

# MAY

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Saturday, May 1, 2021  
(Lec. 284)

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

SATURDAY OF  
FOURTH WEEK  
OF EASTER  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Joseph the Worker)

FOCUS: God reveals himself to us in ways we sometimes do not recognize.

Today's Scriptures reveal once again that human sin, or simply human weakness and faults, can get in the way of our truly seeing the divine. The Jews, set in their ways, did not want to believe in Jesus; and Philip didn't understand that the Father had been revealing himself to those around him through Jesus. It takes eyes of faith and humility to recognize the ways that God may be revealing himself to us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul and Barnabas scold the Jews for rejecting the Gospel, and announce they are turning to the Gentiles. The Gentiles are delighted and they glorify the word of God, while the Jews persecute and expel the two Apostles. In the Gospel, Jesus says to Philip, *Whoever has seen me has seen the Father, and whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we continue to celebrate the Easter season, we offer prayers and thanksgiving to the Father.

- 1) For our Holy Mother Church, and for the needs of all her children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, and all whom they serve, may the grace of God lead them in all they say and do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling with indecision, may the Holy Spirit help them in seeing clearly the path God invites them to walk, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we be given the courage to follow Christ wherever he leads us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find eternal rest in the loving arms of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us your Son and raising him from the dead, giving us hope in you. We ask that you hear the prayers we offer to you today, through Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021**

(Lec. 53)

- 1) Acts 9:26-31
- 2) 1 John 3:18-24
- 3) John 15:1-8

**FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: Following Jesus asks much of us but offers the eternal love of the Father in return.

To truly stay united to Jesus, we need grounding in two essential elements. First, by taking on the mind of Christ and adhering to what the Church proclaims. Second, by living in accord with the moral teaching of the Church. Following Jesus asks much of us but offers us the eternal love of the Father in return.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Barnabas helps Saul enter into the community of the disciples by reporting on Saul's vision of the Lord and his bold proclamation in Jesus' name. The First Letter of John instructs the community on love of neighbor, and on keeping the commandments as proof of belief in Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus says, *I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower*. Those who remain in him will bear fruit and their needs will be met. Through this the Father is glorified.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us humbly offer our prayers to God the Father, the source of all love and goodness.

- 1) For all who work in the ministries of the Church, may the outpouring of the Holy Spirit continue to conform their hearts and minds ever closer to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those without faith in Jesus, may our gracious God open their hearts to his love and mercy, and to the glory of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the unemployed, may the Lord grant them the opportunity for gainful employment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people of this community and in our families, may the hope of Christ be their strength in the midst of a changing world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon enjoy everlasting life in Paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Hear our prayers, O God, as we lift them up to you. We ask through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, May 3, 2021  
(Lec. 561)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
- 2) John 14:6-14

**SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES,  
APOSTLES  
- FEAST**

**FOCUS:** Jesus makes the Father present to the world, and the Apostles hand on to us what they receive from him.

As Jesus connects us to the Father, his Apostles and their successors connect us to him through the Gospel message they hand on to us. This is why Jesus says that whoever believes in him will do the works he does, because he shares his mission with us, his Church.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul reminds the Corinthians of the Word he has already preached to them – that we are saved through belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus. In the Gospel Jesus proclaims, *I am the way and the truth and the life*, and that all who believe in him come to know and believe in the Father.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Whatever we ask in Jesus' name will be done. Let us entrust our prayers to the Father through the Son.

- 1) For the Church, may God bless her shepherds with all the wisdom of their apostolic forebears, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all our leaders, may God inspire them not to speak or act on their own but to do his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those sick in mind or body, may God console and provide for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Gospel we have received keep us firm in faith and good works, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the light of Christ, may Jesus bring them safely into his Father's house, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Loving Father, hear the prayers we offer this day through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

(Lec. 286)

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

TUESDAY OF  
FIFTH WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.*

Christ's peace is not a lack of trouble. Rather, the peace known by Christians is the deep and abiding understanding that Christ has overcome the world, even though real suffering remains. But Christ has assured us, *Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid ... I will come back to you.*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Jews stone Paul and drag him outside the city, leaving him for dead. But he later gets up and continues to preach the Good News all throughout the region with Barnabas, exhorting the disciples to persevere in the faith, and appointing presbyters in each Church. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles not to be afraid, for even though he will go away, he leaves them his peace. He tells them these and other things *so that when it happens [they] may believe.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the transforming power of God who walks with us, we bring these prayers to him today with confidence.

- 1) For the Church, may we be filled with the Holy Spirit as we grow in strength and unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public officials, may they be granted the courage to enact policies that lead to greater peace throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those suffering from violence or abuse, may they receive God's peace and be encouraged through the loving action of those who follow Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may we be strengthened to persevere in our faith while carrying the crosses given to each of us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be brought to rest in peace with the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of peace, hear our prayers as we offer them through Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, May 5, 2021  
(Lec. 287)

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

WEDNESDAY OF  
FIFTH WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: True discipleship requires staying close to the Vine, Jesus, allowing his life to flow through us.

