

March

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SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2020

(Lec. 22)

- 1) Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
- 2) Romans 5:12-19
or 5:12, 17-19
- 3) Matthew 4:1-11

**FIRST SUNDAY
OF LENT**

FOCUS: The season of Lent calls us to humility, to an honest understanding of who we are.

Humility is not false modesty, but the awareness of who we are: Sons and daughters of God, created by God. Yet we, like Adam and Eve, are often tempted to think of ourselves as more than creatures, as in control of the world. May God give us the grace to allow him to be God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the woman and her husband eat fruit from the tree of life, and realize they are naked. In the Letter to the Romans, Paul reassures us that God's grace surpasses any of our sins. In the Gospel, the devil tempts Jesus while he is in the desert, but Jesus says to him, *Get away, Satan!* and the devil leaves him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us turn to God for help in this season of grace.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, that the Lord would look graciously upon his every need and continue to inspire him in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For politicians and government leaders, may the Lord provide them with wisdom for the sake of truth and the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people in need of the basic necessities for life, and all who struggle to survive in the midst of desperate circumstances, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the elect as they begin the season of deepening their relationship with God before receiving the sacraments of initiation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us in the light of faith, may they find their ultimate fulfillment and rest in God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we turn to you with humble hearts. We ask that you hear these prayers we have offered, in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Monday, March 2, 2020

(Lec. 224)

- 1) Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18
- 2) Matthew 25:31-46

MONDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: We love the Lord by loving our neighbor.

What God wants from us is very simple – to love our neighbor. If we love our neighbor by feeding the poor, clothing the naked and visiting the sick and imprisoned, we will also be showing our love for the Lord, which is the greatest commandment.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord instructs Moses to *Speak to the whole assembly* and tell them God's commandments for holiness. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples about the coming of the Son of Man, and the separation of *the sheep from the goats*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord continue to guide her in carrying out his saving work this Lenten season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our public officials, may God's grace enable them in using their talents for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are need of relief from any physical, emotional or spiritual suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who worship here in faith, may the grace of the Holy Spirit help us to grow in charity and holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the eternal presence of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we implore you to hear these prayers and those we hold in our hearts. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, March 3, 2020
(Lec. 225)

- 1) Isaiah 55:10-11
- 2) Matthew 6:7-15

TUESDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
USA: Saint Katharine Drexel,
Virgin)

FOCUS: God knows our needs, and it is his will to provide for us.

Jesus teaches us the Our Father: A brief, simple prayer that “is truly the summary of the whole Gospel” (CCC 2761). God’s word is powerful and effective in accomplishing his will on earth, as in heaven. We can offer the Our Father with the conviction that God knows our needs, and it is his will to provide for us all.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord proclaims that his word *shall not return to [him] void*, but will succeed in doing his will. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples not to *babble like the pagans* in prayer, but to use the prayer he teaches them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in our merciful God, we offer our prayers to him.

- 1) That Church leaders, God’s faithful shepherds, may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit as they do his work on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That elected officials may be guided by the Lord of Creation to guard the well-being of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That God may move the hearts of those who feel trapped by sin or doubt toward repentance and belief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Lord may focus our Lenten prayer on striving to do his work on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our Father in heaven may bring all who have died into his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you know the needs of your children. Hear the prayers we offer today in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, March 4, 2020
(Lec. 226)

- 1) Jonah 3:1-10
- 2) Luke 11:29-32

WEDNESDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Casimir)

FOCUS: God will not spurn any person whose heart is contrite and humble.

The Lenten discipline of fasting helps excise any thoughts or actions that lead to sin. But when we fall, God is gracious and merciful when we come to him with a penitent and contrite heart. He forgives and strengthens us with grace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jonah enters Nineveh announcing that the city will be destroyed. The people heard him and *turned from their evil way*. Their repentance impels God to not carry out his punishment. In the Gospel, Jesus calls the generation around him an evil one, seeking signs where none will be given. He refers to the events with Jonah and the queen of the south as being even less than what is present before them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: My sisters and brothers, let us offer our prayers to the Lord, who is gracious and merciful.

- 1) For the Church, may the Father of all mercies grant her members the grace to grow in love and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of our communities and governments, may the Lord make his presence known to them as they carry out their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle to trust in God's mercy and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may God create in each one of us a contrite spirit that is pleasing to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have passed away, may they rest in peace in the fullness of God's grace and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, in your mercy, you wash us free from sin. Listen to these prayers that we have placed before you, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, March 5, 2020

(Lec. 227)

- 1) Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25
- 2) Matthew 7:7-12

THURSDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: God always seeks to give us what is good.

