

APRIL

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**YEAR B
WEEKDAYS I**

Thursday, April 1, 2021

(Lec. 39)

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

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

FOCUS: As the Passover Lamb, Jesus gives us his body and blood in sacrificial love.

Today we celebrate Christ's generous sacrifice and gift of himself – his body and blood – in order to save us from the power of sin and death. Christ's institution of the Eucharist on this day reveals an event not bound by time; the same Jesus who was present with his disciples is present with us in this sacrament today. The continual presence of the Lord in our midst, and our ability to take part in the re-presentation of his sacrificial death, is God's great gift to us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord gives Moses and Aaron instructions *for the whole community of Israel*: for each household to procure a lamb for slaughter, and its blood applied to the *doorposts and the lintel*. In this way would the Lord know to spare those from destruction. This day would become a perpetual institution. Paul writes to the Corinthians, detailing the events on the night the Lord Jesus was handed over, where he said: *This is my body that is for you, and This cup is the new covenant in my blood*. In the Gospel, Jesus washes the feet of the disciples during his last supper with them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers before our most gracious God.

- 1) For the Church, may we, through the graces of this sacred Triduum, grow in our ability to bear Christ to the world with confidence and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For governments and world leaders, may the Gospel message of peace and blessing inform and direct their decisions and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and the dying, may Christ the healer give them hope and courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord bless us, keep us faithful, and make us ever more holy in this upcoming Easter season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory and look upon the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and living God, we praise and glorify you for your steadfast and eternal mercy as we make these prayers through Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, April 2, 2021

(Lec. 40)

- 1) Isaiah 52:13–53:12
- 2) Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
- 3) John 18:1–19:42

**FRIDAY OF THE
PASSION OF THE LORD
(GOOD FRIDAY)**

FOCUS: The Lord is bound to the cross, which in turn unbinds us from sin and death.

Today is a time to remember how much God loves us. He loves us enough to suffer and die, to transform the cross into the tree of life, and to abide with us in the sacraments. A symbol of defeat and foolishness to the world, the cross is held high before us as the means by which our salvation was won. We offer contrition for our sins, and thankfulness for the love and mercy of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies of the suffering servant who would bear our infirmities and *be raised high and greatly exalted*. In the Letter to the Hebrews, the author assures his community that Jesus is a *high priest who is [able] to sympathize with our weaknesses ... yet without sin*. In the Gospel, Jesus goes with his disciples to the garden, where Judas betrays him; he then undergoes trial and his passion and death, and is buried in the tomb.

THE SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS

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Saturday, April 3, 2021

**HOLY SATURDAY
EASTER VIGIL**

(Lec. 41)

- 1) Genesis 1:1–2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a
- 2) Genesis 22:1-18 or 22:1-2,9a, 10-13, 15-18
- 3) Exodus 14:15–15:1
- 4) Isaiah 54:5-14
- 5) Isaiah 55:1-11
- 6) Baruch 3:9-15, 32–4:4
- 7) Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28

New Testament Readings

- 8) Romans 6:3-11
- 9) Mark 16:1-7

FOCUS: We are called to share the stories of our faith in the risen Christ.

The Easter Vigil is full of signs and symbols. We gather in darkness and gradually the darkness is dispersed. We reflect on God's endless love for us, on life-giving waters, and the splendor of our God. We listen to our history and renew our baptismal commitment alongside our newest members. And when we celebrate the Eucharist as one family of God, we are filled with the grace to witness our faith in the resurrection of Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Genesis and Exodus, God creates everything that is, making man and woman in his likeness; he makes a promise to Abraham and his descendants; and frees the Israelites from slavery. The prophets speak of God's love and relationship to his people, his invitation to turn to him in all things, and his promise of salvation. Scriptures recall our salvation history. Saint Paul writes that we were baptized into Christ's death so as to enjoy the newness of life. In the Gospel, *Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint [Jesus in the tomb].*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Filled with hope in the risen Lord, we now petition the Father in his name.

- 1) For missionaries, may the Lord bless them with generosity and boldness in sharing the love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the heads of governments throughout the world, may God's gracious mercy be upon them and those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are troubled in spirit, may they receive hope and healing through the grace of God and the efforts of their caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the Lord bless our relationships, and grant us purity of heart and mind, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in the light of faith, may they share in the resurrection of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of Creation and Lord of Life, hear our pleas and answer us with your unwavering love for each of us. We ask this through Christ, our risen Lord.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021

(Lec. 42)

- 1) Acts 10:34a, 37-43
- 2) Colossians 3:1-4 or
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
- 3) John 20:1-9 or
Mark 16:1-7 (Lec. 41)

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

FOCUS: Together with the Church throughout the world, we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead.