What does it take to be a true disciple of Jesus? Today's readings invite us to reflect on that question. The Pharisees lay down strict laws to Gentiles who seek to follow Jesus, but Jesus himself makes the matter seem simple: Remain in Jesus, the Vine, so that we, as his branches, can bear fruit that gives glory to God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the disciples dissent and debate over whether believers must be *circumcised according to the Mosaic practice* in order to be saved. In the Gospel, Jesus compares his disciples to branches that remain alive and fruitful only as long as they stay rooted to the Vine – to Jesus.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Remaining in Jesus, our Vine, we are inspired to bring our needs to the Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church who proclaim the fidelity and praise of the Lord to all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For policymakers, may the Lord grant them courage in their efforts to protect life in all its stages, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For farmers throughout the world, may the Lord bless them with sufficient sunshine and rain for an abundant harvest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those dealing with chronic pain, may Christ the healer bring his restorative touch to their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon see and rejoice in the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, hear the prayers we place before you, and respond according to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Thursday, May 6, 2021  
(Lec. 288)

- 1) Acts 15:7-21
- 2) John 15:9-11

THURSDAY OF  
FIFTH WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Following the Lord's commandments will lead to the greatest possible joy.

Today's readings remind us that the Lord's commandments are neither intended to nor should they feel burdensome. Rather, they offer a path that helps us grow in our love of God. Following the commandments is not always easy, but Jesus assures us that doing so will lead us to the greatest possible joy.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Peter gives his reasons why the Gentile converts should not be required to be circumcised. James offers his judgment in agreement, and lists what practices the Gentiles would still be required to follow. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to keep his commandments and thus abide in his love. Doing so will bring them joy.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humility and confidence, let us bring before the Lord our prayers and petitions for ourselves and the world.

- 1) For bishops throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit continue to animate them in their proclamation of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Lord light a pathway for their prudent and just decision-making in service of the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with mental illness, may the Lord surround them with a community of loving care and acceptance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this community, may the Spirit rejuvenate our faith and strengthen our commitment to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the Lord welcome them with joy into his eternal presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we trust that you always hear us and we ask that you answer these petitions in accordance with your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, May 7, 2021

(Lec. 289)

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

FRIDAY OF  
FIFTH WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus invites us to enter into God's communion of love.

When Jesus commands his disciples to love each other as he loves them, he gives them a witness that is difficult to follow, as his love takes him to the cross. How can we possibly love in this way? It is only with Jesus and through Jesus that we can love as he does.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Apostles and presbyters [in Jerusalem] send Judas and Silas to Antioch with a letter and a complementary verbal message to the Gentiles, regarding the few Mosaic laws the Gentiles must follow. In the Gospel, Jesus says, *This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers before God, who desires to give us what we need.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit give them wisdom and strength in their service of leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all local and elected officials, may God grant them hearts of justice and charity in serving their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who grieve the loss of a loved one, may the consolation and peace of God be upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith, may God draw us to himself and make us worthy of being his hands and feet of love in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the Lord of love bring them to his eternal embrace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we praise you for your goodness and thank you for hearing us now. Answer these prayers according to your holy will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, May 8, 2021  
(Lec. 290)

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

SATURDAY OF  
FIFTH WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: We have been chosen to go into the world to spread the Gospel.

It is a blessing to remember the words of Christ – that God has chosen us *out of the world*. We live within the beauty of his Creation, which is pure good, but we are destined for more than this. While we are here, we have a mission to share the Gospel – whether times are easy, or we are in the midst of persecution.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul travels through Derbe and Lystra and asks Timothy to join him on his missionary work. The early Church continues to grow, and a vision leads them to Macedonia. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that those who follow him will face persecution as he is persecuted. However, those who have kept Jesus' word will also keep the word of the disciples.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that the Lord looks with kindness upon our every need, we join together to pray for our Church and the world.

- 1) For the Holy Father, Pope Francis, may the Holy Spirit continue to bless him with good health as he shepherds the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God provide them with courage and right understanding in their stewardship of resources and the environment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those being persecuted for their faith, may the Holy Spirit strengthen them in their steadfast witness, and bring relief to their suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our gathered community, may the Lord continue to bless us, and protect us from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be welcomed into the great wedding banquet of the Lamb, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercy and love, we humbly bring before you these prayers and petitions that we ask in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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NOTE: When the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on the following Sunday, the Second Reading and Gospel from the Seventh Sunday of Easter (see no. 60) may be read on the Sixth Sunday of Easter.

**SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2021**

**SIXTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**

(Lec. 56)

- 1) Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
- 2) 1 John 4:7-10
- 3) John 15:9-17

FOCUS: Love one another; the commandment is not always easy to follow, but it is always good.

