

MARCH

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Monday, March 1, 2021
(Lec. 230)
1) Daniel 9:4b-10
2) Luke 6:36-38

MONDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Mercy in its fullness cannot be only received; it must be given away.

Today's readings remind us of God's abundant and generous mercy. Despite his people's unworthiness, God has forgiven the Israelites, and God forgives us. Jesus tells us that we cannot simply receive this mercy in the form of a passive gift; it must be shared with others, given away with the same measure by which we have received it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Daniel in today's first reading praises God for the compassion and forgiveness with which God has treated the Israelites. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to be merciful and forgiving.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to our merciful God and entrust these prayers to him.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may God bless her with unity and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may the peace of Christ reign in every corner, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those subjected to economic, civil, and religious injustice, may the immeasurable mercy of God bring them relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those preparing for baptism in this faith community, may their Lenten season be one of joyful purification and enlightenment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to share in the eternal banquet in heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, in your mercy, accept our humble prayers and answer them according to your will. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, March 2, 2021
(Lec. 231)

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

TUESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Strive to avoid hypocrisy and embrace humility.

In today's readings, both Isaiah and Jesus denounce hypocrisy. Those in positions of power are called not to place burdens on others, but to relieve them. During Lent, we are given the opportunity to examine our own interior dispositions and make sure they align with the Lord's will. All the fasting, prayer, and almsgiving in the world cannot outweigh pride.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah instructs Israel to *cease doing evil and learn to do good*. God will set things right, forgiving their sins, if they correct their behaviors and *make justice [their] aim*. Jesus exhorts the crowds not to follow the example of the scribes and Pharisees, *for they preach but they do not practice*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST Having heard the word of God, we now turn to the Father and humbly ask him to hear our petitions.

- 1) That all members of the Church may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, growing in the virtues of justice and humility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all political leaders may be guided by the light of Christ in their service to those they lead, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are suffering with brokenness or hurt may be comforted and consoled in the arms of the Lord's loving embrace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community of faith may be conformed ever more to Christ during this Lenten season, and be sanctified in our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the souls of all the faithful departed may, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we are your humble servants. We ask that you hear and answer our prayers in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, March 3, 2021
(Lec. 232)

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

WEDNESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
USA: Saint Katharine Drexel,
Virgin)

FOCUS: *Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant.*

Our readings today tell us about the trials of discipleship. Jesus reveals that the path he will take, the path all of us are called to follow, is not easy or glorious. It is full of adversity. These challenges are also described in Jeremiah's lament. What hardships do we face as part of our discipleship today?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah laments as he faces hardship from his adversaries. He seeks help and refuge in the Lord. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the Twelve of his impending condemnation and execution in Jerusalem. He then describes the suffering that comes with the path of following him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of our dependence on God, let us bring our prayers together before him with one voice.

- 1) For the Church and her work in preaching the Gospel to all nations, may the Lord raise up men and women with fortitude and zeal for evangelization, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all of those who serve in public office, may God grant them wisdom in all of their work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all of those who suffer for their faith, may God strengthen and uphold them in the face of hardship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us on our Lenten journey, may the grace of God work in us through our Lenten disciplines, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of those who have died, may God's mercy be upon them in their journey to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, from age to age we have called on you for help. Listen to the prayers we bring to you today, we ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, March 4, 2021
(Lec. 233)
1) Jeremiah 17:5-10
2) Luke 16:19-31

THURSDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Casimir)

FOCUS: Trusting in the things of this world brings death, but trusting in God brings salvation.

Today's readings give lessons in contrast. The one who trusts in earthly things, such as the rich man in the Gospel, dries up and dies. Such a person is cut off from all happiness. The rich man, like the barren shrub, thirsts for even a little water. The one who trusts in God, however, finds abundant life even in hard times.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord contrasts those who hope in the world with those who hope in him. The former is like a dried-up shrub in the desert, the latter a thriving tree planted near a stream. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the Pharisees about a rich man who lived in luxury, at whose door sat a poor beggar named Lazarus. Both men died and the rich man was condemned, while Lazarus was saved.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the Lord's generosity, let us bring to him our petitions.