Sometimes, it can be difficult for us to see or understand that God is truly working for our good, especially when things aren't unfolding as we want. But Jesus reminds us that God loves us even more than it is possible for the best parent to love us, and will always give us what is good.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Seized with mortal anguish, Queen Esther turns to the Lord God in prayer, trusting he will answer her plea as he has done for her forefathers. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples to turn to the Lord for their needs, assuring them that God will grant good things to those who ask.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord's goodness and mercy, let us bring before him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Lord increase our faith and reliance on God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those who govern, may the Lord fill them with the courage they need to best serve those they lead, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who feel alone or abandoned, may the Lord be their refuge and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord make us constant in prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have gone before us in faith, may they enjoy eternal peace in the presence of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear these prayers and petitions that we bring before you with humble hearts, and answer them in accordance with your holy will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, March 6, 2020
(Lec. 228)

- 1) Ezekiel 18:21-28
- 2) Matthew 5:20-26

FRIDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: True repentance from sin ensures God's mercy.

Today, Ezekiel reminds us of God's readiness to shower us with forgiveness, but also that we are responsible for our actions. When we sincerely repent and turn to God, we may live in the light of God's love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord God promises that all who turn away from sin and do what is right and just shall live. Those who commit sin and do evil shall die. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that their righteousness needs to surpass that of the Pharisees in order to enter the Kingdom.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our needs, and those of the world, to our most gracious God.

- 1) For our Church leaders, and all who preach, teach and proclaim the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those elected by their people to govern and lead them, and for all who hold positions of authority, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer injustice or oppression, may God grant them courage to persevere, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the Elect preparing for baptism, may the Lord continue to nurture in them the hunger that only he can satisfy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God's mercy enfold them and bring them to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercies, accept our prayers, which we present with humility and hope through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, March 7, 2020

(Lec. 229)

- 1) Deuteronomy 26:16-19
- 2) Matthew 5:43-48

SATURDAY OF

FIRST WEEK

OF LENT

(Opt. Mem.

Saints Perpetua and Felicity,

Martyrs)

FOCUS: With God's help, we can strive to love perfectly as he does.

God's commands include loving our enemies. There is no gain or reward for loving only those who are easy to love and those who reciprocate our love. As God loves all people, in all their imperfections and whether they are just or unjust, so we, too, are called to do so as his children. With God's help, we can strive to love perfectly as he does.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses speaks to the people about the agreement God has made with them. If they observe God's commandments, they *will be a people sacred to the Lord*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples, *love your enemies*, and *be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit bless and perfect them in their faithful proclamation of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected officials, may God's unlimited fairness and mercy be a guide for all their actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those whose lives have been ravaged by religious persecution and violence, may the peace of Christ uplift and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who worship in this place, may God grant us a spirit of joy for the gift of our faith, and allow it to bear good fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, marked with the sign of faith, may the Lord of perfect love welcome them into his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers we offer to you today, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020

(Lec. 25)

- 1) Genesis 12:1-4a
- 2) 2 Timothy 1:8b-10
- 3) Matthew 17:1-9

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF LENT**

FOCUS: A holy encounter with God calls us to act on our faith.

When Peter witnesses the transfiguration of Jesus, and the appearance of Moses and Elijah, his first instinct is to “freeze that moment,” by providing tents for the three of them. But that encounter, like any encounter with God’s majesty and providence, is not meant to be frozen or hidden in a tent. It is meant to move us forward in, and to act upon, our faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Abram is sent by God to a new land, so that from him, God will create a new nation. In the second reading, Timothy is encouraged to bear his share of the hardship in living and proclaiming the Gospel. In the Gospel, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a mountain where he is *transfigured before them*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Rejoicing in the glory of Jesus, we place before the Father our needs this day.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may he continue to be strengthened by the glory of Jesus at work in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in embracing sound and moral principles in solving the issues before them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are facing adversity or burden of any kind, may the glory of Jesus calm their fears and bring them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of disciples, may the graces of this sacrament help us as we go forth from here filled with the glory of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they know the complete and eternal glory of Jesus this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Father, hear the prayers we ask this day through your Son, Christ our Lord.

Monday, March 9, 2020
(Lec. 230)

- 1) Daniel 9:4b-10
- 2) Luke 6:36-38

MONDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Francis of Rome,
Religious)

FOCUS: Be merciful, because God has shown us mercy.

