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Ascension

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Friday, May 1, 2020
(Lec. 277)

- 1) Acts 9:1-20
- 2) John 6:52-59

Or for Memorial (Lec. 559)

- 1) Genesis 1:26-2:3
or Colossians 3:14-15, 17, 23-24
- 2) Matthew 13:54-58

FRIDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Joseph
the Worker)

FOCUS: No one is beyond God's reach of mercy and love.

Saul's dramatic conversion experience after being a devoted persecutor of Christians gives us assurance that no one is out of God's reach of mercy and love. God sent his Son to be the bread of life from heaven, that we may partake of this love in tangible form, and proclaim the Gospel with our lives. In the Eucharist, we remain in God's mercy and love forever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Luke recounts the conversion of Saul, and his subsequent preaching of the Gospel. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that his flesh and blood are the true life-giving food and drink.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In this month of Mary, we ask our Blessed Mother to intercede for us as we present our petitions to our Lord.

- 1) That all of us may be nourished and transformed by Christ in the Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the word of God may put an end to violence in the name of religion between nations and peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That persecuted Christians throughout the world may be protected by God within their homes and churches, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the newly initiated in our community may be led by Jesus into deeper communion with him this Easter season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our deceased loved ones may feast forever with Christ at his heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercy and love, hear and answer these and all our prayers through our risen Lord and Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, May 2, 2020
(Lec. 278)

- 1) Acts 9:31-42
- 2) John 6:60-69

SATURDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER
(OBL MEM
Saint Athanasius,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Belief in Jesus leads to new life.

When other disciples were leaving, Peter declared that Jesus had the words of eternal life. This was a belief, and faith, that Peter proclaimed then and throughout his ministry. It enabled him to raise a virtuous woman from the dead through the power of God. Belief in Jesus will always result in life – not always as dramatic as in Tabitha's story, but in new life of our souls and eventually the resurrection of our bodies.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter's words cure a paralyzed man, and he prays and commands a deceased holy woman to arise. After that, *many came to believe in the Lord*. In the Gospel, many who were following Jesus leave him because what he has said is hard to accept. When Jesus asks the Twelve if they will also leave, Peter responds that Jesus is the *Holy One of God* and the way to eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Following the example of Saint Athanasius, who faithfully served the Lord and trusted in him throughout his life, we now bring our needs to God.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to give them strength and grace in proclaiming the truth fearlessly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political leaders, may God grant them courage in passing laws protecting all life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from any addiction, may the hope of resurrection in Jesus give them strength in their pursuit of healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community, may the Lord place his hand upon us and guide us in our service to the sick, oppressed, or suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they rest in the peace of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, we trust in your infinite goodness and love. Kindly hear our prayers which we ask in the name of Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns forever.

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020

(Lec. 49)

- 1) Acts 2:14a, 36-41
- 2) 1 Peter 2:20b-25
- 3) John 10:1-10

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: The Shepherd is calling us. Let us heed his voice.

Turmoil enters our lives and even enters our Church, but we are called to persevere and keep our eyes focused on the risen Christ. Through repentance and living for righteousness, we are united with him who is the heart and core of our faith. The Shepherd is calling us. Let us heed his voice.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter tells the community that their Savior was indeed the one whom they crucified. They are *cut to the heart*, they repent, and are baptized – adding *about three thousand persons* to the community. In the second reading, Peter calls the community to patient suffering when they know what they are doing is right. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks about the shepherd and the sheep who know the sound of his voice.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together with one voice, we place our trust in our loving God and offer him our prayers.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may God bless him with continued health, vitality, and wisdom in his ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may Jesus' example of servant leadership assist them in their efforts in solving the most difficult challenges in their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who harbor resentment or ill-will toward others, may the Holy Spirit bring them consolation and lead them in reconciliation with one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of believers, may God help us grow in being emissaries of comfort and peace to all those we encounter today, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be welcomed safely home this day by Jesus, the Good Shepherd, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, your Son, our Good Shepherd, bids us to follow his voice. Hear the prayers we offer this day, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, May 4, 2020
(Lec. 279)

- 1) Acts 11:1-18
- 2) John 10:11-18

MONDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Blessed are we, the sheep of our Lord.

By his own choice and power does our Lord shepherd us. We are his flock, for whom he laid down his life without hesitation. Blessed are we to have such a Good Shepherd.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter is criticized for eating with uncircumcised men. After he described to them his vision from the Lord, they all glorified God for saving the Gentiles, too. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that he is the Good Shepherd who cares for all sheep, even those not of his fold. By his own choice, he lays down his life for the sheep.

