understand God even more, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may receive the crown of life that has been promised to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, giver of every perfect gift, we humbly ask that you would hear our prayers and answer them according to your will. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, February 19, 2020
(Lec. 337)

- 1) James 1:19-27
- 2) Mark 8:22-26

WEDNESDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We put our faith into action by caring for others.

An active prayer life is certainly essential in order to follow the will of God in our lives, but today's readings make it clear that Christian living is about prayer *and* action. The Letter of James exhorts Christians to be doers of the Word, and in the Gospel Jesus heals a blind man. Christians are called to prayerfully seek ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The passage from the Letter of James gives practical advice to Christians concerning everyday living. He advises them to be *slow to anger*, and doers of the word of God. In the Gospel, Jesus restores the sight of a blind man in Bethsaida.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now join together in prayer as we bring our needs before God.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may God plant the seed of his Word in the hearts of believers and help them to be doers of the Word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials and those in elected office, may God guide their leadership toward peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick or suffering from physical or mental illness, may God grant them comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this community who teach the faith, may the Lord bless their service and commitment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died in the peace of Christ, may God grant them eternal rest and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we humbly ask that in your compassion and mercy you hear the prayers of your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, February 20, 2020
(Lec. 338)

- 1) James 2:1-9
- 2) Mark 8:27-33

THURSDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: See the world as God sees it – and accept help to do so.

Sometimes it can be hard to see exactly what is in front of us, at least with full understanding, without another set of eyes or a good counselor by our side. In the Gospel, Peter knows that Jesus is the Christ – but he does not yet understand what that means. Through Christ, he will learn. In the community to which Saint James writes, they are failing in their Christian duty by showing preference to the rich over the poor. So James advises them on how to make corrections. Both readings urge us to see the world as God sees it, and to not be afraid when we might need others' help in doing so.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint James instructs the community to show no partiality between rich and poor when ministering to them. In the Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples, *Who do people say that I am?* and *Who do you say that I am?* After Peter acknowledges that he is *the Christ*, Jesus foretells of his passion, death and resurrection

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God hears and answers all our prayers, let us join in offering him our petitions.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all who lead the Church, may the power of the Holy Spirit provide them the graces they need in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Spirit inspire them in seeing the most vulnerable among us with the eyes of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live in situations where they are oppressed, intimidated or frightened, may God's grace and courage fill their hearts and give them strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the community gathered here today, may God continue to guide us as we strive to do his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of our loved ones who have died, may they come to enjoy eternal happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of life, our courage and our inspiration, hear our prayers we ask today, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, February 21, 2020
(Lec. 339)

- 1) James 2:14-24, 26
- 2) Mark 8:34–9:1

FRIDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Peter Damian,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: True faith is faith-in-action.

Today's readings call us to take our faith very seriously – not as a list of beliefs that we rattle off, but as the very center of our lives. We are called to live this faith in action for all children of God, laying our lives down for Jesus and his Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, James asks: *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?* He notes that faith without works is dead. Jesus says to the crowd and his disciples that all who wish to follow him must take up their cross daily.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident of God's providence, let us bring him our prayers.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may God bestow unity among all her peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Spirit guide their efforts as they work to provide for all people, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are ill and struggling with their pain, may God's grace bring them comfort and relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may God give us strength as we work to build his kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our loved ones, colleagues, neighbors, or friends who have died, may God welcome them into his eternal kingdom of love and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we bring our needs before you, knowing that you care for us with the love of a Father. We ask that you hear our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Saturday, February 22, 2020
(Lec. 535)

- 1) 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 2) Matthew 16:13-19

**THE CHAIR OF
SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Today we celebrate the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter.

In Scripture, a chair is often used as an image for the ministry of teaching. Today, we celebrate the ministry given to Peter and his apostolic successors of sharing with God's people the fullness of the Gospel, and guiding them to the truth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Peter exhorts the officially appointed leaders of the community to tend their flock *as God would have it*. In the Gospel, Jesus blesses Simon Peter and bestows upon him *the keys to the Kingdom of heaven*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence, we bring our prayers and needs before our loving God.