God does not condemn us according to our sins. As imperfect creatures, we will always fall short of the glory of God, but his mercy endures forever. Therefore, we should be merciful to others when they fault us. No one is sinless; we are all guilty of letting down God and others. Jesus challenges us to forgive extravagantly.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Daniel confesses to God, in shame, that the people had indeed sinned by breaking the commandments, and he acknowledges that God is compassionate. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to be merciful as the Father is: *forgive and you will be forgiven*. He also tells them: that with which they measure will be measured back to them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hope in the abundant goodness of our loving God, we bring to him our cares and concerns.

- 1) For the Holy Father, Pope Francis, and all bishops, that the Lord will bless their ministries, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For state and national leaders, may our God of justice guide them in their efforts toward building a more just society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the imprisoned, may knowing of God's mercy and forgiveness give them hope and bring them to repentance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, that the Holy Spirit may guide us to be an ever more forgiving and gracious people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they in God's mercy live with him in eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, every good gift comes from you. We humbly ask you to look upon these prayers and those we hold in our hearts, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, March 10, 2020
(Lec. 231)

- 1) Isaiah 1:10, 16-20
- 2) Matthew 23:1-12

TUESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: We are called to repentance.

We, like the people of Sodom and Gomorrah in our first reading, are called to repentance. This is more than saying “I’m sorry” and moving on. We are called to make certain our words and actions serve God and others. We must be willing to give of ourselves and live in accord with God’s will.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah calls the people of Sodom and Gomorrah to listen to the Lord’s word, and to turn from evil to good. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples and the crowds to *observe all things whatsoever [the scribes and Pharisees] tell you, but do not follow their example.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We bring our prayers to the Lord, confident in his promise to meet our every need.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord continue to bless her and protect her from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public authority, may the grace of our merciful God help them in their service to their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are facing various difficulties in their lives, may the peace of Christ that is beyond all understanding bring them comfort and resolution, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Holy Spirit continue to foster in us humility and holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our deceased friends and relatives, may they rest eternally in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear the prayers of your people, we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, March 11, 2020
(Lec. 232)

- 1) Jeremiah 18:18-20
- 2) Matthew 20:17-28

WEDNESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: The road to Jerusalem leads to the cross.

As we continue our Lenten journey, we are confronted in today's readings with the reality of rejection and suffering. We walk with Jesus and his disciples on the road to Jerusalem, which inevitably leads to the cross, and to laying down our lives in loving service of others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the people of Judah and Jerusalem *plot against Jeremiah*. Jeremiah pleads to the Lord for assistance. In the Gospel, Jesus foretells his passion and death. The mother of Zebedee's sons asks Jesus to exalt her sons in his kingdom, and he declares that he came not to be served, but to serve.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We bring our prayers before the Lord today, confident in his gracious mercy toward us.

- 1) For the Church, may God continue to purify and sanctify her in her mission and ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in public office, may God give them a spirit of humility and generosity in leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer physically or emotionally, may Jesus bring them comfort and assure them of his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this worship community, may the simple yet challenging way of the cross guide us during this Lenten journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that through the mercy and grace of God they may rest in his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we entrust these petitions into your care and ask that you answer them, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, March 12, 2020
(Lec. 233)

- 1) Jeremiah 17:5-10
- 2) Luke 16:19-31

THURSDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Trust in the Lord in all things.

The rich man had the best of everything in this life. Lazarus had the worst of everything. We likely fall somewhere in between. Trusting in the Lord in all things is what will affect our own particular judgment on the last day. As the Lord did not know the rich man, he does not know those who have no hope in him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah relays the Lord's message that those who trust in human beings are cursed, whereas those who trust in the Lord are blessed. The Lord knows their hearts and gives according to their deeds. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. After they die, the rich man is tormented, and Lazarus is comforted.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that the word of the Lord is Spirit and Life, we offer our prayers and petitions to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For the Church, may the Spirit's guidance be our strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God soften their hearts to the plight of those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are hungry, homeless or abandoned, may they experience Christ's comfort, and have their needs met, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here, may God grant us the grace to grow in compassion and charity in this season of Lent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the Lord show them mercy and gather them to his side, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you alone understand the human heart. We ask you to hear our prayers, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, March 13, 2020

(Lec. 234)

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

FRIDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: God's grace is stronger than any sin.