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 Church leaders, may the Lord bless them and keep them as they continue to preach the Gospel of peace and forgiveness for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected officials, may God embolden them in working together with their communities for peace among all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are unemployed, may God look graciously upon them and provide sufficient work for them to support themselves and their families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Holy Spirit continue to help us grow in the virtues of faith, hope, and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be received into eternal happiness with our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we thank you for your unconditional love and care for us. We present our needs to you through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, May 5, 2020
(Lec. 280)

- 1) Acts 11:19-26
- 2) John 10:22-30

TUESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Lord holds us in his hand, caring for us as a good shepherd cares for his flock.

Today we reflect on how, despite the persecution of the early Christians, their numbers grew, and the hand of the Lord was with them. The hand of the Lord is with us, as well, and holds us as a good shepherd who cares for his flock.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Acts recounts the growth of the early Church, as those scattered by persecution, along with Barnabas and Paul, bring believers to the Lord. In the Gospel from John, Jesus contrasts the people in the Temple area, who do not believe, with his sheep, who know his voice and follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to be trusting sheep of God's flock, let us offer our prayers to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For leaders of the Church, may Christ guide them in shepherding their people with a spirit of love, compassion, and solidarity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may God grant them wisdom in carefully addressing problems that face their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, the homebound, and the lonely, may God bring them comfort, love, and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord in his favor grant us strength in remaining faithful to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died in the light of Christ, may they be welcomed into the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, May 6, 2020
(Lec. 281)

- 1) Acts 12:24–13:5a
- 2) John 12:44-50

WEDNESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus is sent by the Father to save the world.

Jesus is clear in today's Gospel that he speaks not his own words, but also those of the Father who sent him. Their message is one and the same: reconciling us to the Father, and loving us into eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Barnabas and Saul are commissioned and sent off to proclaim the word of God. Jesus, in today's Gospel, says that whoever believes in him also believes in the one who sent him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We offer our needs to the Father, who always hears us.

- 1) For the Church, may God bring unity where it is needed and build bridges where there is division, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all elected leaders and their advisors, may the wisdom and peace of Christ inspire them in legislating and leading their people justly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick in mind, body, or spirit, may Christ the Healer touch them through the hands and presence of a friend today, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this local faith community, may God grant courage for its members to proclaim the word of God with love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they be welcomed into eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you sent us the words of eternal life in your Son. Hear now our prayers, which we ask in his holy name.

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Thursday, May 7, 2020
(Lec. 282)

- 1) Acts 13:13-25
- 2) John 13:16-20

THURSDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: We are called to continue Christ's mission.

The Church is called to continue Christ's mission in the world. We must not only understand Christ's message, but also act on it – to not only preach like Paul, but also serve like Christ. Jesus calls his disciples to give their lives in humble service, as he did.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul is invited to speak in the synagogue. He explains that Jesus is the Savior promised to the Israelites from the line of King David. In the Gospel, after washing the feet of the disciples, Jesus speaks to them. He says that no servant is greater than his master, and that whoever receives the one he sends, receives him also, and therefore the one who sent him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As disciples of Jesus, let us place our prayers before the Father, trusting in his goodness and love.

- 1) For the Church, may the joy of the Gospel inspire us as missionary disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all leaders of nations and peoples, and for the resolution of conflicts among them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are in coerced or forced service to another, may the Lord rescue them and instill in them an assurance of their human dignity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may Christ enable us to know him more and more, and may this knowledge inspire us in our service to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have gone before us in faith, may they be rewarded for their service in God's name, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

YYYYYY Father, hear the prayers we offer today in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Friday, May 8, 2020
(Lec. 283)

- 1) Acts 13:26-33
- 2) John 14:1-6

FRIDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: God's love for us is the one thing in this life that is certain.

We believe that God became human, died, and rose again – all for love of us. Comprehending the extent of his love for us is humbling, and even the people of Jesus' time struggled to fully understand the truth of Jesus. Today's Gospel can provide reassurance that God will provide and care for us, even if things around us do not always make sense.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul preaches to a Jewish audience in Antioch. He summarizes the Gospel with emphasis on Jesus' fulfillment of the Jewish Scriptures. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples, reassuring them he is going forth to prepare a place for them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We lift our needs to our heavenly Father, trusting that he will hear us.

- 1) For all who lead in the Church, may the Lord grant them strength in guiding the Church toward healing and sacramental transformation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of nations, may God give them courage and strength in seeking out justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling with depression, anxiety, or any other mental health challenge, may God's healing hand provide peace and recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the community gathered here and the local community outside these walls, may the grace of the Holy Spirit empower us to live the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in eternal peace with all the saints and angels in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We offer these prayers to you, God of mercy, with thanks and praise. Through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, May 9, 2020
(Lec. 284)

- 1) Acts 13:44-52
- 2) John 14:7-14

SATURDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus tells his disciples that to know him is to know the Father since he is united with the Father.