Jesus commands us to love one another. As he laid down his life, we imitate Jesus in laying down our lives and loving others. The command, though difficult, comes with a purpose and promise: We remain in him and our joy will be complete. We can love others and bear fruit in Christ, if we remain firmly rooted to him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, as Peter visits Cornelius and tells him that *whoever fears [God] and acts uprightly is acceptable to him*, the Holy Spirit falls upon all who were listening. John writes, *Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God*. God's love was revealed in his Son whom he sent for our salvation. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to remain in his love and to love one another as he has loved them. For *no one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Father's steadfast love, let us offer him our prayers this day.

- 1) For the Church, may she, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, continue to grow in holiness and fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public servants, may Christ's commandment of love be their daily guide and source of strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who feel lost or alone, may the Lord provide a community of faith to come alongside them as witnesses of his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who recently joined the Church, may the new life they experience in Christ continue to bring them joy throughout this Easter season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may their joy be complete as they behold God's face in heaven and sing praise with the angels and saints forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the blessings you bestow upon us each day. Please hear and answer the prayers we offer through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, May 10, 2021

(Lec. 291)

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

MONDAY OF  
SIXTH WEEK  
OF EASTER  
(Opt. Mem.

USA: Saint Damien de Veuster,  
Priest)

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit is our Advocate, and the giver of gifts.

The Son and the Father send the Holy Spirit to help us know we're not alone in giving witness to Christ. For the disciples, who literally walked with Jesus on earth, this promise of the Spirit of truth was a reassurance that their ministry would bear fruit. For us who follow in their footsteps, the Holy Spirit is a promise fulfilled, an Advocate who reveals God and makes Christ known to us. His gifts and grace help us to live our faith.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Luke writes of their journey from Troas to Philippi, in Macedonia. There they encounter Lydia, whose heart the Lord opened to his word, and she and her family are baptized. She offers hospitality to Paul and his companions. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples of the Advocate whom he will send to them: *The Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, he will testify to [Jesus].*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Aware that God never abandons us, let us bring the needs of our community to the Lord.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may the outpouring of the Spirit strengthen and embolden him in his witness to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of all nations, may the Lord who erases all divisions guide their efforts in working for peace throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For refugees, may God protect and uphold them as they seek security and a home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community gathered, may our relationships with one another be strengthened through the grace of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may God's mercy bring them swiftly to eternal peace and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we are confident in your zealous care for us. Please hear and answer the humble prayers we offer to you today, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, May 11, 2021

(Lec. 292)

1) Acts 16:22-34

2) John 16:5-11

TUESDAY OF  
SIXTH WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit is our Advocate.

During his life on earth, and especially through his passion and death, Jesus set for us an example of selfless love. The goal of the Christian is to emulate Jesus in this life of self-gift. The Holy Spirit is our Advocate, our helper, as we strive to live selflessly.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading Paul and Silas are imprisoned, but an earthquake frees them from their chains. They do not leave their cell, and through their witness and instruction their jailer and his household come to believe and are baptized. In the Gospel, the resurrected Jesus promises that when he goes to the one who sent him, he will send an Advocate who *will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Full of confidence in the risen Christ, we place before the Father our humble needs.

- 1) For all members of the universal Church, may the Holy Spirit inspire us in bearing witness to Jesus as Paul and Silas did, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may God bless their work of protecting life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are imprisoned, may God grant them hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community as we continue our journey to Pentecost, may God open our hearts to receive the Holy Spirit more fully, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they, through the mercy of God, rest in eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special Petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, let our prayers be answered according to your will. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, May 12, 2021  
(Lec. 293)

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

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

FOCUS: God guides our hearts each day.

Paul's preaching in Athens is tailored to his audience. He appeals to their already-held beliefs about divinity, while also challenging them to give up worshipping multiple gods and inviting them to believe in a God who not only creates, but also judges. How can we follow Paul's example and carry out Jesus' mission to proclaim truth in today's culture?

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Athens, Paul preaches to Gentiles about God who made the world and gives everyone and everything life. He says that God will judge the world at an appointed time through a man he has raised from the dead. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples about the role of the Spirit of truth who will guide the disciples after his departure.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the Father and trust in his goodness, we offer our prayers for the whole Church and for our world.

- 1) That the Church may be aided by the Spirit in her proclamation of the Good News throughout the world in every language and culture, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all who do not believe in Christ may have their hearts opened to the truth proclaimed by missionaries and preachers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who are persecuted for their faith may receive the gift of fortitude and the consolation of peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us gathered here may continue to grow in faith and love under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may experience God's merciful love through the power of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, you call us to live in communion with you and with each other. Hear the prayers of your people gathered here and grant our petitions in accordance with your will. 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 16. If transferred, Thursday, May 13, is observed as an Easter Weekday.

Thursday, May 13, 2021

(Lec. 294)

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

THURSDAY OF  
SIXTH WEEK  
OF EASTER  
(Opt. Mem.  
Our Lady of Fatima)

FOCUS: Discipleship comes with grief and joy.