Both readings describe the evil, murderous responses to gifts that other people have received. While we may not relate to these extreme examples of sin, each of us knows what it means to be jealous. Faith transforms these stories of sin, and the stories of our lives, into testimonies of God's grace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Joseph's jealous brothers first plan to kill him, but Reuben stops them, intending to save Joseph. Instead, they then sell him as a slave. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the vineyard in which the owner sends his servants, and then his son, all of whom are killed. The chief priests and Pharisees hear this and, knowing it is about them, attempt to arrest Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's grace, let us turn to him with our prayers.

- 1) For all Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit direct them in their service to the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all elected and appointed officials, may God work through their efforts in creating a more just society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are overwhelmed by sin and suffering, may the Lord pour his grace upon them and bring them healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord encourage us in perseverance in our Lenten resolutions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may God welcome them into his eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, there is nothing more powerful than your grace and mercy. We ask that you hear our prayers and grant them according to your holy will, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, March 14, 2020

(Lec. 235)

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

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

SATURDAY OF

SECOND WEEK

OF LENT

FOCUS: God's mercy and love are greater than any obstacle or sin.

Both of the readings today remind us of God's great mercy and love. Despite all the hard-heartedness of the Israelite people, God always pardoned them and welcomed them back. And the son in the parable – who as the younger son didn't even have a right to any inheritance – is radically forgiven and welcomed home by his father. And so with us – nothing removes us from God's love for us, and nothing, other than a refusal on our part to repent and return to him, keeps his mercy from us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Micah praises God for his mercy: God *removes guilt and pardons sin* and [*has compassion on us*]. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the merciful father and the two sons – one who squandered his inheritance, and the other who angrily refused to celebrate his homecoming.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may the Lord continue to bless them with vitality and health, and growth in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in their efforts to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may God's healing power restore them to full health of body and mind, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local faith community, may God's great mercy and love for us increase us in our own virtue of charity and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom by the communion of saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we ask that you hear our prayers, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020

(Lec. 28)

- 1) Exodus 17:3-7
- 2) Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
- 3) John 4:5-42
or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF LENT**

FOCUS: The goodness and mercy of Jesus is life-giving.

Lent, with its disciplines of prayer, fasting and charity, is all about repentance, renewal and healing from sin. The Gospel tells of Jesus' encounter with a woman who had a long history of brokenness and isolation. As she meets Jesus and experiences his life-changing mercy, so, too, can we receive new life and living water from the Word and sacrament in which we encounter Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In their fear and need, the Israelites grumble against Moses and the Lord. God responds by meeting those needs with water flowing from the rock. Saint Paul writes to the Romans that *we have been justified by faith* through Jesus – his death gives us life. In the Gospel, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at the well and tells her he is the Messiah.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we journey through Lent, let us seek the life that only Christ can give, bringing before God our prayers and needs.

- 1) For all the Church, may Christ, who is the source of living water, continue to quench our thirst for righteousness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may the Holy Spirit foster in them a thirst for peace and justice, especially for the weak and vulnerable among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with sin and guilt or whose hearts are hardened by the challenges of life, may they experience the forgiving love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in our local community who have yet to encounter Christ, may the truth, beauty and goodness of our faith enliven their spirits and lead them to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to share in the fullness of life with the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and compassionate Lord, as you once answered the deepest needs and prayers of the woman Jesus encountered at the well, hear now our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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The following readings may be used on any Lenten day this week, especially in Years B and C when the Gospel of the Samaritan Woman is not read on the Third Sunday of Lent: Ex 17:1-7/Jn 4:5-42 (236).

Monday, March 16, 2020

(Lec. 238)

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

MONDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: God alone brings true wholeness and fulfillment.

The story of Naaman the leper is important because, of all the lepers in Israel, he was the only one who was cured. He sought healing, and when his original destination for that healing was incorrect, he changed course and followed the commands in order to be healed. Many things draw our attention as being able to “make us better” – whether physically or emotionally. While these may be good, the only way to find wholeness is in God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading Naaman, a leper from Syria, travels to Israel seeking healing from Elisha. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks *to the people in the synagogue at Nazareth* saying: *Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place.* He explains this by referring to the story of Naaman, the only leper in all of Israel to be cured.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our God is one of healing and compassion, and so we turn to him now in our desire for wholeness, asking him to hear our prayers.