Jesus is risen from the dead; he appeared to his disciples. His rising to new life foreshadows what God intends for us: eternal life. The darkness of sin and death has been defeated by the Light of Christ, who died for us. Together, let us sing our praise to God. Alleluia!

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Peter speaks to the crowd, telling them of all that he witnessed in the ministry and execution of Jesus Christ. He proclaims the Good News that *everyone who believes in [Jesus Christ] will receive forgiveness of sins through his name*. Saint Paul tells the Corinthians that Christ is *our paschal lamb (who) ... has been sacrificed*. In the Gospel, the disciples encounter the empty tomb of Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With renewed Easter faith, let us confidently present our petitions to the God of Life.

- 1) That our Holy Mother Church may be filled with Easter joy in her remembrance and celebration of Christ's paschal mystery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the light of the risen Christ, shining for all the world to see, may guide people to repentance and belief in the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who struggle in faith and are burdened by doubt may be strengthened by God's grace this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this Easter season may be a time of growing in the gifts God has given us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may share in the life of the Risen One, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty, ever-living God, hear the prayers we offer to you on this Easter Day, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 5, 2021

(Lec. 261)

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

MONDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Celebrate the Lord's resurrection by spreading the Good News.

Evangelizing others – stepping out and witnessing to the Good News and the work of God in our lives – can be a source of fear and anxiety for some. But we know the Holy Spirit calmed any fear the Apostle Peter may have had, and enabled him to be the rock on whom Jesus built his Church. Today we hear his bold and confident proclamation to the crowds on Pentecost. With prayer to the Holy Spirit, may we be given the grace of the fire he gave to Peter and the rest of the Apostles.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

On the day of Pentecost, Peter proclaims to the Jews in Jerusalem that Jesus, whom they lawlessly killed, has been raised up by God. In the Gospel, *Mary Magdalene and the other Mary* retreat from the empty tomb in order to tell the other disciples. Jesus greets them and tells them to let the others know he can be found in Galilee.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers and petitions to the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide and protect her in this Easter season, and magnify her light of truth and goodness in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Lord bless them with a fearless vision to act for the true common good of those they govern, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all whose struggles with addiction have caused separation from their families, may they, through the mercy of God, be reconciled with their loved ones, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who were welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil, may they continue to grow in the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all our deceased family members, may they soon share in the joy of the resurrected Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we humbly pray that you grant these petitions and prayers. Through Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 6, 2021
(Lec. 262)

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

TUESDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Through Christ's death and resurrection and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are now children of the Father.

Jesus has died, and Mary weeps out of love for Jesus. In this moment of sadness, the resurrected Jesus approaches Mary and calls her by name. He will soon ascend to the Father and be glorified, but he reassures her with these words that convey his reconciliation of us to God. *I am going to my Father and your Father*, he says, *to my God and your God*. This is the first time the disciples are included in the scope of the paternal relationship – for it is through Christ's death and resurrection and the power of the Holy Spirit that we are now children of the Father.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter instructs the crowds about the resurrection of Jesus. In turn, 3,000 people are baptized and begin a new life in the Spirit. In the Gospel, Mary experiences first-hand the resurrected Jesus, who calls her by name and foretells his return to the Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to follow Christ to fullness of life, we turn to him with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all Church leaders, may the Spirit continue to help them grow in faithfulness and holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of governments and nations, may God look graciously upon them in their service to their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who weep, may Jesus bring them consolation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may Easter joy and hope bring us ever closer to the Father who loves us, 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: God our Father, we know that you hear our prayers. We ask that you answer them according to your will, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 7, 2021

(Lec. 263)

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

WEDNESDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: We evangelize through our listening as well as our speaking.

Today's Gospel includes some stories of Jesus' post-resurrection ministry. He meets the disciples where they are and approaches them with curiosity, listening to their story before interpreting the Scriptures. He awaits their invitation to join them at table, where he finally makes himself known. Their response is to bear witness to all they have seen and heard. We see what it means to be both a hearer, and then bearer, of the Word.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Peter and John meet a man crippled from birth begging for alms outside the temple. Peter heals him, and he enters the temple with them, praising God. All who see are amazed. In the Gospel, Jesus meets two disciples on the way to Emmaus. After listening to their story, he interprets the Scriptures for them. They recognize him in the breaking of bread.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we walk the way of faith, we lift our eyes in hope, offering our petitions to our merciful Father.