- 1) That the Lord may look graciously upon all members of the Church as we proclaim the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Gospel message of peace and blessing may direct the actions of world leaders, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the homeless and destitute may find relief through God's provision and Christian generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this faith community may continue to be strengthened and transformed by the grace in the sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may rest forever in the loving arms of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, giver of every perfect gift, grant these our prayers, we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, March 5, 2021

(Lec. 234)

1) Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a
17b-28a

2) Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

FRIDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT

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

Both readings today have envious people, with power, plotting against the righteous. But God upholds the righteous. For Joseph, sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, will one day hold the fate of these same brothers in his hands. And he reconciles with them. Jesus, God's only Son, is sent by the Father. He is *the stone that the builders rejected [who] has become the cornerstone.* His vindication is our redemption.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jacob sends his favorite son, Joseph, to catch up to his brothers. As Joseph approaches, his brothers plot to kill him, but end up selling him into slavery instead. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable to the chief priests and elders about a vineyard owner whose rebellious tenants kill his servants and even his son and heir.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Filled with hope and confidence in our merciful God, we present our needs to him.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may the Holy Spirit continue to uphold and strengthen him as he shepherds God's holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who hold positions of leadership, may the Lord's gracious mercy bear great fruit in their lives of service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those facing difficult decisions, may God grant them the wisdom they need for their discernment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the Elect who are preparing for baptism this Easter, may the light of Christ guide them on their journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they soon be brought to everlasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we ask that you hear the prayers we offer today and respond in your goodness. Through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, March 6, 2021

(Lec. 235)

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

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

SATURDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: There is no god like our God, the God of endless mercy.

Mercy is a concept that seems to be on the wane in our society. Power and winning at all costs are the battle cry in today's world, and mercy is considered weak. God, however, is more than willing to extend his limitless mercy to us. Even if we turn away from him, he will welcome us back into his arms – as long as we repent, and ask for his forgiveness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Micah speaks of a merciful God. God is like no other god: he does not stay angry but delights *in clemency*, and casts all sin *into the depths of the sea*. In the Gospel Jesus tells a parable of a man with two sons, the younger of whom goes out and *squander[s] his inheritance*, but returns to the loving embrace of his father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may they be blessed with fortitude in serving as instruments of God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For governmental leaders of nations in conflict, may they be empowered by God's grace to act with justice, mercy, and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering any type of injustice because of race, ethnicity, or religion, may our just and generous God bring them relief and reparation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us on our Lenten journey, may the Lord strengthen our faith and help us to grow in understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they find peace and rest in the arms of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021

(Lec. 29)

- 1) Exodus 20:1-17
or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
- 3) John 2:13-25

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF LENT**

FOCUS: Eliminate what distracts us from God.

The first of God's commandments – that he alone is God and we shall not have other gods or idols – reaches beyond simply “not offering sacrifices to pagan deities.” Rather, it includes avoiding anything that we “rank above” God or that prevents us from worshipping him. The importance of this commandment is seen in the way Jesus reacts against those who have made commerce – selling animals and changing money – their gods, their idols.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

God gives the Israelites his commandments, saying he will punish those who do not follow them but grant mercy to those who do. Saint Paul writes the Corinthians, *we proclaim Christ crucified*, which is foolishness to those who do not believe, but power and wisdom to those who do. In the Gospel, Jesus drives money-changers and vendors from the temple area, and then tells the crowd that if the temple is destroyed he will raise it in three days.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We now bring our needs and the needs of the world before our merciful Father.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit strengthen her in teaching God's law in spirit and truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may God inspire their creation of policies that follow his commandments, especially that of respect for human dignity and life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering any type of disease or affliction, may Christ, the Divine Physician, bring them comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may the Lord bless us in our Lenten journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may Christ who died for us welcome them to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, you love the world so much that you gave us your only Son. With confident hope in your love for us, we ask you to hear these prayers through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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

Monday, March 8, 2021
(Lec. 237)

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

MONDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John of God,
Religious)

FOCUS: We are invited to be open to God's actions, even when they don't fit our expectations.