- 1) For our Church, may God continue to purify and sanctify us, making us ever more holy in his sight, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of peoples and nations, may the Holy Spirit strengthen them in wisdom and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who experience addiction in their lives, may God’s grace come upon them, and heal them and their families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the healing presence of the Messiah be in all our thoughts and deeds, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may perpetual light shine upon them and may they rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of grace, our strength and our inspiration, hear the prayers of your Church gathered here in faith and hope, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, March 17, 2020
(Lec. 238)

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

TUESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Patrick,
Bishop)

FOCUS: Faithfulness and forgiveness are marks of discipleship.

God calls us to be faithful, to follow him unreservedly and trust in his mercy. This requires steadfastness and courage on our part, along with humility and compassion. It can be hard to stay the course; it can be difficult to forgive one who has wronged us. The more we avail ourselves of God's grace, the easier it is to live a way of life that marks us as faithful disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading is the prayer of Azariah from the midst of the furnace, imploring the Lord to be faithful to his people and to accept their sacrifice of trust and fidelity. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the unforgiving servant, and how the master handles that servant. He says that the heavenly Father will treat them the same way unless they forgive others from their heart.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's merciful and abundant love, we bring our prayers and petitions to God.

- 1) For leaders of the Church, may God's grace enable them in their ministry of God's mercy and forgiveness to the world, let us pray to the Lord
- 2) For judges and others in positions of authority, may the Holy Spirit guide them in wisdom as they balance forgiveness, mercy and justice, let us pray to the Lord
- 3) For those in need of forgiveness and those who need to forgive others, may the Lord strengthen them in the work of love to which they are called, let us pray to the Lord
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Lord help us grow in our understanding of his merciful love for us and transform us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the peace of God's perfect love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, we trust in your love and seek your strength in all we do. We bring these prayers before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, March 18, 2020
(Lec. 239)

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

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

FOCUS: Christ is the fullness of goodness, truth and love.

Christ does not simply give us the instructions we need to choose the “best good possible,” he gives us his very self – his goodness and his truth, alive in our hearts and minds. Jesus came to fulfill the law by giving us all we need to follow it, and so choose the joy of unity with God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses tells the people the statutes and decrees they must observe. In the Gospel, Jesus says that he has not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we strive for holiness by following God’s commandments, we turn to him with our prayers.

- 1) For all leaders in the Church, may Christ, the source of their wisdom, strengthen their hearts as they teach God’s law in our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those responsible for public policy, may God guide them in enacting laws that uphold the eternal law of truth given in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those oppressed by any evil in the world, may Christ bring about justice and sources of healing for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Holy Spirit give us wisdom to understand all that God teaches and grace to receive Christ’s help in our moral struggles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the perfect peace of God’s presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of Truth and Justice, we ask that you hear our prayers. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, March 19, 2020
(Lec. 543)

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

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

FOCUS: The Feast of Saint Joseph is an opportunity to reflect on his life of faith and obedience.

Saint Joseph can truly be seen as one of our greatest role models. His life stands as a shining example of dedication to our Lord, of unquestioning obedience to the Father and of faithful commitment to God's plan. The Church honors him today on this feast that recognizes his special role in our salvation history.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Book of Samuel, the Lord promises that the House of David will endure forever, and the Savior will come from his line. Paul's Letter to the Romans says that the promises made to Abraham came through faith, not law. Faith is a gift. In Matthew's Gospel, Joseph is reassured by the angel of the Lord, and so he takes Mary into his home.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Following the example of Joseph who unfailingly trusted the Lord, we join our voices in prayer as we present our petitions to God.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may the Holy Spirit bless him as he shares Joseph's life of faith and obedience to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in leadership positions in our country and throughout the world, may God encourage them in their decision-making and help them meet the needs of their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who deal with chronic illnesses, may Christ the healer bring them relief and give them the strength they need to endure, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in our faith community, may the Holy Family intercede for them in all their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rejoice with Saint Joseph and the community of saints in the heavenly kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we offer these prayers in gratitude for all you have done. Hear them and answer us, we pray, through Jesus, your Son.

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Friday, March 20, 2020
(Lec. 241)

- 1) Hosea 14:2-10
- 2) Mark 12:28-34

FRIDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Let us turn back with our whole hearts to God, who longs to bless us.

