

JULY

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**YEAR A
WEEKDAYS II**

Wednesday, July 1, 2020
(Lec. 379)

- 1) Amos 5:14-15, 21-24
- 2) Matthew 8:28-34

WEDNESDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(USA: Opt. Mem.
Saint Junipero Serra,
Priest)

FOCUS: Jesus helps us replace evil with good.

We must invite Jesus into our hearts to drive out sin wherever it lingers. He respects our free will enough that he will not stay if we do not want him there. However, his very presence is enough to disturb and disrupt evil. By ridding our hearts of darkness, we can be free to do, and seek, good.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord, through the prophet Amos, commands the Israelites to *seek good and not evil*. He hates their feasts and their *stall-fed peace offerings*. In the Gospel, Jesus encounters two people possessed by demons, who correctly identify him as the Son of God. Jesus drives the demons into a herd of swine, which then drowns. The townspeople beg Jesus *to leave their district*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord promises that he will be with those who seek good and not evil. Relying on his promise, we bring to him our needs.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may the Lord bless him with strength and good health as he continues his ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawmakers, may God guide their hearts to enact legislation that respects the dignity of all life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and those caring for them, may the peace only Christ can give refresh their spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this community, may the Holy Spirit inspire us in works of justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may the angels welcome them to Paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you are the source of all that is good. We ask you in your mercy to hear our petitions, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, July 2, 2020
(Lec. 380)

- 1) Amos 7:10-17
- 2) Matthew 9:1-8

THURSDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Turn to Jesus and ask for his help in increasing our faith.

To forgive another can be hard. To forgive ourselves can be even harder. Not to do so is a way of rejecting Christ's authority to forgive us, much as the religious leaders did. But when we struggle with this challenge, we can turn to Jesus and ask for his help in increasing our faith. He has already redeemed us from the consequence of sin; let us allow him to help us see that.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Amaziah tells the prophet Amos to *flee to the land of Judah*. In the Gospel, Jesus forgives the sins of a paralyzed young man. When the religious leaders say he is blaspheming, Jesus cures the man of his paralysis as a sign that *the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that nothing is impossible for God, let us present our petitions to him.

- 1) That the Lord may keep watch over his Church, growing her in holiness and virtue, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the peace of Christ may heal divisions and bring an end to violence throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the compassion and mercy of Christ may free all who suffer from any physical or spiritual burden, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Holy Spirit may help us live faithfully our commitment to the teachings of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our most gracious Father may welcome into his heavenly kingdom all the faithful departed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and answer them in your bounteous love. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Friday, July 3, 2020

(Lec. 593)

1) Ephesians 2:19-22

2) John 20:24-29

SAINT THOMAS,

APOSTLE

- FEAST

FOCUS: Cast off doubt and embrace the risen Lord.

Doubt can give way to fear, but faith gives way to action. Once the Apostle Thomas sets aside his doubt and embraces Jesus after the Resurrection, he is emboldened to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Likewise, we are emboldened by Christ's presence in word and sacrament, and can allow faith to overcome fear and doubt.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to the people of Ephesus, instructing them that they are no longer strangers but *fellow citizens* and *members of the household of God*. In the Gospel, Thomas comes face to face with the risen Lord and declares, *My Lord and my God!*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We humbly place our needs before our faithful God this day.

- 1) For Pope Francis, successor to the Apostles, may he be filled with spiritual gifts and graces as he continues to preach the Gospel to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected officials, and all who serve with them, may God protect them from all evil in the exercise of their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those dealing with doubts and anxieties, may God's gift of peace rest in their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here today, may the Holy Spirit pour out upon us his gifts to increase and strengthen our faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in the light of faith, may they see their Lord and God face to face this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving God, hear the prayers we offer you today for the sake of the world. Through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 4, 2020
(Lec. 382)
1) Amos 9:11-15
2) Matthew 9:14-17

SATURDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Independence Day
in United States of America;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

Note: for Independence Day, any readings from the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses* (vol. IV), the Mass "For the Country or a City," Nos. 882-886, or "For Peace and Justice," nos. 887-891

FOCUS: God is always ready to restore us to abundant life – if we only turn back to him when we go astray.

Amos, a prophet known for his denunciation of injustice, writes of a time when God will restore good fortune and freedom to the people of Israel. God wills only what is good for his children. If we turn to God with trust and sorrow for our sins, he will forgive us, and his grace will help us grow in faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the conclusion to the Book of Amos, the prophet speaks of the day of *the restoration of [his] people Israel*. In the Gospel, Jesus answers the question about the legitimacy of his disciples not fasting by asking, *Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them?*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together with one voice, we turn our prayers to our merciful God.