In this season of Easter, our readings tell us of the dynamics of discipleship. Our joy is in the risen Christ, but that does not mean we will not face hardships along the way. Still, in the end, Christ is with us in our successes and in our challenges. Our grief will always become joy.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul spends time in Corinth. While preaching the Word, he faces frustrating challenges, but he is still able to convert hearts to Christ. In the Gospel, the disciples struggle to understand what Jesus means by *a little while*. Jesus says that the world will rejoice while they *weep and mourn*, but their *grief will become joy*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers and petitions before the Lord, who is ever with us.

- 1) For the missionary work of the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide and protect her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all of those who serve in public office, may the Lord graciously provide them the resources they need to care for their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those overwhelmed by depression or sadness, may eternal hope uplift them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us as we seek to bring Christ to others in our words and in our actions, may Christ show us the way, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of those who have died, may God bring them to eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and ever-living God, hear our prayers, we beseech you, and answer them according to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, May 13, 2021

(Lec. 58)

- 1) Acts 1:1-11
- 2) Ephesians 1:17-23  
or Ephesians 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13
- 3) Mark 16:15-20

**THE ASCENSION  
OF THE LORD  
- SOLEMNITY**

**FOCUS:** *Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.*

The Apostles' conversion happened over an extended period of time. Jesus' command to go and baptize all who would come to believe through their efforts is ongoing to this day. People are waiting for us to extend an invitation and to witness how faith in Jesus has changed our lives. There is no time to waste.

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Luke recounts the days and weeks following Jesus' resurrection, and his interactions with the disciples until he is taken up to heaven. Paul prays that the Ephesians grasp the power of Christ at work within them. In the Gospel, Jesus gives the disciples the instruction to *Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.*

### **UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** With faith in the name of Jesus, raised from the dead according to the Scriptures, we present our needs to the Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis and bishops, may they receive the protection and favor of God as they minister in the name of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For local and national leaders, may the Spirit of God move them to work together to protect the rights of all, including the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have wandered away from their faith in Jesus, may God grant them understanding and a yearning heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For family and friends during this Easter season, may it be a time of witness, growth, and harmony, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enter into the eternal life promised through Christ's resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Heavenly Father, hear our prayers, and in your mercy, fill us with what we need to do your work. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, May 14, 2021

(Lec. 564)

1) Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

2) John 15:9-17

**SAINT MATTHIAS,  
APOSTLE  
- FEAST**

FOCUS: The call of Christ's disciples is to live as one – chosen by love for joy.

Jesus immersed himself in his Father's love, constantly relying on the strength of that love as he reached out to others. We are not called to summon love from our own human weakness, but to live in the joy of being loved first. It is in this love that we can then love others as Christ commands.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the disciples discern the call of Matthias to take the place of the betrayer, Judas. In the Gospel, Jesus exhorts the disciples to remain in his love as he remains in the Father's love. He gives the command to love one another as he has loved us.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as a chosen people, we come before God with our prayers and needs.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they be filled with the love of Christ as they carry the responsibilities of their offices, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those called to lead in government and civil society, may they be given the grace to act in authentic love, especially for the poor and the vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened by chronic illness, may the Holy Spirit be with them and grant them the strength they need each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may the Lord help us to know our calling more deeply and be rooted ever more firmly in the love that first chose us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they rest in the eternal love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of love, we bring these needs to you today, trusting that you will give us all that we need to bear fruit that will remain, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, May 15, 2021  
(Lec. 296)

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

SATURDAY OF  
SIXTH WEEK  
OF EASTER  
(Opt. Mem.  
USA: Saint Isidore)

FOCUS: Jesus assures his followers that they are loved by the Father, and he will provide for their needs.

At the Last Supper, Jesus gathered with his most beloved followers. They had been with him throughout his ministry, but they do not know that their time together on earth is nearly over. In these tender moments, Jesus wants them most to know that God loves them and will answer all their needs. As members of his family today, we share in this promise.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul continues his journeys through the Galatian country and larger region, while a man named Apollos taught about Jesus in Ephesus. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that whatever they ask of the Father in his name, the Father will grant them.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With assurances from Jesus that God will hear our prayers, we join together to place our needs before the Father.

- 1) That Pope Francis and all bishops throughout the world may have the protection of the Holy Spirit as they witness to the truth of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the work of civil servants may be blessed and bring benefit to the people they are called to serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who live in despair, pain, or fear may feel the comfort of the Father as he answers their prayers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this Eucharistic assembly may be graced with increased awareness of the Lord working in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may soon enter into the presence of the risen Christ for eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, we present these petitions before you and ask that you hear and answer them according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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**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 16, 2021**

**SEVENTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**

(Lec. 60)

- 1) Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26
- 2) 1 John 4:11-16
- 3) John 17:11b-19

FOCUS: God is love and whoever remains in love, remains in God.