- 1) That the Church may be found pleasing to God during this Easter season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That political leaders may be blessed with hearts of wisdom, charity, and justice in their governance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who are unable to work due to physical or psychological limitations may be given the grace to endure the hardships they face, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community of faith may grow ever more deeply in God's transformative love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may be raised with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you give power to the weak and guidance to the lost. Hear the prayers we offer today in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, April 8, 2021

(Lec. 264)

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

THURSDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: We preach the Good News, rooted in what all disciples have witnessed through time.

In this Octave of Easter, we listen to accounts of the early Church, from Jesus' first appearances to his disciples to the early work of those first witnesses. These readings call us to reflect on what it means for us to be witnesses today. How can we better preach the Gospel in our own lives, rooted in what our faith has witnessed?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Peter proclaims the Gospel to a large crowd who has just witnessed the miraculous healing he performed. In the Gospel, Jesus appears to his disciples, greeting them with peace and inviting them to see his wounded hands and feet. He eats with them and opens their minds to new understanding of the Scriptures.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Opening our minds and hearts, let us bring our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For our Holy Mother Church, may Christ reignite her missionary work in the world today, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civil servants, may Christ inspire a new passion in their work to serve others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those undergoing trials or suffering, may God bless them with strength and courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community during this Octave of Easter, may Christ bring us to new awareness of our mission as disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away in the hope of the Resurrection, may Christ's victory over death bring them to new life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, April 9, 2021
(Lec. 265)

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

FRIDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.*

Today's readings involve miracles done after Jesus' resurrection. Peter uses the miracle of the crippled man's healing as a springboard to proclaim Jesus to the Jewish leaders. In the Gospel, the Apostles recognize Jesus only through the miracle of the fish. Miracles continue in the Church, and give evidence even today of the power of Jesus' name.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter defends his and John's actions and teachings in the temple, naming Jesus as *the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone*. In the Gospel, Jesus reveals himself in the miraculous catch of fish.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the power of the name of Jesus, we bring our petitions to the Lord.

- 1) That all who serve the Church may be inspired and strengthened by the truth of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government leaders may be moved by the Spirit in promoting policies that protect the sanctity of life in all stages, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who feel lost or overwhelmed by circumstances may be sustained and strengthened by God's love for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those of us gathered here may grow in holiness and compassion through the grace of word and sacrament in this festive season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died in Christ may be raised to celebrate with him in glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

PRIEST: All-powerful God, who brings life from death, grant our prayers according to your holy will. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

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Saturday, April 10, 2021
(Lec. 266)

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

SATURDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Go and proclaim the Good News of Christ.

Both readings today inspire missionary discipleship. In the first reading, Peter and John boldly stand by their evangelizing efforts. After hearing the Gospel account of the resurrected Christ, how can we keep the peace and glory of the Lord to ourselves, especially after Jesus himself gives the directive to *proclaim the Gospel to every creature*?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Jewish leaders give stern warnings and order Peter and John *not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus*. The disciples are undeterred. In the Gospel, the risen Jesus appears to his disciples in three different times and places: with Mary Magdalene at the tomb, with the two travelers, and with eleven of the Apostles, whom he commissions.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With Easter joy and wonder for the works of the Lord, let us bring our prayers to God.

- 1) For Church leaders, through the benevolence of God may they be strengthened and fortified by the prayers of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may God bless them with wisdom and forthrightness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of any kind of abuse, may the Lord bring their suffering to an end and bring them comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the neophytes, recently initiated into the Church, may the joy of their baptism fuel life-long missionary discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they soon be in eternal union with the risen Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, receive our prayers and grant them according to our need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

(Lec. 44)

- 1) Acts 4:32-35
- 2) 1 John 5:1-6
- 3) John 20:19-31

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

FOCUS: Faith in Jesus' resurrection has the power to transform our lives and the lives of those around us.