- 1) For our Holy Father and our bishops, may the Holy Spirit guide them in bringing the Good News to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the community of nations, may the Lord deliver its leaders and people from all turmoil and strife, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families who struggle with inadequate resources, may God sustain them in their need and provide what they need to flourish, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the peace of Christ bring relief and healing to any brokenness in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they rest in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all compassion, you know our needs. Answer in your gracious mercy the prayers we have brought before you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020

(Lec. 100)

- 1) Zechariah 9:9-10
- 2) Romans 8:9, 11-13
- 3) Matthew 11:25-30

**14TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Jesus' kingship is one of mercy with humility and compassion for all who struggle.

In the kingship of Jesus, we celebrate his humility and gentleness, and in a particular way, his understanding of the blessings of children. His dominion is not one of power and control, but of a servant who lifts up the fallen and raises all who are burdened; he is gracious and merciful.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Zechariah tells Jerusalem to rejoice, for their king shall *come to [them] ... riding ... on a colt*, proclaiming a message of *peace to the nations*. Saint Paul instructs the Romans that *whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him*. In the Gospel, Jesus gives praise to the Father for what he has revealed to the little ones.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence and trust, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

- 1) For the Church and all who exercise her ministry, may we grow in holiness, by God's grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the whole world through the power and mercy of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have suffered from the effects of the pandemic, may God's Holy Spirit bring them comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For blessings and continued graces upon the lives of all of us gathered here, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to share in the eternal life of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and loving Father, hear our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. We pray this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 6, 2020

(Lec. 383)

1) Hosea 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22

2) Matthew 9:18-26

MONDAY OF

14TH WEEK

(Opt. Mem.

Saint Maria Goretti,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: The faithful are rewarded with God's grace.

The faith of God's people may falter such that they place their desires above God's. This is why the Prophet Hosea called out to the Israelites that God welcomes back those who have turned away. In the Gospel, we see that those who are faithful are rewarded with God's grace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord says he will espouse Israel to him forever. In the Gospel, Jesus heals the daughter of an official, and cures a woman suffering from hemorrhages.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: My sisters and brothers, let us now bring our prayers before the Lord.

- 1) For our Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide their work and give them the strength to govern wisely, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For nations throughout the world, may the Lord deliver them from the evils of war and oppression, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families torn by division, may God grant them a spirit of reconciliation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may the word and sacrament we receive nourish and sustain us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in God's embrace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, hear the needs of your people we have just offered, and answer them in your mercy. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 7, 2020

(Lec. 384)

1) Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13

2) Matthew 9:32-38

TUESDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God's compassion helps us persevere.

Jesus' miraculous healings continue to be met with suspicion and accusations from the Pharisees. But Jesus is undaunted, moved with compassion by the need he sees in the crowds. As we minister to others in our lives, may God's compassion help us overcome the challenges and obstacles that can discourage us from persevering in the Lord's work.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Hosea warns Israel that the Lord is not pleased with them. They shall be punished for their sins and returned to Egypt. In the Gospel, Jesus drives a demon from a man, and continues proclaiming the Gospel and curing the sick. He tells his disciples, *The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's compassion and mercy, let us confidently bring before him our prayer and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord strengthen us in our mission to spread the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, may the gifts of the Spirit form their decisions toward the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are suffering because of illness – physical, mental, or spiritual – may the Lord comfort them and heal their affliction, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here today, may the Lord encourage us in remaining faithful to our labor in the fields, where he sends us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the Lord welcome them into the joy of his eternal presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and compassionate Father, hear these prayers we offer with faith and humility, and answer them in accordance with your divine will. We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, July 8, 2020

(Lec. 385)

1) Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12

2) Matthew 10:1-7

WEDNESDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *It is time to seek the Lord.*

“Time” drives everything we do. There is a time to awaken, a time to be at work or at school, a time to be at that doctor’s appointment. We know how much time it takes to drive to Mass, and how much time off we have from work. And underneath it all is the imperative from Hosea: *It is time to seek the Lord.* For if we do not do that – if we do not seek, and find, the Lord, then all our other time is wasted.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Hosea speaks of Israel’s false heart and disobedience, and tells the people *it is time to seek the Lord.* In the Gospel, Jesus *summon[s] his Twelve disciples* and sends them *to the lost sheep of the house of Israel* to let them know *the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the clergy, may they be guided by the Holy Spirit as they shepherd the people of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders around the world, may God grant them fortitude and patience in promoting and defending religious freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those suffering from the effects of natural disasters, may God bring them comfort and care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the lost sheep of our community, may the voice of the Good Shepherd help them find their way back to the fold, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have recently died in the light of Christ, may they be rewarded with the glory of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we humbly ask that you grant us these petitions, in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Thursday, July 9, 2020
(Lec. 386)
1) Hosea 11:1-4, 8e-9
2) Matthew 10:7-15

THURSDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Augustine Zhao Rong,
Priest,
and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: *Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.*

Everything we have and are, our very existence and breath, is a gift from God. As the gift of faith brings us together, so then are we also sent out to heal and proclaim the Good News, as Jesus' disciples were. Our humble gratitude can allow us to freely share God's goodness – a goodness overflowing in love and care.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord speaks of his love and care for Israel whom he *fostered ... like one who raises an infant to his cheeks*. In the Gospel, Jesus gives his Apostles instructions for their missionary work. *Without cost you have received*, he says, *without cost you are to give*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of the precious gifts the Lord has bestowed upon us, let us humbly ask him for these further blessings upon the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Lord bless us with an abundance of divine goodness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For law enforcement officers, and all first responders, may they operate under the benevolent protection of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those riddled by anxiety, may the peace of the Lord give them solace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people in our community, may God stir in their hearts a deep love and reverence for him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may perpetual light shine upon them and may they rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, you have loved us throughout the ages with unfailing goodness. Answer our prayers with compassion, we ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 10, 2020

(Lec. 387)

- 1) Hosea 14:2-10
- 2) Matthew 10:16-23

FRIDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Christ urges trust in God's protection in the face of suffering.

In the Gospel, Jesus is forthright in recognizing the suffering that his followers will endure. He recognizes that to follow him will result in pain. Yet he promises the protection of God, which is deeper than any worldly suffering.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Hosea urges Israel to return to their God and ask for forgiveness. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his Apostles of the sufferings they will endure, but reassures them that the *Spirit of [the] Father* will speak through them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to our loving Father and give voice to our prayers.

- 1) For the Church around the world, may she be blessed and preserved in holiness through the graces and gifts of the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations on earth, may God establish peace and security among them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering temptation, may the Lord strengthen their resolve and lead them to a purity of heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord increase in us our trust of the Good Shepherd, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they enjoy eternal Paradise in the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of compassion, we offer you these prayers knowing of your promise to hear us. We pray through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 11, 2020

(Lec. 388)

- 1) Isaiah 6:1-8
- 2) Matthew 10:24-33

SATURDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Benedict,
Abbot)

FOCUS: Jesus calls us not to be afraid.

Jesus encourages us to not be afraid, reminding us of the love of God who knows us and loves us. Like Saint Benedict who had the courage to leave everything behind, and the prophet Isaiah who eagerly went where the Lord sent him, we, too, with God's help, can acknowledge before others the good news we have found in Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah has a vision of God on his throne. An angel in attendance touches the prophet's lips with an ember and declares Isaiah clean. Isaiah says, *Here I am, send me!* In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to proclaim what they have heard from the *housetops* and not to be afraid.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Turning without fear to the Father who knows even the number of hairs on our heads, we offer him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For our Church, may God protect her from all sin and wickedness and purify her in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations and peoples of the world, may the Holy Spirit bring an end to oppression and instill peace among them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those afflicted by fear or threatened by violence, may God give them comfort and hope in the promise of his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, through the intercession of Saint Benedict, may God give us courage to abide in his truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God call them each to join him in the everlasting kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, hear our needs and cares and answer them according to your most generous will. Through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020

(Lec. 103)

- 1) Isaiah 55:10-11
- 2) Romans 8:18-23
- 3) Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

**15TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: The word of God is fruitful, powerful, and meant to bring us to full union with God in heaven.

The first reading and Gospel show the potency of the word of God. In fertile hearts, the Word can multiply exponentially, and it can bring about God's will in our lives. The Word comes from God to us, in order that we might be brought to God. Can there be any greater gift?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah describes the word of God as fruitful, not returning to the Lord until his will is accomplished. Paul writes to the Romans, addressing human suffering and looking beyond it to the promise of heaven. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower and explains its meaning.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us approach the Father with our prayers, confident of his infinite love for us.