Today, we are reminded not only of our need to turn back to God when we have strayed from him, but of God's longing to fill us with his mercy and love once we do so. Lent is an opportune time to turn to God with humility and trust, and to accept his love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Hosea speaks for the Lord and tells the people of Israel to forsake their idols and turn back to God, who is ready to offer healing and joy. In the Gospel, Jesus and a scribe converse about the importance of God's law: Love of God with our entire being and of our neighbor as ourselves.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With love of God and neighbor, let us approach the heavenly throne with our needs and the needs of our world.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may the Lord bless him, sustain him and protect him from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawmakers, may the God of justice guide them in living out their duty with wisdom and a sense of service to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are on the fringes of society, may the Lord provide for the acceptance and help that they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our community of faith, may the Holy Spirit enkindle in us a more pure love for our neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they live forever in joy in the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, you show your compassion and love to all who turn to you. Hear these prayers from your children, given in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

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Saturday, March 21, 2020

(Lec. 242)

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

SATURDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: In God's mercy, we return to the Lord who desires us to know and love him.

With honest expression of sorrow and regret, the tax collector prays for God's mercy. It is the sinful tax collector, not the self-righteous Pharisee, who knows that God desires love. Heeding the call of the prophet, we return to the Lord this Lent, longing to know his merciful and healing love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Hosea tells Israel to return to the Lord, who desires to be known and loved. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the Pharisee and tax collector who go to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee is proud, but the tax collector, who expresses his sorrowful regret and asks for God's mercy, goes home justified.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our petitions to the Lord our God, who desires our honest and open prayers.

- 1) That all members of the Church may grow in love and knowledge of God through his grace and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That judges, juries and law enforcement officials may be guided by God in balancing judgment with mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the Lord may heal and bind up the wounds of those injured or recovering from surgery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those gathered here whose hearts are experiencing despair may be blessed with the consolation of God's peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died in Christ may return with the Lord to his glorious kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT**

(Lec. 31)

- 1) 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
- 2) Ephesians 5:8-14
- 3) John 9:1-41
or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

FOCUS: The Lord of all gives sight to the blind.

Jesus' power and claims divide those who encounter him. He is the long-awaited one, and he heals all wounds, even giving sight to the blind. We can trust that Jesus can heal all the wounds of our lives, giving us sight to see and a light to follow in the darkness of sin.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord sends Samuel to Jesse of Bethlehem because the Lord has chosen the new king from among Jesse's sons. Samuel goes, and anoints David *in the presence of his brothers*. In Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, he exhorts them to *live as children of light*. In the Gospel, Jesus encounters a man blind from birth. After Jesus gives the man sight, the Pharisees become divided over the account. The man defends Jesus, explaining that he must be from God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As the Father sent his Son to heal and redeem us, we now ask him to hear and answer these prayers that we may be comforted in any affliction.

- 1) For the Church, may God help us remain faithful to all of his commandments and grow in the fullness of the truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Lord grant them the fortitude to remain true to his justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer in mind, body or spirit, may the healing power of Jesus come upon them and bring them comfort and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Holy Spirit increase in us a spirit of conversion and openness to his work in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they, through the mercy of God, rest in the fullness of peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, we know that you are the giver of all good things. Hear and answer these prayers that we bring you today through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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The following readings may be used on any Lenten day this week, especially in Years B and C when the Gospel of the Man Born Blind is not read on the Fourth Sunday of Lent: Mi 7:7-9/Jn 9:1-41 (243).

Monday, March 23, 2020

(Lec. 244)

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

MONDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: The word of God has the power to transform us.

When we place our faith in Jesus, we accept God's promise of eternal life. The power of Jesus' word in our lives is the same as it was for the official in the Gospel – it is everlasting. Let us allow God to transform our hearts and lives so that we may grow in love for him and live more fully as his sons and daughters.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord says he is *about to create new heavens and a new earth*, and describes the joy and vitality that will be present in Jerusalem. In the Gospel, a royal official asks Jesus to cure his son. Jesus tells the official he may go home, that his son will live. The man and his whole household came to believe because of this.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We bring our needs before the Lord, as the royal official did, confident that we will be heard.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may he be blessed with good health in his humble witness to the power of God's love for us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For magistrates and mediators, may they be blessed with prudence and selflessness as they strive for fair and just solutions to the cases of conflict before them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer at the hands of others, may the Lord grant them reprieve, and bring them justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of believers, may the joy of the Gospel be a source of light and life in our daily endeavors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in the light of faith, may they be brought into the light of God's everlasting presence in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you continue to work signs among us. Hear the prayers we offer today, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, March 24, 2020
(Lec. 245)

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

TUESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Water is a source of life and healing.