The Gospel takes us back to the Last Supper and Jesus' prayer for his followers. Full of concern for our welfare, he wants us to have all the spiritual resources necessary to be faithful and united. He knows there are perils and dangers, but if we keep our eyes fixed on him, remaining in his love and consecrated in his truth, we will succeed.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Peter exercises leadership in the early Church as it prays for the Lord to direct their hearts in choosing a replacement for Judas Iscariot. John writes, *if we love one another, God remains in us*. In the Gospel, Jesus prays that his disciples will be protected from the dangers of this world and remain united.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Confident in God's love and steadfast care, we bring our prayers and needs before him.

- 1) For the Church, may she flourish in holiness as she gives witness to the glory of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may the Holy Spirit inspire them in living by the truth and working for justice for all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle because of poverty, sickness, or violence within their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the newly baptized and confirmed, may the flame of the Holy Spirit grow within their hearts and minds, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, especially those who have no one else to remember or pray for them, may they know the fullness of life in the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Heavenly Father, we take confidence in knowing that your Son, Jesus, prayed for us. With hope in our hearts we now join these prayers to his, knowing you will answer them according to your holy will. Through Christ our Lord.

\* \* \* \* \*

Monday, May 17, 2021  
(Lec. 297)

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

MONDAY OF  
SEVENTH WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit flows through every part and every effort of the Church and her members.

The Spirit is everywhere in the Church, her sacraments, and devotional life. The Church depends on the Holy Spirit for his gifts and fruits, and we have only to ask to receive him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul travels to Ephesus, lays hands on the Christians, and calls down the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples: *Do you believe now?* and foretells the time when they will be scattered each to their homes and will leave him to be alone.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Taking courage in the love of our God, let us offer our prayers to him.

- 1) For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious, may the Lord raise up those who will dedicate their lives to serving his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who dispense justice, may the compassionate love of Jesus create in them a mind and heart that tempers justice with mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those gripped by fear or anxiety, may the peace of Christ give rest to their minds and hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God's grace be with us as we aim to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in the peace of Christ in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, giver of love and mercy, we submit our prayers to your most holy will. Through Christ our Lord.

\* \* \* \* \*

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

(Lec. 298)

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

TUESDAY OF  
SEVENTH WEEK  
OF EASTER  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint John I,  
Pope and Martyr)

FOCUS: The Lord gives us hope for our future and for our unity with him.

The hope found in the words and actions of Jesus and Paul is not in clinging to this life or in denying death, but in looking forward to continuing to serve God and his people. Through love of God and love of neighbor, they invest in the future of the people around them – their eternal future. Such hope is one founded on the promises of God and his unabated faithfulness to us, despite our failures toward him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul offers his goodbye to the presbyters at Ephesus as he heads to his arrest. He recalls his dedicated service and focuses on continuing his ministry. In the Gospel, Jesus prays before his arrest. He recalls his accomplishments and focuses on coming to God to give eternal life to all.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, so do we offer our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may enkindle the fire of his love in the hearts of our bishops during this Easter season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That judges and magistrates, whose decisions affect the lives of many, may be guided by the Holy Spirit in embracing principles of fairness and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That innocent victims of war and violence may find peace and healing through Jesus, the Divine Physician, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Jesus may keep us faithful to God's call to serve him in our relationships with family, neighbors, friends and strangers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may rejoice in the presence of God in the eternal life given by Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, everything that is yours you have given your Son. Hear and answer the prayers we offer today through him, who is Jesus Christ, our Lord.

\* \* \* \* \*

Wednesday, May 19, 2021  
(Lec. 299)

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

WEDNESDAY OF  
SEVENTH WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit can keep us in balance as we strive to live a faith-filled life.

Both readings address Church leaders and communicate final words of advice. Jesus and Paul emphasize the importance of staying united to God and one another in order to continue spreading the Gospel. The Holy Spirit is the one who can keep us in balance as we strive to live a faith-filled life.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul departs the Church of Ephesus and gives them final advice for leading and ministering to the local community. In the Gospel, Jesus asks the Father to care for the Apostles and keep them united.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With joyful hearts filled with hope, we place our needs before our merciful Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis and the leaders of our Church, may the Lord continue to bless them as they lead us on the path of Christ's truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders in government, may God give them wisdom and strength to lead communities in peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from chronic pain, may God bring them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community gathered together today, may God strengthen our bonds and guide us in our proclamation of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have fallen asleep in the hope of Christ, may God grant them mercy and everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear these prayers and needs placed before you today. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thursday, May 20, 2021

(Lec. 300)

1) Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

2) John 17:20-26

THURSDAY OF

SEVENTH WEEK

OF EASTER

(Opt. Mem.

Saint Bernardine of Siena,

Priest)

FOCUS: The loving unity of Christians is one of the most powerful witnesses to the truth of Christ's message.