Jesus is the Word made flesh, God's own self-revelation to the world. Philip's request to see the Father shows that the disciples still do not fully understand who Jesus is. We know that he is God's only begotten Son, and that he unites us to the Father, through himself.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

At Antioch, Paul and Barnabas, who had met rejection from their fellow Jews, turn their attention to the Gentiles. For they were to be *a light to the Gentiles ... an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth*. In the Gospel, Philip asks to see the Father. Jesus says, *Whoever has seen me has seen the Father*, for he and the Father are in each other.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: United in faith and fortified by our Savior's love for us, let us present our petitions to the Father.

- 1) For the pope, and all who serve the people of God, may the Lord help them to persevere in defending the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the God of justice help them in their work of serving their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer for the sake of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, that we who worship at God's altar may be transformed for service in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may God welcome them to his heavenly table, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, your Son, Jesus, came to give us a share in your life. Hear the prayers we offer today, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2020

(Lec. 52)

- 1) Acts 6:1-7
- 2) 1 Peter 2:4-9
- 3) John 14:1-12

**FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: We are living stones aligned with Christ, the cornerstone.

Let the Church rejoice as we, the living body of Christ, have recently welcomed many sisters and brothers, new members of the household of faith. Let us encourage those newly joined to us in the sacraments of baptism and confirmation to fully live their new identity as part of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Twelve choose *seven reputable men* to be their assistants and *serve at table*. In his Letter, Peter writes that all who have faith are to be living stones, imitating Christ. In John's Gospel, Jesus declares himself *the way and the truth and the life*, calling those who believe in him to do the works he does.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As people called by God – a chosen race, a royal priesthood – let us present our needs to him with confidence.

- 1) For all of us baptized into Christ's Church, and the royal priesthood, may the Lord continue to increase our faith for the sake of his Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in positions of authority, may God's grace enable them to lead with integrity, protecting life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For any who are struggling to believe and those whose faith is weak, may Christ speak to their troubled hearts and give them hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who have been welcomed into the Church this Easter season, may the Holy Spirit continue to form them as living stones, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may he who has prepared a place for them welcome them to the splendor of their heavenly home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, you know our needs before we ask. Please hear and answer our prayers this day according to your will, we ask in Jesus' name.

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Monday, May 11, 2020
(Lec. 285)

- 1) Acts 14:5-18
- 2) John 14:21-26

MONDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: If we follow his commandments, God will make his dwelling place within us.

We show our love for God by obeying the commandments. In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches that when we obey his commandments, God makes his dwelling place in us and fills us with his love. Let us strive to be open to the presence and love of God within us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

When Paul cures a crippled man, the crowds believe he and Barnabas are Greek *gods [who] have come down to [them] in human form*. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples about loving him and his Father. He also promises the coming of *the Advocate, the Holy Spirit*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We bring our needs before our almighty God with confidence that our prayers will be heard and answered.

- 1) That our Church leaders may be conformed by Christ ever more into his image in their preaching of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations and peoples may be guided by the generous and compassionate hand of God in all they do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who are living without religious freedom may be filled with courage through the grace of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those in this faith community may be drawn closer to the Lord in his fullness through the grace of the sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may know the glory of God, and rest in eternal peace at his side, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Generous and merciful God, we ask that you listen to the prayers we have placed before you, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, May 12, 2020
(Lec. 286)

- 1) Acts 14:19-28
- 2) John 14:27-31a

TUESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saints Nereus and Achilleus,
Martyrs;
Saint Pancras,
Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus' gift of peace can sustain us through hardships and trials.

No matter how prepared we are, facing suffering, hardship, and loss is challenging and can truly test our faith. But Jesus left us a great gift to comfort and strengthen us in such times – the gift of his peace, that is, himself. United to Christ, we can trust that God's great love for us will lead us through our trials.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

After preaching the Word and establishing Church communities in various cities, Paul and Barnabas return to Antioch where they report on their experience. In the Gospel, during the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples that he gives them peace in a way the world does not. He encourages them to not *let [their] hearts be troubled or afraid*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Nourished by his Word, let us bring our prayers and petitions before God, who is merciful and rich in compassion.

- 1) For the Church, the people of God, may the Lord continue to strengthen us in faith and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders, may wisdom and justice guide them in their work for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who face chronic illness or pain, may the Lord strengthen and encourage them in their trials, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may all our hearts be filled with the peace only Christ can offer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may the Lord grant them eternal joy in his Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, hear these prayers we bring humbly before you and answer them in accordance with your holy will. In Christ's name we pray.