The sick man who failed to reach the stirring waters of the pool is healed by Jesus, the Living Water. We are united to Christ through the waters of baptism. More than just an element, or a symbol, water both represents and exists as a source of life and healing. Without it on earth, we die. Without Christ as our font, we have no promise of eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, an angel walks with Ezekiel from the Temple down a wonderful stream which swells into a life-giving river. In John's Gospel, Jesus comes to the pool of Bethesda and heals a man who has been ill for 38 years. This draws criticism from Jews who observe the newly healed man carrying his mat on the Sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God who heals our afflictions, let us offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For the Church, may God help us to grow in holiness and be a light that leads many souls to salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Lord grant them wisdom in protecting all in their care, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those with chronic illness, may Christ the healer bring them physical and spiritual healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, that during this journey of Lent, we may grow in charity and love through the graces of the Eucharist and the sacrament of reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, and all who have died in the light of faith, may they receive a place at the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you are faithful and kind. Please hear and answer our prayers this day in your wisdom. We ask through Jesus, your Son.

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Wednesday, March 25, 2020

(Lec. 545)

- 1) Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10
- 2) Hebrews 10:4-10
- 3) Luke 1:26-38

**THE ANNUNCIATION
OF THE LORD
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: On the Feast of the Annunciation, we celebrate Mary's trust, finding in her the example of saying "yes" to God.

Mary's "yes" to the Holy Spirit is a sign of her faithfulness to and trust in God. Through her, Jesus was Incarnate, bringing God into human history in a new and radical way. Mary's willingness to embrace God's path for her, and her desire to be of service to the Lord, are models of faith. We celebrate her "yes," and her role in bearing Christ for the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah prophesies the sign that will come: The virgin shall bear a son, whose name shall be Emmanuel. In the Letter to the Hebrews, the author explains how the offering of Christ's Body replaces the old sacrifices of the law. In the Gospel, the angel Gabriel visits Mary, and tells her that she will conceive and bear a son.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to follow the example of Mary's faith, let us entrust our petitions to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may the Lord richly bless them in their ministry and protect them from all evil that surrounds them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national leaders, may God grant them compassion and insight in acting for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and all those who care for them, may God grant them healing, relief and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local faith community, may the Holy Spirit continue to empower us in saying "yes" to what God asks of us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom by Mary and the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, March 26, 2020
(Lec. 247)

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

THURSDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: God relents in punishing his people and instead offers them salvation and new life.

We are reminded today that the gift of salvation in Christ is rooted in God's deep love for his people. Despite our infidelity and our sins – our hardness of heart – God's love and mercy are ever present, offering us another chance to live according to his Word.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God desires to impose his wrath upon the *stiff-necked* people he has brought out of slavery, but Moses intervenes on their behalf and God relents. In the Gospel, Jesus points out to the Jews their lack of consistency – they keep seeking signs and never seem to be open to listen to God's messengers.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we continue our Lenten journey, we bring our needs to the Lord with trust and confidence.

- 1) For all the Church, during this Lenten season may the Lord increase in us hearts for sharing and self-denial, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who serve either as elected or appointed authorities, may the God of wisdom bless them with the skills and gifts necessary for true servant leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick in our community, may the healing consolation of Christ be upon them and make them whole, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may the steadfast love and mercy of God draw us ever closer to him through the life and death of Christ, his Son, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, March 27, 2020

(Lec. 248)

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

FRIDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Knowing God should lead us to change our behavior.

The just one knows that God is real, and that our behavior in this life affects our afterlife. This knowledge, which we also have, is the foundation for a life of righteousness and avoiding sin. This knowledge is found in Jesus, who knows the Father intimately.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The wicked decide to mistreat and kill *the just one*, because he seeks a holy life and exhorts others to reject their sinful ways. In the Gospel, Jesus suggests he was sent by the Father, and though some wanted to arrest him, he escapes arrest.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs, and those of our brothers and sisters in Christ, to our loving Father.