All three readings show the transformative power of belief in Jesus' resurrection. Saint John tells us that we become children of God through this belief. Thomas acknowledges Jesus as Lord and God in the Gospel, and he and the other Apostles go on to create an ideal community by proclaiming his resurrection in Jerusalem.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Luke [the author of Acts] describes the life of the early community of believers as being *of one heart and mind*, whose witness to the resurrection of Jesus brought favor upon them. In the second reading, John assures his community that faith in Jesus and obedience enable believers to conquer the world. In the Gospel, the risen Jesus appears at two different times to his disciples, offering them peace and giving them the authority to forgive sins. Thomas, after seeing Jesus, acknowledges Christ's divinity, saying, *My Lord and my God!*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's infinite mercy, let us bring our petitions before him.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all pastoral leaders, may Christ draw them ever closer to himself and intercede in their every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Lord bless them with the skills and talents they need for the communities they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who face addictions, may God's grace give them courage in their struggles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here and all whom we love, through the grace of the Holy Spirit may we grow ever closer to our Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they soon rest with all the angels and saints forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we who believe in you without seeing give you thanks for your gracious mercy. Hear the prayers we offer today, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 12, 2021
(Lec. 267)

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

MONDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Be attentive to how the Holy Spirit is moving you and working in your life.

Jesus tells Nicodemus the Holy Spirit is like the wind; we cannot see it, but we feel its effects. As baptized Christians, we have been reborn in the Spirit and are therefore spiritual creations. We, like the Christians in the first reading, can pray to and rely on the Holy Spirit to embolden us to speak God's word.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Peter and John [having been freed from the custody of the Sanhedrin] return *to their own people*. They all pray for courage to continue their mission. In the Gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus, *unless one is born from above, he cannot see the Kingdom of God*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in our loving God, we bring to him our needs.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit we may grow in unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil authorities and all who strive to lead nations and peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from racial or ethnic injustice, may Christ grant them strength and perseverance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of believers, may the Spirit of the Lord continue to embolden our lives of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they rest in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, we thank you for hearing our prayers. Look kindly, we pray, on the needs we ask today in the name of your Son, Jesus our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 13, 2021
(Lec. 268)

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

TUESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Martin I,
Pope and Martyr)

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of the early disciples of Jesus – and can be in our lives, as well.

The Holy Spirit is clearly at work in the lives of the disciples. They are *of one heart and mind* in their love for God and one another, and in their witness to the world. We, too, are called to be “of one heart and mind” so that we can bear credible witness of the love of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Acts, Luke describes the life of the early community of believers as having *everything in common*, sharing their possessions so that no one was in need. In the Gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus, *You must be born from above*. When Nicodemus asks how this can happen, Jesus answers that as the serpent was lifted up in the desert, so the Son of Man must be *so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that our God wishes only the best for all of his children, we confidently bring these prayers before him.

- 1) For our Holy Mother Church, may the Lord continue to bless her and protect her from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may they be perfected by God in their desire to do his will in their civil service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all suffering from chronic illness, may the healing power of Christ grant them patience and peace in their distress, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the neophytes in our community, recently initiated into the Catholic Church, may the Lord continue to increase their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of Christ, may they soon be welcomed into the fullness of eternal joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of Life and Love, to you we entrust the needs of our world. Hear our prayers, which we offer in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, April 14, 2021
(Lec. 269)

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

WEDNESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world for its salvation.

God sent his Son into the world as a means to offer salvation to all. Our actions reflect whether or not we believe that Christ is the source of our salvation. It is only when our actions are rooted in God's light and truth that our lives truly reveal our belief in God's only Son and the gift of salvation we have received through him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Apostles are put in jail, but are freed by an angel of the Lord. They return to the temple to teach. The Sanhedrin and court officials are at a loss about the situation. In the Gospel, John tells his community that God sent his Son into the world so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn our hearts and minds to the Lord and bring our prayers and petitions before him, trusting in his divine mercy.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit continue to empower her in her witness to the truth of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Spirit guide them in enacting policy that protects life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with loneliness and isolation, may the Lord lift up their hearts and bring them comfort and companionship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all families in this faith community, may the Lord bless them with unity, joy, love, and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may God welcome them joyfully to his eternal banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Hear O Lord, our prayers and petitions and answer them, we pray, in accordance with your divine will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, April 15, 2021
(Lec. 270)

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

THURSDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *The One whom God sent speaks the words of God.*

We hear today that the One who comes from above will be contradicted, but that does not impede his generosity. Though following Christ requires sacrifice, his generous provision of his Spirit will give us the fortitude and wisdom to remain faithful to our baptismal vocation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Peter and the Apostles defend their preaching of the Gospel before the Sanhedrin. In the Gospel, John instructs his community on the primacy of the One who comes from above: *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the Lord's care for us, we bring our petitions before him.