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Wednesday, May 13, 2020
(Lec. 287)

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

WEDNESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Our Lady of Fatima)

FOCUS: Christ is the vine who connects us with the eternal Father and with one another.

In his farewell discourse, Jesus challenges his disciples to remain connected to him and with all who belong to him. But this discipleship will come with a cost – we will be tested as the vine is pruned in order to produce more fruit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul, Barnabas, and some other disciples go to Jerusalem to discuss whether circumcision is necessary to admit Gentile converts to the community of faith. In the Gospel, Jesus uses the image of himself as the vine and the Father as the vine grower when speaking to his disciples. He says, *Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In confidence and trust, let us bring our needs and petitions to the Lord.

- 1) For all who are baptized in the Church, may the grace of our baptism and our participation in the life of the sacraments strengthen our commitment to Christ and the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who exercise leadership on a world, national, or local stage, may the power of the Holy Spirit guide them in their service to their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and all in need of God's healing this day, may the hope of the Resurrection bring them strength, and may God look graciously upon them in their need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may the Spirit of Christ continue to nourish us and help us to bear fruit for the Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they come to share in the glory of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we entrust these our prayers knowing that you will hear them and grant them according to your holy will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, May 14, 2020
(Lec. 564)

- 1) Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
- 2) John 15:9-17

**SAINT MATTHIAS,
APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Christ calls us to remain in his love.

Saint Matthias serves as a poignant witness of remaining in Christ's love and keeping his commandments through different life circumstances: discipleship, spreading the faith as Judas' replacement among the Twelve, and dying as a martyr. Through it all, the constant was him following Jesus and remaining in his love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, through discussion and prayer, the Apostles choose Matthias to take Judas' place as the 12th Apostle. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to remain in his love by keeping his commandments so that they will know his joy, and their joy will be complete.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord calls us to himself. With faith and trust, let us bring our petitions before him.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord raise up saints to lead all of us in holiness and faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may the grace of the Lord transform hearts to see the dignity of every person and the sanctity of creation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those whose labor and faith is known only to the Lord, may God strengthen and sustain them, and may Saint Matthias intercede for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Holy Spirit give each of us the grace to fully answer our particular call to holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the Lord welcome them into his eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you know our hearts and you hear our prayers. Grant what we ask according to your holy will, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, May 15, 2020
(Lec. 289)

- 1) Acts 15:22-31
- 2) John 15:12-17

FRIDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(USA: Opt. Mem.
Saint Isidore)

FOCUS: Love is the greatest of all gifts.

There are many facets to friendship, not the least of which is love. And Jesus tells us the greatest expression of love is to lay down one's life for a friend. Jesus calls us friends, and he laid down his life for us. The gift of the Son and his love for us is the greatest of all gifts. It is one we are obliged to share, through self-sacrifice and proclamation of the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Judas and Silas are chosen to go to Antioch with Paul. They give word by letter and by mouth that those (Gentiles) who wish to follow the Christian path will not have to subscribe to all the Jewish statutory and dietary laws previously required of them. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles to *love one another as I love you*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, the Body of Christ, may the Lord continue to guide and sanctify us in his saving work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our public officials, may the strong hand of God assist them in using their talents for the betterment of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from poverty or lack of stable living conditions, may God look graciously upon their need for food, shelter, and community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in this faith community, may the love of Christ infuse our hearts and conform us ever more to his ways, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the eternal arms of God who loves them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we implore you to hear these prayers. We ask through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, May 16, 2019
(Lec. 290)

- 1) Acts 16:1-10
- 2) John 15:18-21

SATURDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Being chosen by Christ gives us the strength to carry out the mission of the Kingdom.

Today's Gospel message is a sobering reminder that if we are following Christ in an authentic way that truly exemplifies his teachings, we will meet opposition. Yet the hope that sustains us – which comes with being chosen by Christ – gives us the strength to carry out the mission of the Kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Timothy joins Paul in his missionary work. Following the Spirit, they are led to Macedonia. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that the world will hate and persecute them because it hated and persecuted him first.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Taking comfort in the Lord's mercy, let us offer to him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For those who are discerning a vocation to the service of the Church through priesthood or religious life, may the Holy Spirit's gifts of fortitude and wisdom guide them in their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, may the Lord help them face the challenges of their duties with patience and discretion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For family members experiencing discord, may their hearts be open to the light of Christ and bring them reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For young people gathered here, may the Lord make known his will for them as they seek their life's meaning and purpose, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed into paradise by the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020

(Lec. 55)

- 1) Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
- 2) 1 Peter 3:15-18
- 3) John 14:15-21

**SIXTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: If we do not speak and act for Christ, who will?

Saint Teresa of Ávila once wrote that Christ has no body on earth but ours. This 16th-century mystic understood what Jesus meant when he said, *If you love me, you will keep my commandments*. She believed we meet Jesus' expectation by becoming a voice for the voiceless, as Philip did in Samaria – where his preaching, signs, and deeds brought great joy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Philip proclaims the Gospel in Samaria and many people are cured. Peter and John follow and lay hands on the newly baptized there, and *they received the Holy Spirit*. In the second reading, Peter encourages the community to always be ready to give reason for their hope, and be willing *to suffer for doing good*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that those who love him will follow his commandments.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: To God the Father who has given us new life through the resurrection of his Son, let us offer our prayers for the needs of the Church and the world.