- 1) For all bishops, priests, and deacons, may the grace of God nourish them in mind, body, and spirit as they preach the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who serve in public office, may the Lord grant them hearts of justice and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened with any manner of suffering, may God renew in them a hope that brings consolation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may the Lord bless us and increase within us a desire to grow closer to him in all things, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the repose of the souls of all those who have gone before us in faith, may they see the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, please hear our prayers and grant them according to your holy will, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, July 13, 2020

(Lec. 389)

- 1) Isaiah 1:10-17
- 2) Matthew 10:34–11:1

MONDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Henry)

FOCUS: We must take up our crosses each day and follow Jesus.

Amidst a religious system based on making reparation for sin through the sacrificial offering of animals, Isaiah's words are radical. God finds no pleasure in the blood of animals. Jesus' words echo Isaiah's, as he tells his disciples that their own blood, their own lives, will be required for the sake of the Gospel. They will have to carry their crosses as Jesus will soon carry his.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah conveys a harsh message: The Israelites' religious offerings are worthless in God's eyes, so long as they neglect the way of justice. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples he has *come to bring not peace but the sword*, and that following him requires taking up one's own cross.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us humbly beseech God, that in his mercy he may hear our prayers.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may God the Father grant him the wisdom of the Spirit and the heart of the Son to unify the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who serve in positions of civil authority, may God's peace reign through them in place of the sword and division, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from unjust treatment or discrimination, may the Lord encourage them and deliver them from their trials, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God provide us courage and strength as we carry our own crosses, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the mercy and love of God enfold them and bring them to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you ask great things of us as we strive to follow the way of your cross. Hear the prayers we offer today, we ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 14, 2020

(Lec. 390)

1) Isaiah 7:1-9

2) Matthew 11:20-24

TUESDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(USA: OBL MEM
Saint Kateri Tekakwitha,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Take courage and trust in the Lord's promises.

Jesus reproaches those towns in which he has performed the most miracles for not repenting. They do not see what is right before them, and do not trust in him. In order to repent, we must reject sin, accept God's grace, and determine to sin no more.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord sends Isaiah to King Ahaz with the message to remain calm, because the plans of those who plot against Judah shall not come to be. In the Gospel, Jesus reproaches the towns in which he has performed mighty deeds for their lack of repentance.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord's promises, we now offer our petitions to him.

- 1) That through the intercession of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, all members of the Church may continue to grow in love of and fidelity to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Lord may guide all who hold public office, and all who assist them and carry out their policies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all nations and peoples living with the effects of war may soon experience peace and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That everyone in this faith community, through our witnessing of the mighty deeds of God, may receive the grace we need to place our trust in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have gone before us in faith may live forever in God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, when two or more gather in your name, you have promised to be there. Hear and answer the prayers we offer today, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 15, 2020

(Lec. 391)

1) Isaiah 10:5-7, 13b-16

2) Matthew 11:25-27

WEDNESDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Bonaventure,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Humility helps us to see God.

Do we ever let arrogance get in the way of seeing God? The Assyrians did not recognize that God assisted them in their siege of Jerusalem. Jesus tells us that God reveals himself not to the wise but to the childlike. Both readings show us that humility is what helps us to look beyond ourselves and our abilities to see God, who is goodness itself.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Woe to Assyria, Isaiah says. The Lord had sent Assyria *against an impious nation*, but Assyria thought they acted by their own power. In the Gospel, Jesus praises the Father for revealing himself to the childlike rather than the wise.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With childlike trust, let us gather our needs and those of our community and bring them to our loving Father.

- 1) For missionaries of the Gospel around the world, may God bless them and protect them in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the whole world, may God's gracious mercy deliver his people from sin and death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling with habitual sin, may the Holy Spirit strengthen them and help them turn away from sin and toward God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our community who are traveling or vacationing, may God grant them safety and a joyful time of rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, especially those known only to God, may Christ greet them at the gates of the heavenly Jerusalem, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we give praise to you. Please look with kindness upon these prayers we bring before you today in the name of your Son, Christ our Lord.

Thursday, July 16, 2020
(Lec. 392)
1) Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19
2) Matthew 11:28-30

THURSDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel)

FOCUS: God's love brings strength where there is weariness, and life where there is death.