Like Saint Paul, we are called to be courageous witnesses for Jesus, and one of the most powerful ways we can do this is by our unity as believers. By allowing Christ to dwell in us, we can be made one by the love he shares with the Father – that the world may see that love and believe in him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul exposes divisions among the Jewish leaders by bearing witness to Jesus' resurrection. The Lord tells him that he will bear the same witness in Rome. In the Gospel, Jesus prays for his disciples and all *who will believe in [him] through their word*. He prays that all *may be brought to perfection as one*, as he and the Father are one.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As members of God's family, let us confidently present our needs to him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Holy Spirit strengthen us in our efforts to spread the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the rulers of nations and people, may the Spirit of peace guide their hearts and their actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, needy, and lost everywhere, may God's love bring them healing and comfort, and may he in his mercy provide for their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of believers, may the love of the Father and Son bring us to perfection as one, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may Christ soon bring them into the fullness of his glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear the prayers we bring before you today, confident in your love and care for us. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

\* \* \* \* \*

Friday, May 21, 2021

(Lec. 301)

1) Acts 25:13b-21

2) John 21:15-19

FRIDAY OF

SEVENTH WEEK

OF EASTER

(Opt. Mem.

Saint Christopher Magallanes,

Priest,

and Companions,

Martyrs)

FOCUS: Authentic love may include sacrifice, but also brings joy.

We could think of today's Gospel, and the exchange between Peter and Jesus, as one in which Jesus is seeking not just assurance of Peter's love, but his understanding of what that love entails, and how he will suffer for it. Love is always sacrificial, and authentic love also brings joy. The more perfectly we love, the more perfectly we glorify God, and the greater our joy.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul is imprisoned in Caesarea, and [the procurator] Festus doesn't know what to do with his case. He refers this issue to King Agrippa, who is visiting, explaining that Paul was accused of crimes related to the Jewish religion. In the Gospel, Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him, and three times Peter affirms his answer as yes. Jesus tells him to feed and tend his sheep and lambs.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in our loving God who cares for his sheep, we bring him our needs and prayers.

- 1) For those who will be ordained this year, may the Holy Spirit abundantly bless their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national leaders, may the goodness of God guide them in their policymaking and decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the imprisoned, may God move the hearts of the guilty to repentance and console the wrongly convicted with strength and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith, may God's grace at work in our lives allow us to bear fruit for the Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, especially those who have no one else to pray for them, may the angels welcome them to paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, we ask you to look kindly upon these petitions we offer in the name of your Son, Jesus the Lord.

\* \* \* \* \*

Saturday, May 22, 2021  
(Lec. 302)

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

SATURDAY OF  
SEVENTH WEEK  
OF EASTER  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Rita of Cascia,  
Religious)

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit is present to us.

Although Paul was under house arrest in Rome, we know that the Holy Spirit was present with him, for he continued to proclaim the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ. We can be assured that the Holy Spirit is present with us, too – and that he and Saint Paul will intercede for us at the asking.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul is under house arrest in Rome for two years. He continues to insist that he has done nothing against his own Jewish customs or the Jewish people, and continues to teach about the Lord and proclaim the kingdom of God. In the Gospel, Peter asks about the beloved disciple, but Jesus tells him it is not his concern. Peter is to follow Jesus. John writes that there were *many other things that Jesus did but the whole world would [not] contain the books that would be written.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we prepare to celebrate the Eucharist, let us first bring our needs and intentions to our loving Father.

- 1) For our holy Catholic Church, may we remain in Christ and become fruitful branches of the true vine, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may God help them hear and respond to the cries of those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the anxious and the sick, may God protect them and grant them full health of mind and body, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God continue to draw us to himself and bring harmony and peace where there may be division, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to experience the fullness of joy in the presence of the Lord for eternity, 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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**SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

(Lec. 63)

- 1) Acts 2:1-11
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13  
or Galatians 5:16-25
- 3) John 20:19-23  
or John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

FOCUS: The gift of the Holy Spirit empowers Christ's Church to preach the Gospel.

The gift of the Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus at the Last Supper, enables Jesus' disciples to boldly proclaim the Good News, continuing Jesus' mission. As we celebrate Pentecost, we are called to open our hearts to the same Spirit so that we, too, might do our part in the work of the Kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples who *were all in one place together*. They began proclaiming the Gospel in different languages and all could understand them. Saint Paul encourages the Galatians to *live by the Spirit*, and lists the fruits of the Spirit that will arise from doing so. Jesus promises his disciples that he and the Father will send the Advocate, who will guide them and glorify Christ.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Prompted and inspired by the Holy Spirit, let us offer our petitions to the Father.

- 1) That the Church may be energized by the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Spirit may guide those who are working to protect life at all stages, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are sick may be comforted by the uniting of their suffering to Christ's redemptive suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our community of faith may be blessed with increasing faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may soon rest in the eternal peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear us as we place our prayers before you, and answer them according to your will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, May 24, 2021  
(Lec. 572A)

- 1) Genesis 3:9-15, 20  
or Acts 1:12-14
- 2) John 19:25-34

MONDAY OF  
EIGHTH WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
The Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Mother of the Church)

FOCUS: In naming his own mother as mother of his disciples while dying on the cross, Jesus, in essence, was naming her “Mother of the Church.”