- 1) For the Church, formed in the Spirit as the body of Christ, may God graciously grant us what we need as we proclaim the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the good news of the Gospel guide their actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, especially those who feel alone in their struggle, may they experience the comfort of our loving God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our community who were baptized into new life at Easter, may the Holy Spirit continue to nourish their faith and spiritual gifts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find peace and eternal joy in the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear and grant our prayers through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, May 18, 2020
(Lec. 291)

- 1) Acts 16:11-15
- 2) John 15:26–16:4a

MONDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John I,
Pope and Martyr)

FOCUS: Testify to the hope we have received in Christ.

While Jesus calls us to an intimate and personal relationship, his call does not end there. We cannot be merely disciples, but should be missionary disciples. Like Paul, we are impelled by the Lord to testify to Christ. We do not testify alone, though, rather the Spirit of truth testifies with us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, *the Lord opened [Lydia's] heart to pay attention to what Paul was saying*, and she and her household were baptized. In the Gospel, Jesus promises to send to his disciples *the Spirit of truth* who will testify to Jesus. This Spirit will help them testify also, and they are to remember this when they are rejected by those who do not know Jesus or the Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our needs to the Lord, trusting in his goodness and mercy.

- 1) For Pope Francis, all bishops, priests, and deacons, may they, like Paul, be fueled by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as they preach the word of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our world, may the Holy Spirit enliven the hearts of all believers and help us proclaim the good news of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have lost their way, may God help them to hear his voice and follow his path, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may God give us perseverance as we continue on our own journeys of evangelization, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience the peace and joy of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you met the needs of the first Apostles through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Answer the prayers we bring to you today, we ask, through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, May 19, 2020
(Lec. 292)

- 1) Acts 16:22-34
- 2) John 16:5-11

TUESDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Our very attitude of peace and joy can be a compelling witness to Jesus in our chaotic world today.

Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to help us in our witness. But how do we witness to God's love in today's world? Perhaps as Paul and Silas did. Perhaps it was the joy and peace they showed in prison, and their concern for the jailer's well-being that told the jailer that he himself could find salvation in Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul and Silas are beaten and imprisoned. They answer their jailer's question by saying that belief in Jesus is necessary for salvation, and so he and his household are then baptized. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples the importance of his leaving, so that he can send the Advocate.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God knows our every need, let us bring our prayers to him.

- 1) For our Holy Father, may the Lord grant him continued strength and grace in his ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in government or civic leadership positions, may the Holy Spirit foster in them the values of respect, fairness, and dignity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those whose lives have been affected by violence, may Christ, the Divine Physician, bring them comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here who were initiated into the Church at Easter, may the Spirit of truth continue to help them grow in faith and loving service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in God, the source of everlasting peace, joy, and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God, eternal source of all being, hear the prayers that your people bring before you on behalf of our brothers and sisters, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, May 20, 2020
(Lec. 293)

- 1) Acts 17:15, 22–18:1
- 2) John 16:12-15

WEDNESDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Bernadine of Siena,
Priest)

FOCUS: God is never far from us.

The search for understanding God is inexhaustible. God is the Creator of all things; he is the source of every living thing that breathes. God is never far from any of us. In fact, God sent his only Son so that we might be saved. After Jesus' time on earth, the Holy Spirit continues to guide us as we grow closer to God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul speaks to the Athenians about what they worship. He explains God's presence in the universe and how he might be properly sought. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples of the coming of the Spirit of truth. The Spirit of truth will guide them to *all* truth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring before God the prayers of our faith community today.

- 1) For our holy Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to deepen our love for God and strengthen our relationship with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all government leaders and workers, may God sustain them in wisdom and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from addictions or dependencies, may God's light be with them and may he help them in their struggles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community as we near the end of the Easter season, may God's grace continue to bring us to a deeper relationship with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of those who have died, may perpetual light shine upon them and may they rest in eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, your grace surrounds us. Hear the prayers we offer today, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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NOTE: Regarding the Ascension of the Lord, the ecclesiastical provinces of Boston, Hartford, New York, Newark, Omaha, and Philadelphia have retained its celebration on the proper Thursday, while all other provinces have transferred this Solemnity to the Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 24. If transferred, Thursday, May 21, is observed as an Easter Weekday.