Often, we can see our struggles, weaknesses, and sufferings as obstacles to closeness with God. The readings today challenge that notion, revealing a God who invites the weary and brokenhearted to come to him, whose love is stronger than death, and who will cause the dead to rise.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah extols God's justice and power, and confesses human beings' inability to bring about salvation on their own. In the Gospel, Jesus invites all *who labor and are burdened* to come to him for rest and to learn from him, for he is *meek and humble of heart*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord calls us to him, and so we bring him our burdens, needs, and petitions in prayer.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord in his abundant goodness continue to nourish her through the gifts and fruits of the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our world, may God bring peace to every nation, every home, and every heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those whose burdens seem too heavy to carry, may the Lord bring them hope, consolation, and rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord make us a refuge for the weary and a loving support to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died from the effects of the coronavirus, may God the Father welcome them into his eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we submit these prayers to you. Hear and answer them according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 17, 2020

(Lec. 393)

1) Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8

2) Matthew 12:1-8

FRIDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus, Lord of the Sabbath, calls for mercy and not simply adherence to the law.

As people of faith, we are called to be people of prayer. Yet developing and growing a life of prayer can be a great challenge. To begin we need to be honest before the Lord and to ask for divine help in our endeavors, remembering at all times that our prayer must be matched by the witness of our daily lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Hezekiah, King of Judah, prays to the Lord who promises to heal him and deliver Judah from the threat of the Assyrians. In the Gospel, Jesus responds to the Pharisees' accusations and proclaims that he *is Lord of the Sabbath*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having listened to God's word, let us now with courage and faith bring our prayers and petitions to the Father.

- 1) For the Church drawn from all nations and languages, may the Lord look graciously upon us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who participate in the legislative process, may God bless their efforts to protect life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, may Christ the healer bring his healing touch to their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here in love and faith, may God's love dwell in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they take their place at the eternal feast in the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal Father, hear our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 18, 2020

(Lec. 394)

- 1) Micah 2:1-5
- 2) Matthew 12:14-21

SATURDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(USA: Opt. Mem.
Saint Camillus de Lellis,
Priest,
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: We must follow Jesus' example of humbly doing the Father's will.

We place our hope in Jesus, who humbly fulfilled his Father's will. This contrasts with those who cheat and scheme to enrich themselves at the detriment of others. However, if God in his justice sees to it that the wicked are repaid, how much more will his servants be rewarded for following his will?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Micah warns that those who obtain wealth and status dishonestly will have their possessions taken from them. In the Gospel, the Pharisees plot to put Jesus to death. Jesus withdraws from the area, and cures those who followed him, *but he warned them not to make him known.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Placing our hope in the name of Jesus who is the Christ, we bring to God our needs and desires.

- 1) For those discerning a call to the religious life or the priesthood, may the Holy Spirit guide them in their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected leaders of every nation, may God strengthen their desire to do good and act justly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those oppressed in any way, may God encourage them to persevere in faith and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord grant us peace in our hearts and compassion for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they enjoy eternity with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we place our trust in your love and your justice. In your mercy, please hear our petitions which we make through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020

(Lec. 106)

- 1) Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
- 2) Romans 8:26-27
- 3) Matthew 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

**16TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God is patient and kind.

Growing in faith is like striving to grow as wheat in a field mixed with weeds. We are faced with temptations, we do not pray as we ought, we are weak and in need of forgiveness. But God is just and kind; he judges with leniency, sends his Spirit to our aid, lovingly nurtures us, and patiently awaits our growth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Wisdom speaks of the might and clemency of God, saying, *you would permit repentance for their sins*. Paul tells the Romans that the Spirit intercedes when we know not how to pray. In the Gospel, Jesus shares three parables about the kingdom of heaven, explaining the meaning of the parable of the weeds to his disciples.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as one in the celebration of the good things God has done for us, let us ask him to hear the prayers we bring before him.

- 1) That the people of God may continue to grow in faith and holiness through the power of God's word and the sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may guide all those in power toward unity and peace for the sake of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That God may bless with abundance the fields that feed the people of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That God's patience and kindness may enrich and inspire the love we share within our families and communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may soon feast at the heavenly banquet of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of love, you are patient and kind. Hear the prayers we bring to you today, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 20, 2020
(Lec. 395)
1) Micah 6:1-4, 6-8
2) Matthew 12:38-42

MONDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Apollinaris,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: Do right, love goodness, and walk humbly with God.