- 1) For the Church, may God grant each believer the grace to live faithfully as his children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all elected officials, may God convict their hearts of the truth, and empower them in the service of peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are persecuted for their faith, may God protect them and reward them for their faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord be our guiding light in every step we take, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may God welcome them into his eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear and answer our prayers according to your holy will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, April 16, 2021
(Lec. 271)

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

FRIDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Faith and openness to God's grace allow us to see how he is working in our lives.

God's generosity is unbounded. The Apostles are set free by the Sanhedrin, and the large crowd is fed by a small amount of food – which Jesus multiplies – and there are multitudes of leftovers. God takes what is right here around us and uses it for good. With faith and openness to his grace, we can recognize how he is working in our own lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, a respected *Pharisee in the Sanhedrin named Gamaliel*, speaks of other followers of so-called important men who in the end amounted to nothing. He advises the Sanhedrin to let the Apostles go. In the Gospel, Jesus feeds a large crowd that gathered to see him, using only *five barley loaves and two fish*. Afterward, the leftover fragments *filled twelve wicker baskets*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to God in trust, confident that he will respond to our petitions.

- 1) For the Church in all corners of the world, may she grow in strength and number of disciples through the gracious mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials and leaders of our community, may God give them hearts of compassion and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted unjustly, may God give them strength to endure and work peacefully toward justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may our faith in our loving Father be nurtured through the blessings we receive, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have fallen asleep in the hope of Christ, may God bring them to the joy of everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear these prayers offered to you today, and grant them according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, April 17, 2021
(Lec. 272)

- 1) Acts 6:1-7
- 2) John 6:16-21

SATURDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus is with us always, and he assures us that we need not be afraid.

Hearing Jesus tell us, "Do not be afraid," is a powerful thing. We have all felt fear at some time in our lives. We know it can be debilitating, and devastating at its worst. Jesus puts out his hand, offering us comfort and liberation with his simple words. He calms the storms in our lives. He is forever there for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Stephen, *a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit*, is chosen by the community to serve the people of God *at table*. In the Gospel, amidst wind and billowing sea, the disciples see Jesus walking on the water. He tells his frightened disciples, *It is I. Do not be afraid*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that we need not be afraid, we join together in faith and trust, to present our needs to our Lord.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may the Lord continue to bless him and use him for his glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political leaders, may they be blessed with integrity and humility in service to their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live their lives in fear, may the Lord look graciously upon them, and help them hear and believe in the comforting words of our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the Lord continue to call forth people in service to the Church and one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon rejoice in the loving arms of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers which we offer in confidence and faith, knowing you will grant us whatever we need. We ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021

(Lec. 47)

- 1) Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
- 2) 1 John 2:1-5a
- 3) Luke 24:35-48

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: The risen Christ forgives our sins and advocates for us before the Father.

In breaking open the Scriptures for the disciples, Jesus dispels their greatest fears and doubts and gently brings them into the fullness of true peace. Because of this they now have the courage to proclaim him before the world – to become his witnesses. Courage and peace are the hallmarks of the believer, and are the gifts necessary to face the challenges of this world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Peter tells the people that they have put to death God's servant, Jesus, and exhorts them, *Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away*. John writes to his community in the hope that they do not sin, but if they should, he tells them they have an Advocate in Christ. In the Gospel, while the two disciples recount to the others their experience with Jesus *on the way*, the risen Christ appears to all of them, with a greeting of peace. He shows them his body, and eats in front of them, in order to help them *understand the Scriptures* and what they had witnessed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With Easter hope in our hearts, let us bring our prayers and needs before the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, may she increase in grace and holiness during this Easter season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders around the world, may God give them the grace to work toward peace among nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the unborn, may their sacred lives be protected and valued, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord develop within us hearts of love and stewardship in order to draw ever closer to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead – family and friends who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith – may they rest in the eternal peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Father, we place our hopes and fear, our needs and desires into your loving hands. Grant our prayers according to your holy will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 19, 2021
(Lec. 273)

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

MONDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: As believers in Jesus, we are the work of God.