- 1) For missionaries, may the Lord strengthen them in their zeal to spread the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For policymakers, may the Holy Spirit inspire them in passing laws protecting all life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those persecuted for righteousness' sake, may God bless them with courage and perseverance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our family of faith gathered here, may the Lord bless us in our Lenten efforts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they rest in paradise with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, our very breath is a gift from you. We humbly ask you to listen kindly to our prayers, in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Saturday, March 28, 2020
(Lec. 249)

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

SATURDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: *O Lord, my God, in you I take refuge.*

The crowd surrounding Christ questions whether anything good can come from Galilee. We faithful disciples know the answer is “yes.” We have the benefit of history and hindsight to be able to see the truth and goodness of Christ in our midst, and to proclaim it in the creed. This faith is a gift, and we should not squander it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeremiah expresses his vulnerability as a prophet of God. He is like a lamb dependent upon the Lord of hosts. In the Gospel, the crowds question the identity of Christ, asserting that he cannot be the Savior because he hails from Galilee.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord fortify and sustain her in her prophetic witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public authority, may the Holy Spirit grant them discerning hearts to know his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people who are isolated by illness or age, may the grace of God’s presence among them bring them consolation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For ourselves, and our families and loved ones, may the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us conform us ever more to the heart and mind of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the dead, may all who have died in the light of faith be welcomed into the everlasting joy found in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord of hosts, hear these prayers which we give voice to today, and graciously grant all which we pray for according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020

**FIFTH SUNDAY
OF LENT**

(Lec. 34)

- 1) Ezekiel 37:12-14
- 2) Romans 8:8-11
- 3) John 11:1-45
or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

FOCUS: Those who believe in Jesus and walk in his ways will never die.

Our worldly desires bind us up in burial cloths fashioned from our sins that block the will of God from our sight. By putting aside selfish ways and trusting in God's love and mercy, we allow Christ to call us forth from death so that we might lead a resurrected life in the Spirit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God promises life and liberty to the Israelites. In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds the Romans that they must strive to overcome their sinful natures so as to live in union with Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead and makes the bold proclamation that those who believe in him will never die.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the life-giving power of the Spirit, we lift up our prayers and petitions to our Father in heaven.

- 1) That all leaders and members of the Church may be graced with the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may be helped by God in putting aside selfish agendas, and seek justice and equality for the people under their care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are in mourning may be consoled by God in their grief and made confident in the hope of resurrection for their loved ones, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all the members of this faith community may receive the mercy of God for themselves, and with his help, offer it to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead and all those who have died may know the joy and fullness of life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, with humble confidence we ask you to hear these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son.

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The following readings may be used on any day this week, especially in Years B and C when the Gospel of Lazarus is not read on the Fifth Sunday of Lent: 2 Kgs 4:18b-21, 32-37/Jn 11:1-45 (250).

Monday, March 30, 2020

MONDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT

(Lec. 251)

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

FOCUS: *Go, and from now on do not sin any more.*

In our readings today, we hear of two women facing grave situations. They encounter profound hope and mercy through God's presence. In this time of Lent, we are invited to prayerfully consider the areas of our lives where we might seek hope. Furthermore, we are called to consider how we might bring hope to those we encounter each day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Daniel speaks for Susanna, falsely accused and under threat of death. His voice opens up the opportunity for her to find justice and be free. In the Gospel of John, the scribes and the Pharisees bring to Jesus a woman caught in adultery. Jesus asks her accusers to consider their own sinfulness before stoning her. They leave, one by one.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as one, we lift our prayers to God.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all clergy, may God's hope shine abundantly through them as they lead the Church in the world today, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those who are elected to government positions, may God's justice be in their hearts as they make decisions in the best interests of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who thirst for light in situations of great darkness, may God's love lead them to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in our faith community, may the Lord help us to always grow in faith, hope and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may God's peace be with them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly place our prayers before you, and ask that you hear and answer them, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, March 31, 2020

(Lec. 252)

1) Numbers 21:4-9

2) John 8:21-30

TUESDAY OF

FIFTH WEEK

OF LENT

FOCUS: We look to Jesus for healing and salvation.

The serpent that Moses lifts up in the wilderness to heal the people foreshadows Jesus, who was lifted up on the cross. As the serpent heals the people, Jesus is our source of healing and life. We should look to him for salvation. His cross is a sign of God's love for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Israelites grumble against Moses and God. God punishes them, but after they repent, God commands Moses to fashion a bronze serpent so they will be healed. In the Gospel, Jesus reveals more of himself and his mission from the father, but the Pharisees and the others do not understand. Yet, *many came to believe in him*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us lift our hearts and minds to God as we present our petitions.

- 1) That the Church may continue to be purified and sanctified through the grace and mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That national and international leaders may be empowered by the Holy Spirit in serving their people as Christ came to serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have turned from God may receive from him the grace of conversion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this Lenten season may be a time of growing in the gifts God has given us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may be united with Christ in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear and graciously accept the prayers we offer you, we ask this through Christ our Lord.

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