It is hard, sometimes, to see the truth that is evident before us. That's why the prophet's words are so important today: *Pay attention*, he says. God has given us everything, and asks of us only one thing: to do right, love goodness, and walk humbly with him. It is easy to hold this standard up to any action we are about to undertake: Does it follow the precepts? The answer to that question shows us the way to go.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Micah tells the people to *pay attention*: You are *to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God*. In the Gospel, Jesus refuses to give the scribes and Pharisees a sign, telling them that their generation will be condemned at the judgment.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER:

PRIEST: We now offer our petitions to the Father, confident in his loving response.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Lord strengthen and protect us, his servants, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all people, may God look graciously upon them and lead them to the peace that only he can give, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the elimination of every disease and affliction, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community gathered in prayer, may the manifestation of God's kingdom in our midst help us lead holy and faithful lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they rest in peace and rejoice in the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: All loving God, hear the prayers we have offered today. We pray through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 21, 2020

(Lec. 396)

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

2) Matthew 12:46-50

TUESDAY OF

16TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.

Saint Lawrence of Brindisi,

Priest and Doctor

of the Church)

FOCUS: There is mercy and forgiveness for all who do the will of the Father.

God desires salvation for us, and is merciful and compassionate toward the sinner. Those who repent and follow the Lord's commands are part of God's family and will not be left behind.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Micah recites a hymn of praise to God, who *removes guilt and pardons sin*, delighting in mercy and compassion. In the Gospel, Jesus asks, *Who is my mother... [and] my brothers?* And then answers, it is *whoever does the will of my heavenly Father*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We come together in faith and love to place before God our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may the Lord look graciously upon him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected officials, may God's compassion and justice guide them in serving those they represent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who find themselves unemployed, may the Lord help them find work to support their families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may the Lord keep us steadfast in faith and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, may they soon rest in the loving arms of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, in your mercy hear and answer the prayers we offer through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, July 22, 2020

(Lec. 603)

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

- FEAST

- 1) Song of Songs 3:1-4b
or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17
- 2) John 20:1-2, 11-18

FOCUS: We have the power and strength to share Christ's love with others.

Jesus, the beloved Son of God, had power during his earthly life to draw people to himself, and imparted that power to them when they showed their faith. As with Mary Magdalene, whose feast we celebrate today, that same power of the resurrected Jesus calls us to be his disciples and to spread the word of his life and love to everyone we meet.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Song of Songs, the bride seeks, and finds, him whom her heart loves. In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene encounters Jesus in the garden and is sent to tell the Apostles the good news of Jesus' resurrection.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, we bring our prayers to our merciful Father and ask him to hear our needs.

- 1) For the pope, our bishops, and all priests and deacons, may the Holy Spirit continue to sanctify and purify them in Christ's name, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders at every level, may the Holy Spirit guide them in providing for the needs of their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For persecuted Christians throughout the world, may the Lord grant them safety and strength as they live their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us here who may be mourning or in despair, may the resurrection of Jesus give us consolation and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they join the resurrected Jesus in the eternal kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God and Father of us all, hear these prayers from your family as we bring before you the needs of our brothers and sisters. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus, our Lord.

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Thursday, July 23, 2020

(Lec. 398)

1) Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13

2) Matthew 13:10-17

THURSDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Bridget,
Religious)

FOCUS: God is the fountain of life, the source of all we seek.

Jesus reminds us that seeking the fountain of life anywhere other than with God will always leave us thirsting. He calls out the ways that we forsake God, rebel, and go after false idols. In doing so, he invites us to truly hear and see him, as he calls us to conversion and healing.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeremiah tells the people of the two ways they have forsaken God, *the source of living waters*. In the Gospel, Jesus explains that he speaks in parables so that all may know *the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Recognizing that God is the source of all goodness, let us lift our prayers to him.

- 1) For the Church, may all that we receive from Christ continue to conform us ever closer to his side, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, may God grant them wisdom to listen well and see the needs of the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who long to see and hear God but struggle with doubt, may they be given faith and strength to persevere, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community who use their gifts as catechists, may the Lord continue to nurture them in faith and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the eternal glory of God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, we lift these prayers to you and ask you to hear them in your goodness, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 24, 2020

(Lec. 399)

- 1) Jeremiah 3:14-17
- 2) Matthew 13:18-23

FRIDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Sharbel Makhlūf,
Priest)

FOCUS: God's word, falling on rich soil, bears fruit and nourishes his people.

Jesus uses parables to help explain his truth to all who listen. Like the rocky ground or the thorns in the parable, the seeds of God's word may not take root if the ways of the world distract us. Rather, we should strive to become the rich soil allowing the word of God to prosper.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, the Lord exhorts his rebellious children to return to him. He will appoint wise and prudent shepherds over them. In the Gospel, Jesus explains the parable of the sower. It is in the rich soil that the seed will bear fruit and have a high yield.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join together in faith as we present our prayers to the Father.