Thursday, May 21, 2020
(Lec. 294)

- 1) Acts 18:1-8
- 2) John 16:16-20

THURSDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Christopher Magallanes,
Priest,
and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: God's love is more powerful even than death.

In celebrating Easter, we know that victory has been won and that God's love is more powerful even than death. The witnesses in Scripture and among the saints support us in the hope we celebrate this season.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul travels to Corinth, where he is joined by Silas and Timothy. Although he confronts opposition, he continues to preach the Word and many come to believe. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that their grief will become joy.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Keeping our eyes fixed on the promise of salvation, we bring our petitions to our merciful Father.

- 1) For all bishops, priests, and deacons, may God continue to sanctify and purify them in their sacred ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in positions of political power, may the grace of God enable them to truly see the needs of those whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are struggling in their faith, may God look graciously upon them and the Holy Spirit help them grow in truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, may we faithfully live the truth of the Gospel in all our actions and interactions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away in the hope of the resurrection, may they be welcomed into the victory of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of joy, hear our prayers today, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, May 21, 2020
(Lec. 58)

- 1) Acts 1:1-11
- 2) Ephesians 1:17-23
- 3) Matthew 28:16-20

**THE ASCENSION
OF THE LORD
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: *Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.*

While looking intently at the sky during the ascension of Christ, the Apostles were still unsure of what was ahead for them. Jesus declares the Apostles' mission and assures them that the Holy Spirit will guide and lead them as his witnesses to the ends of the earth. As his disciples, we share in this mission, emboldened by the knowledge that he is always with us and confident that he will come again.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jesus tells his Apostles that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them, and then he ascends into heaven. In his Letter to the Ephesians, Saint Paul affirms the hope enjoyed by all who believe in the promise and power of Christ. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus commissions the Apostles to make disciples of all nations, and assures them that he will be with them, *always, until the end of the age.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in our merciful God, let us present our petitions to him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Holy Spirit embolden us to bear joyful witness to the saving power of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern, may Jesus' example of compassionate and just service inspire them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the oppressed, exploited, and voiceless, especially the victims of human trafficking, may God comfort them and lead them out of their affliction, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may our shared commitment to being witnesses of Christ's love inspire us to work together, pray for one another, and forgive one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they abide with Jesus in heaven forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you remain with us through your Spirit. We ask that you hear the prayers of your witnesses gathered here, and answer them according to your will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, May 22, 2020
(Lec. 295)

- 1) Acts 18:9-18
- 2) John 16:20-23

FRIDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Rita of Cascia,
Religious)

FOCUS: Easter joy gives meaning to loss and enables us to endure.

In the Easter story, as in our own lives, there is death followed by resurrection; there is grief followed by joy. Jesus teaches us that we will be able to endure loss and anguish because of this Easter joy. Such joy, promised to us by Christ, gives meaning to our experiences of death and pain.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul is encouraged by the Lord for his mission in Corinth, where he taught for a year-and-a-half. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples, acknowledging their anguish and telling them that their grief will become joy when they see him again.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting the Lord knows our grief and anguish, we present our needs to him.

- 1) That the Lord may heal the wounds of his Church, and bring justice and healing to her members, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the peace of Christ may overpower nations in conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That God may relieve the suffering of all who struggle with disease or ill-health, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Christ may bring consolation to those in our community who are mourning the loss of loved ones, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may experience eternal life with Christ in the glory of resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of wonder and might, we bring these prayers before you. Hear and answer them, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, May 23, 2020
(Lec. 296)

- 1) Acts 18:23-28
- 2) John 16:23b-28

SATURDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Never stop seeking the One who sought us first.

Apollos humbly listened to Priscilla and Aquila's correction, and he was able to better teach others about Jesus. Even after years of being with the disciples, Jesus still hadn't fully explained the Father, but he tells them to pray to the Father in his name. Though we can't fully understand God, we can still approach him and continue to learn. Through prayer and study, let us never stop seeking the One who sought us first.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Although Apollos taught accurately about Jesus, he did not know everything about the Way of God. Priscilla and Aquila privately corrected him and Apollos continued teaching effectively. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples about his coming from the Father, and tells them, *whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Jesus told his disciples that whatever they ask the Father in his name will be given. Knowing this, we have the confidence to bring him our needs.

- 1) For those discerning a vocation in the Church, may God grant them wisdom and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For governments and political leaders, may the Holy Spirit lead them in service of their communities, countries and world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, may the joy and hope of the Resurrection bring them solace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the newly baptized in our community, may the Holy Spirit continue to bring them ever closer to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they enjoy eternity in heaven with the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of love and mercy, we ask you to look kindly upon these prayers, which we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

NOTE: In those places where the observance of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord has been transferred to this day, the Mass and readings of the Ascension are used.