To Mary, Jesus said, *behold, your son*, and to his beloved disciple he said, *behold, your mother*. Through those words, Jesus named the Blessed Virgin as mother of all his disciples – collectively known as the Body of Christ or “the Church.”

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

All the Apostles return to Jerusalem after Jesus’ ascension, and one of them is Mary, the mother of Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to his mother and the beloved disciple from upon the cross, saying, *Woman, behold, your son*, and, *Behold, your mother*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring the needs of our Church and our world before our merciful Father.

- 1) For the Church, may our Blessed Mother intercede for her and help her in her mission to make disciples of all nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in our world, may the grace of God bring about forgiveness and reconciliation within our homes, communities, and our nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who grieve the death of a loved one, may the hope and promise of eternal life bring them consolation and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in this faith community, may God strengthen and uphold them to be models of love and harmony for each other, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the recently deceased members of our families, may they enjoy the fruits of their service to the Church in the heavenly presence of Mary, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Compassionate Father, we humbly pray that you grant our petitions. We ask this through Jesus, your Son.

\* \* \* \* \*

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

(Lec. 348)

- 1) Sirach 35:1-12
- 2) Mark 10:28-31

TUESDAY OF  
EIGHTH WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

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

FOCUS: God has given generously to us, and so we must give of ourselves generously back to God.

God does not desire repayment. To repay the God who has given us everything is not possible in the first place. However, when we recognize all that God has done for and within us, it creates a desire to love God and others – to give and not to ask for anything in return.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sirach gives instructions on offering sacrifice, atonement, and homage to God – with charity, generous spirit, and cheerful countenance. In the Gospel, Jesus says that all who give up things for his sake and the sake of the Gospel will receive back a hundred-fold. He also says: *But many that are first will be last, and the last will be first.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: United in our common faith in Jesus Christ, we place before the Father our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) For bishops, as successors to the Apostles, may they be protected and unified and filled with the joy of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in our world, may the Holy Spirit create avenues of reconciliation and an end to conflict and division, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those victimized by slavery and human trafficking, may God pave their way to freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this local faith community, may God's word take root in our hearts and guide us according to his plans, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they see the face of God this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we ask that you hear and answer these prayers according to your holy will, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, May 26, 2021

(Lec. 349)

1) Sirach 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17

2) Mark 10:32-45

WEDNESDAY OF  
EIGHTH WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Philip Neri,  
Priest)

FOCUS: Christ came to serve.

After Jesus' prediction of his passion [his third in the Gospel of Mark], the disciples once again demonstrate their misunderstanding. James and John's confidence that they can drink the same cup as Jesus shows that not only are they overlooking Christ's sufferings, but they are mistaking what glory means. In Christ's kingdom, the greatest are those who act as servant to all.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sirach offers a prayer to God for him to show mercy to the people of Israel, so that all the earth will know he is the only God. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus predicts his passion. When James and John ask to sit at his right and left in glory, he asks if they can drink the cup he will drink.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God has gathered us as one people, and so we bring our prayers to him as one voice.

- 1) For all who serve faithfully in Catholic communities around the world, may they be sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit in the challenges of their daily ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all people of the world, may we be drawn together in peace by the one true God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those seeking truth and justice in their lives, may God's word inspire and encourage them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God continue to guide each one of us to repentance and conversion where we need it most, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died with Christ, may they be raised with him in glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God, Father of all, you sent your only Son into the world to die so that we might live. Hear the prayers we offer today, and in your great mercy answer them according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Thursday, May 27, 2021  
(Lec. 350)

- 1) Sirach 42:15-25
- 2) Mark 10:46-52

THURSDAY OF  
EIGHTH WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Augustine of Canterbury,  
Bishop)

FOCUS: God's glory surrounds us.

In today's readings, we learn about the nature of God's glory. Sirach reflects on the works of God's glory in the world, observing the true beauty in the myriad ways that God's glory can be seen. Jesus' healing of the blind man, Bartimaeus, shows this glory in action.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sirach recalls the incredible, glorious work of God in the world. He describes how he has witnessed God's power, knowledge, and splendorous work. In the Gospel, the blind man Bartimaeus shouts out to Jesus for help. His persistence reaches Jesus, who heals him from his long suffering.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Putting our trust in God who loves us abundantly, we offer him our needs today.

- 1) For all members of the Holy Church, may the Lord help us lead lives of holiness and faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who serve in public office, may God's knowledge and wisdom be upon them and in them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who experience prolonged suffering, may God's healing power bring them relief and restoration, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may the Lord look graciously upon our every need and bless us with a spirit of perseverance in prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have recently died, may God welcome them into eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: All-powerful and all-knowing God, your glorious works surround us in our world. Hear our prayers today, and answer them according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

\* \* \* \* \*

Friday, May 28, 2021

(Lec. 351)

1) Sirach 44:1, 9-13

2) Mark 11:11-26

FRIDAY OF  
EIGHTH WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Have faith in God.