- 1) For Francis, our pope, who now occupies the Chair of Peter, may God continue to bless him and sanctify him in his ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civil leaders, may God grant them the gift of fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who face difficult pregnancies, may the Holy Spirit grant them strength in choosing life for their children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For teachers and catechists in this faith community, may God be their guide as they share the Gospel message with joy and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to share in the fullness of the risen Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, as you guided Peter in his ministry, hear the prayers we offer today in service to you, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020

(Lec. 79)

- 1) Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18
- 2) 1 Corinthians 3:16-23
- 3) Matthew 5:38-48

**SEVENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Strive for perfection in love.

Jesus expands on the law that his followers knew well. As God loves all people without partiality – *the bad and the good, the just and the unjust* – so are all who follow him to do. Certainly this can be difficult, but it is not impossible. For by Christ's sacrifice, we have been made children of the Father. With his help, and God's grace, we are capable of striving for the perfection in love to which we are called.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Leviticus, the Lord declares his statutes to Moses for the Israelites, calling them to holiness and love. In our second reading, Paul instructs the Corinthians, calling them to holiness as temples of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel from Matthew, Jesus preaches a new standard of love and justice, calling his followers to love their enemies.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord calls us to imitate his love and holiness. With trust in God's goodness, let us offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit fortify them in their Gospel mission, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the Gospel message of blessing and peace inform their work for justice in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer at the hands of others, may God's grace give them courage in their struggles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may Jesus strengthen us as we seek to build God's kingdom here on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in faith, may they rejoice forever seeing God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, please hear and answer our prayers this day according to your holy will. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, February 24, 2020

(Lec. 341)

1) James 3:13-18

2) Mark 9:14-29

MONDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Who among you is wise and understanding?*

In our faith journeys, we depend on wisdom and understanding to guide us. How do we seek wisdom and understanding? Today's readings remind us that these virtues are rooted in God. While we might be distracted by false forms of wisdom, we can recognize authentic wisdom by its abundant and good fruit. Only good can *come* from good, and only good can *produce* good. And all that is good comes from God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's Letter from James, he asks his community *who among [them] is wise and understanding?* The one who is shows it by a life of goodness and good works, which comes from above. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a boy *possessed by a mute spirit*, after his disciples were unable to do so.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us lift our prayers and petitions to the Lord.

- 1) For our Church and its mission to spread divine teaching, may the Holy Spirit continue to inspire and strengthen her throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all of those in leadership positions, may God's guidance be with them as they work to protect human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those 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 who minister to the sick in this faith community, may God's grace strengthen them in their work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of those who have died, may they now enjoy the fullness of life with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, source of all wisdom, we humbly share our prayers with you and ask that you hear them, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, February 25, 2020

(Lec. 342)

1) James 4:1-10

2) Mark 9:30-37

TUESDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: By humbly submitting ourselves to God and welcoming the childlike, we draw closer to him.

How much better would our world be if everyone prioritized welcoming the powerless and vulnerable, serving God and being humble, over the temptations of power, status and worldly passions? Jesus' words to his disciples stress servanthood over a desire for greatness. And while this may be a daunting message, we are given hope by the words of Saint James. He says that God *gives grace to the humble*, exalting them in their submission to him. We can do what is expected of us, with God's help and by adopting the heart of a child.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Letter from James, he writes, *Draw near to God and he will draw near to you*. He encourages his community to humble themselves, lamenting of their sins and seeking closeness with God. In the Gospel, Jesus predicts his death and tells his disciples, *If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all*. Those who accept any child in his name receive both him and the Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our prayers to our loving Father, and ask his blessing on our world.

- 1) For our holy Church, may the Lord mend the wounds of sin and abuse, and bring healing and justice to those in need of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them with wisdom in enacting policies that protect the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families who suffer discord, may God's mercy work in and through them to bring about healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this Eucharistic assembly, may God's grace help us to keep the Eucharist at the center of our lives and prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the dead, may they join the saints at the wedding feast of the Lamb, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we thank you for your faithfulness. Look kindly, we pray, upon these petitions we bring before you, in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

ASH WEDNESDAY

(Lec. 219)

- 1) Joel 2:12-18
- 2) 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2
- 3) Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

FOCUS: Lent is a time to refocus and recommit to God's ways above our ways.