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020

**SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

(Lec. 59)

- 1) Acts 1:12-14
- 2) 1 Peter 4:13-16
- 3) John 17:1-11a

FOCUS: God makes himself known to us.

Knowing God in a way that brings eternal life is no casual acquaintance, but an intimate friendship. When we know someone as a friend, we know likes and dislikes, character and personality. God knows us intimately and, amazingly, desires to be known, and makes himself known to those created in his image.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, after Jesus' Ascension, the disciples went to the upper room and devoted themselves to prayer. In Peter's Epistle, he encourages the *beloved* community to rejoice in persecution; privileged to suffer with Christ, they will also glorify God. In John's Gospel, Jesus, nearing the end of his earthly life, prays for his followers who remain in the world.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The disciples devoted themselves to prayer in the upper room. Let us, too, join together as disciples lifting our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) For the Church on earth, may God increase her in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders who follow the example of Christ, may God help them in their service to their people and the Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For Christians throughout the world who are suffering for their faith in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, rejoicing as an Easter people, may God bless our efforts to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in faith, may they rejoice in the light of God's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, please hear and answer our prayers in your wisdom, according to your plan for us. We ask through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, May 25, 2020
(Lec. 297)

- 1) Acts 19:1-8
- 2) John 16:29-33

MONDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.

Saint Bede the Venerable,
Priest and Doctor of the Church;
Saint Gregory VII,
Pope;
Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Jesus tells the disciples: *Take courage, I have conquered the world.*

At the Last Supper, Jesus encourages his disciples to persevere in the face of future difficulties, for *I have conquered the world*. Now, as he prepares to return to the Father, he warns them of upcoming trials. He also promises to strengthen them so that they can stand firm and share in his peace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul encounters a group of believers in Ephesus who, *have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit*. And so they *were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus*, receiving the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, Jesus' disciples indicate that they understand everything and affirm that, *you came from God*. Jesus tells them they will face trouble but to have courage for he has conquered the world.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now bring our petitions to God, who never leaves us.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord raise up holy men and women to lead and teach in her name, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations of the world, and for those who endeavor to lead them in truth and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who cannot practice their religion openly, may God grant them fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Holy Spirit help us grow ever deeper in our faith in God and our love for each other, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the peace and light of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all Creation, hear our prayers and answer them in your goodness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, May 26, 2020
(Lec. 298)

- 1) Acts 20:17-27
- 2) John 17:1-11a

TUESDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(OBL MEM
Saint Philip Neri,
Priest)

FOCUS: We are entrusted to God's care.

There is a tenderness in Jesus' words as he turns in prayer to his Father. Knowing what is to come, as his days on earth draw to a close, he seeks to glorify God. He affirms the deep faith his followers have exhibited, and acknowledges that they believe all he has told them. He entrusts them, and us, to God's care.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul gathers the presbyters of Ephesus to bid them farewell as he leaves for Jerusalem. He assures them that he has told them all they need to know. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to the Father and prays that he may glorify God. He also prays for his disciples who will remain in the world.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Joined together in faith, we turn our hearts to God as we present our petitions to him.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may God fill his heart with joy and wisdom as he guides the people and leads the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who make and enforce laws, may the grace of the Holy Spirit help them carry out their duties with love and respect for all his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sad or burdened, may the intercession of Saint Philip Neri whom we memorialize today, help bring them out of their sorrow to find joy and laughter again, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this community, may the Lord who prayed for us help us in our prayers for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice in the presence of the risen Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear our prayers which we offer with confidence and faith. We ask this through Jesus, your Son.

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Wednesday, May 27, 2020
(Lec. 299)

- 1) Acts 20:28-38
- 2) John 17:11b-19

WEDNESDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Augustine of Canterbury,
Bishop)

FOCUS: Jesus prays that we may be one with him and the Father.

In the Gospel today, Jesus prays for all of us – that we might be made one with him and the Father. His prayer for us to have unity with the Father reminds us of the importance of prayer in our own lives. Let us pray that we are able to listen more carefully to God’s plan for us, so that we can more effectively do his work in the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Acts of the Apostles, Paul exhorts presbyters to be vigilant, to give, and to help the weak by hard work. In the Gospel, Jesus prays for those he has come to save – asking that they may share in his joy, be consecrated in truth, and be one with the Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We bring our prayers before God, who invites us to unity with him.