God works in many ways: through his creation, through history, and through the lives of his people. Jesus assures the crowd who followed him looking for food that the work of God is that *you believe in the one he sent*. Our faith is a gift from God in which we are called to cooperate, not an accomplishment about which we can boast.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Stephen's *working [of] great wonders and signs among the people* caused some of the so-called *Synagogue of Freedmen* to try and debate with him, but they could not keep up. So they *brought him before the Sanhedrin* and some testified falsely against him. In the Gospel, the crowds continue to look for and follow Jesus. He tells them to work *for the food that endures for eternal life* rather than that which fills them only temporarily.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With renewed Easter faith, we turn to God, who desires what is best for all people, and bring him our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit guide us in loving one another as God loves us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may God guide them in just and prudential decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For safety and protection against terrorism and violence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community gathered together, may the Lord continue to help us grow in faith and to conform our lives to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they soon be received into God's eternal kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, we trust in your love for all of your children on earth. Hear our prayers, which we offer in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Lord.

Tuesday, April 20, 2021
(Lec. 274)

- 1) Acts 7:51–8:1a
- 2) John 6:30-35

TUESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus reveals the Father's love, made manifest in the Eucharist that we are invited to receive.

The crowd asks Jesus for a sign, so they may know that he is who he claims to be. We, too, often seek signs from God in order to more fully take him at his word. When it is made clear that God the Father sends life-giving bread to the world to feed his people, the crowd asks to always receive the bread. May we, too, stand in wonder and awe as we come to receive the bread of life, sent from our Father who loves us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Stephen enrages the people by telling them they are a *stiff-necked people who always oppose the Holy Spirit*. When he proclaims that he *see[s] the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God*, the people cast him out of the city and stone him, with Saul consenting to his death. In the Gospel, the crowd asks Jesus for a sign, that they might believe. They refer to Moses feeding his people. Jesus says it was the Father who fed his people, and it is the Father who gives the true bread from heaven. In awe, they ask to always receive this bread.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As our Lord has lovingly cared for us, his people, we humbly bring these petitions before him.

- 1) For the Church, the people of God, may we, with the help of the Holy Spirit, continue to grow in the likeness of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God bless their efforts to work for the betterment of all whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, may they be comforted by the Lord's abiding presence and his redemption of their suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may this Eucharistic celebration strengthen us in mind, body, and spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God, who is mercy, shower his mercy upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for your love for us, your sons and daughters. We offer these prayers and all of our intentions through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, April 21, 2021
(Lec. 275)

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

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

FOCUS: Jesus is the true desire of the human heart.

Jesus tells the crowd *whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst*. Our desire for bread and water signal their necessity to our survival. Yet, bread, water, and all the things of this world will always leave us thirsting for more. Only when we turn to Jesus will our hearts be finally satisfied.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Church in Jerusalem is under persecution, with Saul trying to destroy it. Philip went to Samaria to preach and worked signs and brought joy to that city. In the Gospel, Jesus says he is *the bread of life*, and that it is the Father's will *that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God knows the needs of our hearts and seeks to give us what we need, we now offer him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For Holy Mother Church, may the Lord look graciously upon her needs, sanctify her and increase her in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil and business leaders around the world, may the Lord give them grace to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those exiled from their homes by threat of violence, war, or persecution, let us pray to Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Lord ever increase our faith, and guide us on the path of virtue, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be raised on the last day to the fullness of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, you promise to feed us with a bread that never fails to satisfy. Hear these prayers we make and graciously give us what we need. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thursday, April 22, 2021
(Lec. 276)

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

THURSDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The gift of eternal life in Jesus is meant to be shared, by teaching and inviting others.

Jesus is the greatest gift we could ever receive. He not only teaches us, he gives us life when we consume his flesh in the Eucharist. When we receive this gift well, it impels us to teach others about him and invite them to share in the eternal life we've been given, as Philip does for the Ethiopian.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Philip instructs the Ethiopian eunuch in Scripture, proclaiming Jesus to him, and then baptizes him. In the Gospel Jesus says, *I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having heard the word of the Lord, let us come to him with our needs and intentions.

- 1) For the Church, may the grace and love found in the sacraments help all of us draw closer to the abundant mercy of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all elected officials and government leaders, may the Holy Spirit help them be attentive to his prophetic message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who know bodily or spiritual hunger, may God's providence bring them relief and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community, may the gifts of God's word and the Eucharist nourish us and make us grow in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may Jesus the living bread raise them to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for drawing us to yourself and giving us life. Hear the prayers we offer through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, April 23, 2021
(Lec. 277)

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

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

FOCUS: Christ offers us eternal life through his body and blood.