- 1) That the Lord may richly bless and be gracious to Pope Francis and all clergy as they continue to lead the faithful in truth and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That Christ may guide the hearts and minds of those in positions of authority as they support policies that protect the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those saddened by loss, or burdened by sickness or poverty, may find comfort in the shelter of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those in this faith community may grow in their knowledge of the Word and strength of their faith through the grace of the sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may rejoice in eternal life with our loving Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we place these petitions before you in faith and the knowledge that you know all that we need, through Jesus Christ, your Son.

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Saturday, July 25, 2020

(Lec. 605)

1) 2 Corinthians 4:7-15

2) Matthew 20:20-28

SAINT JAMES,

APOSTLE

- FEAST

FOCUS: In God's kingdom, one's greatness is measured by one's service.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says that whoever is to be great in God's kingdom must be a servant to others, as Saint James the Apostle was. This stands in stark contrast to the ways of the world. Let us cling to the ways of Christ and remain steadfast in our faith, and as we heard from today's psalmist, we *shall reap rejoicing*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul encourages the Corinthians, telling them that though they *are afflicted in every way*, they are *not abandoned*. For the one who raised Jesus will also raise us. In the Gospel, *the mother of the sons of Zebedee [James and John]* asks Jesus to grant her sons a high place in his Kingdom.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers to the Lord, with trust in his never-ending mercy.

- 1) For bishops, priests, and deacons, may God grant them wisdom and courage in proclaiming Truth to a troubled world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders and elected officials with servant hearts, may God bless them in working for peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who feel abandoned, especially the elderly and homeless, may God restore their dignity and hope through the care of Godly people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those around us who lack hope and peace, may God's grace and mercy draw them to faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they enjoy perfect happiness with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you know our needs before we ask. Please hear and answer our prayers in your infinite wisdom, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020

(Lec. 109)

- 1) 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
- 2) Romans 8:28-30
- 3) Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

**17TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: The wise seek God.

When Solomon asked for an understanding heart to lead his people, he must have known that it was the one gift that opened the door to every other gift. For wisdom (prudence) is the virtue that guides all other virtues, and grounds judgment. The wise seek God, and those who know him seek to know him more, as Solomon, and the parables, demonstrate.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

God tells Solomon to ask for anything, and he asks for an understanding heart to lead his people. Saint Paul writes to the Romans that, *all things work for good for those who love God*. In the Gospel, Jesus uses three parables [buried treasure, pearl of great price, and a full fish net] to explain the kingdom of heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Striving to lead lives that bear witness to God's kingdom, we offer our prayers and petitions to the Father.

- 1) For the Church of Christ, and all who dwell within her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local civil servants, and for all who assist them in their governance, may God grant them wisdom and understanding hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who grieve the loss of a loved one who died from the effects of the coronavirus, may God console them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For us and our communities of family and friends, may God grant us courage and guide our words as we share our faith with those we meet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear these prayers that we voice to you, and answer them according to your will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 27, 2020
(Lec. 401)

- 1) Jeremiah 13:1-11
- 2) Matthew 13:31-35

MONDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God's kingdom is built up in many ways, often from the smallest of beginnings.

Today we reflect on how our efforts, no matter how insignificant, can contribute to building the kingdom of God. Similar to the transformation that takes place from a tiny mustard seed or a speck of yeast, God can bring about great things from the smallest starting point.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah tells of the Lord's instructions to him regarding a loincloth. The Lord then used the *rotted, good for nothing* loincloth as a metaphor for the Israelites' behavior. In the Gospel, Jesus uses two parables [mustard seed and yeast] to explain the kingdom of heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to offer our lives in the service of God's kingdom, let us bring our prayers to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For our holy Church, may the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local representatives, may God grant them compassion to see his face in the most vulnerable whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, especially those who lack adequate health care, support, or strength of spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God look graciously upon those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful who have died, may they enjoy perfect peace and the abundance of God's love with Mary and all the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear and answer the prayers that we bring before you, through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, July 28, 2020

(Lec. 402)

1) Jeremiah 14:17-22

2) Matthew 13:36-43

TUESDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Cultivate the word of God in the world.

There are many challenges to a life of discipleship. When we wonder about God's presence, we can think about two things: The first is that God has, and always will, remember his covenant with us. The second is, if we're not seeing God, then it is we who are surrounded by weeds that need removing. To cultivate the seed, the word of God, in our lives is to focus on bearing good fruit in his name, and not allowing the things of this world to get in our way.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeremiah laments the *destruction which overwhelms* them, and prays to the Lord to remember his covenant with them. In the Gospel, Jesus explains the parable of the weeds in the field to his disciples. He attaches its meaning to *the end of the age when the righteous will shine like the sun* and be separated from all evildoers.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Uniting our voices together as one, let us lift our prayers to God.