- 1) For our holy Church, may she be guided in truth through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all government officials, may the grace of God enliven their hearts for peace and justice in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel alienated, lonely, or cast off, and for those whose human dignity is overlooked, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may we be formed and transformed by Word and sacrament, and be united ever more closely to the Trinity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may perpetual light shine upon them and may they rest in the eternal peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask that you hear and answer the prayers we offer today. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, May 28, 2020
(Lec. 300)

- 1) Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
- 2) John 17:20-26

THURSDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus asks the Father to unify all those who believe in him.

Jesus prays to his Father, asking that all of the faithful be united in the Father. The unity of which Jesus speaks is based on our faith in him and our commitment to do his Father's work on earth to build up the kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul is freed and brought before the whole Sanhedrin. He told them he was a Pharisee, *on trial for hope in the resurrection of the dead*. In the Gospel, Jesus prays for his disciples and *for those who will believe in [him] through their word*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to lead lives that give glory and praise to God, let us offer our prayers to the Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis may the Lord continue to safeguard and guide him as he shepherds us in the ways of faith, hope, and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the grace of God perfect in them a desire for doing his will in their service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For countries suffering from the effects of civil war or conflict, may the Prince of Peace grant them a lasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us in this community, may the Lord bless us and sustain us in our lives of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be greeted this day by the risen Christ and all the angels in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Most gracious God, hear the prayers we offer this day, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, May 29, 2020
(Lec. 301)

- 1) Acts 25:13b-21
- 2) John 21:15-19

FRIDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Paul VI,
Pope)

FOCUS: The Gospel message is not meant to be hidden.

Paul's ministry seemed to get everyone's attention – today's reading has him being discussed by King Agrippa, Bernice, and Festus. He had been remanded to custody by Felix, and previously had charges brought against him by the chief priests and the elders of the Jews of Jerusalem. All of this while he awaits to be sent to Caesar for review and judgment. Paul was clearly doing something right. The Gospel message is not meant to be hidden, and people will either accept it or reject it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Festus tells King Agrippa about Paul, his imprisonment, and the charges against him. In the Gospel, Jesus asks Peter three times whether Peter loves him, to which he answers "yes" each time. Jesus then tells him to feed and tend his lambs and sheep.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in our God who hears us, let us bring our needs before him.

- 1) For the Church, as the body of Christ here on earth, may the Lord grant us patience for one another, bearing with one another in love with humble and gentle hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world, national, and local leaders, may the God who gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning grant them just and prudent decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for their faith in Christ, may the hope of the Resurrection fill them with courage and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may the grace of God embolden and strengthen us in our lives of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they come to share in the glory of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Saturday, May 30, 2020
(Lec. 302)

- 1) Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
- 2) John 21:20-25

SATURDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: God says to all, *Follow me.*

It can be easy to get caught up in the drama of everyday life and forget to live intentionally. Paul's example shows us that we can use our circumstances, no matter how exciting or mundane, to preach the Gospel. In the Gospel, we are reminded that Jesus calls us to focus on following him, and not those around us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul enters Rome in the custody of the Romans, and appeals his case to the Jewish leaders. He remains under arrest, but continues to preach the Gospel. In the Gospel, Peter speaks to Jesus about the beloved disciple. Jesus tells Peter that his plans for the beloved disciples are not Peter's concern.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

- 1) For our holy Church, may the Lord bless her and protect her from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For police officers, corrections officers and all who work in law enforcement, may God grant them wisdom and prudence in carrying out their duties with justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who suffer from chronic or long-term illness, and those who live with disability, may God provide them comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For we who are gathered today, may the grace of the Holy Spirit pour into our lives so that we can follow Jesus more fully, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may God grant them a peaceful passage from this life to the next, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you for hearing the needs we have brought before you today. Answer them according to your will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020

(Lec. 63)

- 1) Acts 2:1-11
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
- 3) John 20:19-23

**PENTECOST SUNDAY
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: We each receive gifts from the Holy Spirit to share with others, for the greater good.

Today, as we celebrate the birthday of the Church with the coming of the Holy Spirit, we also reflect on the gifts that the Spirit gives to each of us. Let us pray to be able to recognize them, and ask for the grace to use them for the sake of the Kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recounts the dramatic coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples – and their resulting ability *to speak in different tongues*. In his Letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul writes that while there are *different kinds of spiritual gifts*, there is but *the same Spirit*, and *the same God*. In the Gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples in a locked room, gives them the Holy Spirit, and grants them the authority to forgive sins.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Transformed by the Holy Spirit, we pray now for the needs of the Church and of the world.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all Church leaders, may God help them bear fruit according to their own gifts given by the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the Holy Spirit give them discerning hearts to know his will and the courage to follow it, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the troubled areas in our world, may God's grace descend upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may the outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit sanctify us and transform us for the good of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our loved ones who have died, may they rejoice forever in the presence of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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