The One who shed his blood on the cross and rose again in the flesh offers his body and blood to us as food. As flesh and blood together equal life, how much more should we hunger for the true food and drink – real nourishment enabling us to live under the mantle of Christ's protection here on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saul is still persecuting the Church. But on a journey to Damascus in order to arrest Christians, he saw a bright light and heard the voice of Jesus. He undergoes a conversion and is later baptized. In the Gospel, those who hear Jesus wonder how he can give them *his Flesh to eat*. Jesus says, *Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood has eternal life*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in Jesus who gives us life through his body and blood, let us offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and all the clergy, may the Lord richly bless them in their dedication to the Church and to the preaching of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders across the world, may God multiply their efforts to end wars, and work toward world peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those living with chronic illness, may the Lord grant them consolation in their suffering, and patient hope for healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Holy Spirit help us to grow in our reflection of God's mercy to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in Christ, nourished by true bread in this life, may they know eternal happiness in the next, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, in your kindness, please hear and answer our prayers according to your wisdom. We ask through Jesus Christ your Son.

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Saturday, April 24, 2021
(Lec. 278)

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

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

FOCUS: *Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life*

Peter professed faith in Jesus even when his teachings became difficult. The Holy Spirit then transformed him to take the Gospel to the world. In the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter worked miracles, even raising the dead. The number of people who turned to the Lord, and came to believe in him, continued to grow and grow. We, too, accept the sayings of Jesus, and this makes room for the Holy Spirit to work in us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Peter performs two miracles, healing a paralytic and raising a woman from the dead. Because of these signs, *many came to believe in the Lord*. In the Gospel, many who were listening to Jesus said, *This saying is hard; who can accept it?* and they ceased following him. The Twelve stayed, with Peter saying, *Master, to whom shall we go? ... [we] are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us unite our hearts and prayers, raising them to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all who minister in the Church, may Christ's merciful love be their guide and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For an end to violence across and among nations, may the peace of Christ prevail in every heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the terminally ill, may they find comfort in Christ, present amidst their suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who moved away from the practice of their faith, may the Lord enkindle their desire for him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, may they be welcomed into God's loving presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we offer our prayers to you, asking that you turn your gaze upon us and graciously answer our needs. We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

(Lec. 50)

- 1) Acts 4:8-12
- 2) 1 John 3:1-2
- 3) John 10:11-18

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: We are God's children; we are the flock of the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for us.

God loves us so much that we are not simply *called* God's children, but in fact *are* God's children now. This love is that of a good shepherd, who knows and cherishes his sheep, and who, unlike others, will sacrifice his own life for the safety of his flock.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter proclaims to the elders that the cripple who has been healed and saved was done so in the name of Jesus. This is the Jesus that they had crucified and *whom God raised from the dead*. The First Letter of John says that through the love of God we are now the children of God; what we shall become is not yet revealed. In the Gospel, Jesus says, *I am the good shepherd...[who] lays down his life for the sheep*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now offer our petitions to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For the pope, bishops, and all leaders of the Church, may God guide them in their efforts to shepherd his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may God help them see those whom they serve with the eyes of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and those worried about the health of loved ones, may the Lord protect them from all needless anxiety and bring them health of mind and body, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Holy Spirit help us and guide us to hear the Shepherd's voice in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they experience fullness of joy with God 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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Monday, April 26, 2021
(Lec. 279)

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

MONDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: All who come through Jesus will be saved.

Jesus, in the Gospel today, calls himself the gate of the sheep. All others who proclaimed to be the shepherd, or the gate, were thieves and robbers. In his name, the disciples were empowered to bring all sheep to the sheepfold, Jews and Gentiles alike. For the Good Shepherd came for all.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Peter is confronted by his fellow Apostles for eating in the house of Gentiles, and so he tells them of the vision he had, and the Spirit's instruction for him to accompany some men to that house. There the Holy Spirit came upon the household and the Gentiles were baptized and saved. In the Gospel, Jesus says he is the gate for the sheep, and all who enter through him will be saved.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of the love with which Jesus treats us, his sheep, we bring our petitions to the Lord.

- 1) That the Church may grow in holiness and grace through the work of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all political leaders may be led by the Lord's teachings in all their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That victims of human trafficking may find in the Church both liberation and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That homes in this faith community, the domestic church, may be havens for the most vulnerable of Christ's sheep, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have fallen asleep in Christ may soon rest in the arms of the Good Shepherd, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

PRIEST: God of gentleness and compassion, we present our needs to you, confident that you always hear us. We pray through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 27, 2021
(Lec. 280)

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

TUESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Good News of the early Church could not be contained.