- 1) For the Church as it carries forth its mission to build God's kingdom, may Christ the sower guide its holy work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all of our elected officials, may God bring them to new awareness of their responsibilities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from hunger and thirst, may God's mercy and compassion show forth through the generosity of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who tend to the land so as to yield abundant fruit, may God's presence be with them as they provide for all of us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have passed away from this life, may God draw them to himself for eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we bring our prayers before you, and we ask that you hear and answer them in your great mercy. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 29, 2020
(Lec. 403)
1) Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21
(Lec. 607)
2) John 11:19-27
or Luke 10:38-42

WEDNESDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Martha)

FOCUS: The Lord asks for our complete trust in him.

The story of Mary and Martha allows us to ask ourselves if we, too, are anxious and worried about many things. Instead of anxiety, Jesus asks for our trust in him. To know that God is the sovereign Lord brings us comfort in an anxious world. Today the Lord asks for our trust, so that he can bring healing and peace into our hearts and lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah laments his situation, and the Lord responds that if he repents, he shall be restored and *be [the Lord's] mouthpiece*. In the Gospel, Jesus visits Martha and Mary. Martha welcomes Jesus, but then is burdened with serving, and frustrated that Mary is not helping. Jesus tells Martha that *there is need of only one thing*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's goodness, we bring our intentions to him today.

- 1) For the Church, the body of Christ, may the Lord in his mercy increase us in holiness and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace and flourishing in all nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, may God's healing touch bring them comfort and relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us who pray in faith, may the compassion of the Lord be upon us in all we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, through the mercy of God may they rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear and answer these prayers according to your most gracious and holy will. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 30, 2020
(Lec. 404)

- 1) Jeremiah 18:1-6
- 2) Matthew 13:47-53

THURSDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Peter Chrysologus,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: The call to the kingdom of God is universal, and everyone who comes to the Father will be made new.

Jesus invites everyone into the kingdom of God, seeking to bring them to God the Father. All get drawn into his net, believers and unbelievers alike. He can work with mistakes on our part, remolding us like the potter reworks clay. As long as we're in his hands, the Father can do wonderful things.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord speaks to Jeremiah, and tells him to go *to the potter's house* where he will receive a message. *Can I not do to you, house of Israel, as this potter has done? says the Lord.* In the Gospel, Jesus says *the Kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea*, collecting fish of every kind. When the net is brought ashore, the good and bad fish are separated: *Thus it will be at the end of the age.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As members of the body of Christ, let us lift our prayers to our heavenly Father for all our needs.

- 1) For the Church, may she be continually blessed with an abundance of divine goodness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in the world who seek the truth, may the Holy Spirit bring them to know Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from the loss of a loved one, may our crucified Lord lift them up in their time of sorrow, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people of our faith community, may God guide and protect them amid the pressures in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they rest in the loving embrace of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers we offer this day through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, July 31, 2020
(Lec. 405)

- 1) Jeremiah 26:1-9
- 2) Matthew 13:54-58

FRIDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Ignatius of Loyola,
Priest)

FOCUS: Live a life for the greater glory of God.

The prophet Jeremiah proclaims God's message to the people of Judah, but it is met with rejection. They seek to end his life. Preaching in the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus also encounters rejection. And others will seek to end his life. But the messages of both, the good news of God's favor and mercy, are stronger than death. They attest to God's great glory. Saint Ignatius of Loyola was transformed by the Gospel, and lived a life for the greater glory of God, challenging his followers to do the same.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

God sends Jeremiah to speak to the people of Judah, so that they might *listen and turn back, each from his evil way*. But the priests and prophets demand to know *why Jeremiah [prophesies] in the name of the Lord*, and say he *must be put to death*. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches in the synagogue in Nazareth. The people questioned the source of his authority to do so and *took offense at him*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We turn now to our loving God and present our petitions with confidence.

- 1) For missionaries who bring the joy of the Gospel to distant lands, may God bless them with the spirit of wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, may the Holy Spirit give them a servant's heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are rejected by society, may Jesus sustain them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, and for blessings upon those we encounter in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they now share in the eternal life God promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Hear our prayers, Lord God, as we turn to you, the source of all goodness and truth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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