During the season of Lent, we go out into the desert with Jesus as we fast, pray and give alms. It is there that Jesus invites us into deeper relationship, and it is there that he pours out his grace to strengthen us as we become more fully his disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Joel tells his audience that the Lord invites them to return to him with their whole hearts. He speaks of the Lord's goodness and mercy. In Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, he implores his community to be reconciled to God. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples *not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We thank our heavenly Father for this season of Lent to repent and turn back to him. Together, let us humbly offer our prayers today.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all bishops and priests, may the grace of God be with them in their Lenten practices, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who hold public office, may God grant them strength, compassion and wisdom in their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may Christ, the Divine Physician, heal them and bring them consolation in their suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of believers, may the Holy Spirit foster us in faith and holiness during this Lenten season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they enjoy the fullness of eternal life with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, we trust that in your time and according to your plan, you will hear and answer these and all of our prayers, which we bring to you in Jesus' name.

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Thursday, February 27, 2020
(Lec. 220)

THURSDAY AFTER
ASH WEDNESDAY

- 1) Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- 2) Luke 9:22-25

FOCUS: If you obey the commandments, you will live.

God gives us his commandments so that we might live. But the life that God wants to give is not the life of the world. It is not always comfortable, not always easy. Instead, it is a life that imitates the life of Jesus and reaps the greatest rewards.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses exhorts the people of Israel to *choose life* by obeying the commandments of the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that the Son of Man must suffer, be killed and be raised, and that anyone who wishes to come after him must also deny himself and take up his cross.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God hears and answers all of our prayers, we turn to him now with our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide and protect her in this Lenten season, and magnify her light of truth and goodness in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders and public officials, may they be filled with wisdom in reflecting the truth of God in their decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those carrying crosses in their daily lives, may Christ make his presence known to them with hope and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Lord always help us to have the courage to follow Christ through sacrifice to fullness of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the peace of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of strength and joy, we bring these prayers and needs before you today, trusting in your strength and help. Answer them, we ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, February 28, 2020
(Lec. 221)

FRIDAY AFTER
ASH WEDNESDAY

- 1) Isaiah 58:1-9a
- 2) Matthew 9:14-15

FOCUS: God invites us to Lenten practices that transform us and our world.

As we are drawn closer to Christ in our Lenten disciplines, we should also be drawn closer to his people, especially those who are most in need. God invites us in this season to prayer and actions that transform us and our world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah reproaches the house of Jacob for fasting for recognition, especially to earn God's favor. In the Gospel, Jesus explains that the reason his disciples do not fast is because they are in the presence of the bridegroom.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to draw nearer to God this Lent, we bring our needs before him, resting in the certainty of his strength and help.

- 1) For the Church, may God guide our Lenten practices, and draw us more deeply into his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in positions of power, may they be given prudence and courage in serving those who are most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poor and the marginalized, may God look graciously upon them and provide for their every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may God grant us strength in carrying out our Lenten practices faithfully and fruitfully, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed into perfect union with God and all the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of Strength, we come before you in humility today, knowing you can give us all we need to celebrate this season worthily. We ask that you hear our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, February 29, 2020
(Lec. 222)

SATURDAY AFTER
ASH WEDNESDAY

- 1) Isaiah 58:9b-14
- 2) Luke 5:27-32

FOCUS: These early days of Lent may challenge us, but we know that God is with us on our journey toward Easter.

Though the ashes are barely gone from our foreheads, we may already be feeling the weight of our Lenten promises. Jesus assures us that no matter what we face, he is there for us. We are reminded that Jesus surrounds himself with sinners who, like us, look for redemption. Perfection may be our goal, but Jesus embraces us as imperfect seekers.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading from the prophet Isaiah, the Lord tells his people: *If you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted, he will guide them and nourish them.* In the Gospel, Jesus calls Levi to follow him, and then eats with him. In response to the criticism of this by the Pharisees, Jesus declares that he has come to call sinners to repentance.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As Jesus invites us to follow him, we turn our hearts and minds to the Father and present our petitions before him.

- 1) For the Church, may the Spirit increase her in faithfulness and holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations and all those in authority, may God grant them fortitude in governing wisely, with justice and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with questions about their faith, may the power of God's grace bring them peace and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may God continue to transform us by his Word and sacrament, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enter into eternal life with the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, as we use this Lenten season to grow closer to you, we put these prayers before you and ask you to answer them according to your will. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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