The community of disciples in Jerusalem was scattered. Persecution of the Church was occurring. Yet the Gospel could not be contained. God used the problem of the scattered flock to his glory, as geographically and numerically the fledgling Church of Christ grew. Despite all the competing voices surrounding them, many heard the voice of the Lord. Our loving Father looks out for those who follow his Son.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, disciples who scatter due to persecution go as far as *Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch*. They preach to both Jews and Greeks and many people turned to Christ. For the first time, they are referred to as Christians. In the Gospel, the Jews ask Jesus to tell them plainly if he is the Christ. Jesus says he already told them and they didn't believe him. Those who are *[his] sheep*, however, hear his voice and follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In faith and hope, let us bring our needs to our loving Father.

- 1) For all the newly initiated of the Catholic Church, may God bless them abundantly in their faith journeys, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the Holy Spirit inspire them in working to protect life, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For refugees, may God hold them in the palm of his hand and protect them as they seek freedom and safety, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community here, may the outpouring of the Holy Spirit during this blessed Easter season increase our hope and joy for the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, especially those known only to God, may they enjoy the eternal peace of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, we believe that you are greater than all. Inspired by this confidence, we humbly ask you to hear these our petitions we pray in your Son's name.

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Wednesday, April 28, 2021
(Lec. 281)

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

WEDNESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Peter Chanel,
Priest and Martyr;
Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort,
Priest)

FOCUS: Jesus is a light leading the way to the Father and eternal life.

Jesus comes into the world as light from the Father so that we might not remain in darkness, but would know the Father and have eternal life. For the Father sent Jesus, and Jesus himself is the Word of God, living among us and speaking what the Father has commanded him to say: that eternal life is ours if we hear and observe his words.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Barnabas, Saul, and John [also known as Mark] return to Jerusalem. Barnabas and Saul are chosen by the Spirit to proclaim the word of God in Cyprus. In the Gospel, Jesus cries out that whoever believes in him believes in his Father. He comes not *to condemn the world but to save [it]*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith in Jesus and the One who sent him, let us bring our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may continue to bless and sustain our Holy Mother Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our public officials and world leaders, may God's love for every human being take root in their own hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in need of family stability, especially children in the foster care system or awaiting adoption, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Jesus may come to us as light this Easter season to dispel the darkness of our fear, sin, and despair, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our deceased loved ones, may they experience God's love in the eternal life promised to God's faithful ones, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, April 29, 2021
(Lec. 282)

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

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

FOCUS: Let us serve Christ by serving others.

Jesus tells the disciples that when they go out to preach in his name, whoever receives them will receive him, and thus the One who sent him. We, too, are called to service in Jesus' name. With God's grace, and with our hearts open more fully to the Gospel, we can continue his mission on earth and work to build his Kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Acts, Paul speaks in the synagogue in Antioch and tells the story of God's relationship with the chosen people leading up to the arrival of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus has just finished washing his disciples' feet. He tells them, *whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God is the author of all our stories, we place our needs and petitions into his loving hands.

- 1) For the people of God, may we be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in our faith and witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in positions of earthly power, may the Lord grant them charity and prudence in their efforts to bend the arc of history toward justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling with difficult decisions and the burdens of circumstance, may God give them the grace and strength to endure and overcome, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are gathered here, may Christ in the Eucharist continue to transform us for his work in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice in the presence of God for all of eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God, you continue to draw us more deeply into your love, and so we offer these prayers and ask that you answer them according to our need. Through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, April 30, 2021
(Lec. 283)

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

FRIDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Pius V,
Pope)

FOCUS: *In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places.*

Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to prepare a place for them in heaven. His teachings reveal the way we are to live in order to share eternal life with him. Let us walk each day in his way of love, for he is the way, the truth and the life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul teaches in the synagogue in Antioch, telling the people that *their leaders failed to recognize* the word of salvation that God had sent, going so far as to kill him. But *God raised him from the dead* and this is the good news Paul is now proclaiming to them. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples, *Do not let your hearts be troubled ... I am the way and the truth and the life.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faithful and hopeful hearts, we lift up our needs to the Lord.

- 1) For Pope Francis and our bishop N., may the intercession of Pope Saint Pius V help guide them in their pastoral decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders, may God bless them in their service to their community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel lost or abandoned, may they be comforted by the warmth of the Lord's abiding presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those in this faith community engaged in education, may the Lord bless their dedication and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be brought swiftly to their eternal home by the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we strive to walk in the shadow of your beloved Son. Hear and answer the prayers we have placed before you according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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