All that we ask for in prayer shall be ours, when we believe that we will receive it. And when we forgive those *against whom [we] have a grievance*, the Father will forgive us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sirach praises *those godly men, our ancestors*, known and unknown, because of their legacy of virtue, wealth, and adherence to God's covenant. In the Gospel, Jesus curses a fig tree, drives the merchants from the temple, and then returns to the fig tree which has now withered. He tells his disciples to have faith in God.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God, we bring all our spiritual and temporal needs to him.

- 1) For the continued renewal and purification of the Church in the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For policymakers, may the Lord bless their efforts to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For just and creative solutions to break the cycle of poverty, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For abundant blessings on this faith community in our efforts to bear good fruit in building up the Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they find joy in the presence of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

PRIEST: Compassionate Father, we beg you to look with favor on our petitions, and grant them according to your holy will, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, May 29, 2021  
(Lec. 352)

- 1) Sirach 51:12cd-20
- 2) Mark 11:27-33

SATURDAY OF  
EIGHTH WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Paul VI,  
Pope,  
Saturday in honor  
of BVM)

FOCUS: Jesus' authority is rooted in wisdom.

Our Scripture readings today invite us to reflect on authority. Jesus' ministry put him up against the traditional religious leaders who led by power and not by authority. The basis of true authority is divine wisdom, which is reflected upon in Sirach. Our pursuit of divine wisdom leads us to God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sirach reflects on the pursuit of wisdom, and the immense impact wisdom has made on his life. In the Gospel, the chief priests, scribes, and elders question Jesus about who gave him the authority to do the things he does.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered together as one, let us turn to God with our needs this day.

- 1) For our holy Church, may God's wisdom continue to guide her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all of those who hold elected office, may God lead them in knowledge and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of oppression or marginalization, may God help them find freedom and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community as we grow in wisdom together, may the Holy Spirit guide our ministries and programs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have entered eternal life, may God lead them to everlasting joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, your Son showed us your way of authority through his works and words of love. Hear our prayers today, and answer them in your holy wisdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021**

(Lec. 165)

- 1) Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40
- 2) Romans 8:14-17
- 3) Matthew 28:16-20

**THE MOST  
HOLY TRINITY  
-SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: We are commissioned to carry the Good News to all the world.

Today's readings talk about our relationship with God: that he has revealed himself to us, provided for us, taught us, disciplined us, and given us the way to eternal life. We are led by the Spirit, and commissioned to carry the Good News to all the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Moses speaks to the people and has them consider all the ways God has cared for them and revealed himself to them. That is why they must keep his statutes and commandments. Paul tells the Romans that all *who are led by the Spirit of God* are children of God and heirs with Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the eleven disciples to *go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now offer our prayers to the Father for the needs of the world and the Church.

- 1) For the Church in her mission of making disciples of all nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in our world and for an increase in faith, hope, and love among all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have been affected by violence and hardship, and for all who work to bring them relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick and suffering of our community, and for the ministries that attend to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, especially those who have no one else to pray for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, look with favor upon these requests and grant us what we need according to your will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, May 31, 2021

(Lec. 572)

- 1) Zephaniah 3:14-18a  
or Romans 12:9-16
- 2) Luke 1:39-56

**THE VISITATION  
OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Be selfless and faithful.

It would be hard to find a more perfect example of someone who is both selfless and faithful than our Blessed Mother. Giving an unreserved yes to God's plan, she trusted in the goodness that was promised to the world through her. And in the midst of her own pregnancy, she travels across the countryside to visit her cousin, Elizabeth – not an easy journey in the best of times. Mary is a model of faith for all of us who strive to do God's will. May we ask for her intercession, and grow in courage, so as to be ready to say yes to God's great plans as he reveals them.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul implores the Romans, *Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good*, and to be selfless and faithful. In the Gospel, Mary, pregnant with Jesus, travels to see her cousin, Elizabeth, who is also pregnant. As the baby leaps in Elizabeth's womb, she is filled with the Holy Spirit and cries out to Mary, *Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb*. Mary gives praise to God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We now bring our needs to the heavenly Father, trusting in his loving care and his perfect ways.

- 1) For our Holy Mother Church, and for the needs of all her children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, and all whom they serve, may the grace of God lead them in all they say and do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling to make decisions, may the Holy Spirit help them in seeing clearly the path God invites them to walk, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we be given the courage to follow Christ wherever he leads us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find eternal rest in the loving arms of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, on this great feast of the Visitation, we recognize Mary as our Mother and our model of discipleship. Hear our prayers this day and answer them in your faithfulness and mercy. We ask this through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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