In today's readings, we are reminded that God sometimes works in unexpected ways, ways that contradict our expectations. We can respond to God's actions as the people of Nazareth did and reject what God is doing, or be open to the possibility that God can indeed be working in this surprising way, as Naaman was. Let us choose openness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Elisha instructs Naaman, an Aramean (Syrian) army commander, and also a leper, to *wash seven times in the Jordan* and his flesh would be healed. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks at the synagogue in Nazareth. He refers to the story of Naaman and other non-Jews healed by prophets to show the many times throughout history that prophets have been rejected by their own people. These words elicit violent fury, but Jesus escapes unharmed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord continue to lead us to a deeper conversion and faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, and an end to war and violence among nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who experience prejudice and discrimination, may the Lord grant them justice and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are in the final steps of the journey to the Easter sacraments, may the Spirit enlighten their minds and purify their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the Lord grant them eternal joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and merciful God, hear the prayers we bring before you with sincere and trusting hearts, and answer them in accordance with your holy will. In Christ's name we pray.

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Tuesday, March 9, 2021
(Lec. 238)
1) Daniel 3:25, 34-43
2) Matthew 18:21-35

TUESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Frances of Rome,
Religious)

FOCUS: As we have been forgiven, so must we be forgiving.

Lent is a journey of shared forgiveness between us and God and one another. As we have been forgiven, so must we be forgiving. When in desperation we come to know the great gift of forgiveness, given so freely by God, our softened hearts will, in turn, freely share it with others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Azariah prays to God from the fiery furnace, begging God to receive Israel's contrite heart and to deliver them from shame. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the unforgiving servant, and says, *my heavenly Father* also will not forgive those who refuse to forgive others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With contrite hearts and humble spirits, we present our prayers to our merciful Lord.

- 1) That the grace of the Holy Spirit may continue to sanctify the Church and bring healing where needed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the mercies of God may inspire forgiveness and reconciliation among nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That Christ our healer may look graciously upon all who have suffered from the coronavirus and its effects, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Lord may continue to grow in joy and faith those who are preparing to be baptized into Christ's holy Church at the Easter Vigil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our heavenly Father may have mercy upon the souls of all who have died and bring them to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of our ancestors, in your kindness hear our prayers and answer them according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, March 10, 2021

(Lec. 239)

1) Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9

2) Matthew 5:17-19

WEDNESDAY OF

THIRD WEEK

OF LENT

FOCUS: Moses encourages the people to observe God's law; Jesus says he has come to fulfill it.

Near the end of his life, Moses calls the people to remain faithful to God's laws. If they are faithful, he promises that God will reward them. Jesus also speaks of the importance of following the law, but he calls us to a deeper understanding of what the law requires of us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Moses instructs the people to observe the statutes and decrees of the Lord as they enter the land the Lord is giving them. In the Gospel, Jesus says that he did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it. *Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the mercy of our loving God, let us bring to him our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may God continue to bless and sanctify her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected leaders, may the Lord help them in rejecting all forms of division and prejudice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer because of injustice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith, may God's law take root in our hearts and make of us a bountiful harvest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon come to find their resting place in God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, source of all wisdom, hear the prayers we bring before you for the salvation of the world. We ask through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, March 11, 2021
(Lec. 240)
1) Jeremiah 7:23-28
2) Luke 11:14-23

THURSDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: *Whoever is not with me is against me.*

Humanity has often turned its back on God, doubting and preferring its own path to God's way. We of the present day share that with the people in Jesus' time, as well as the exiles of Jeremiah's day. If we turn to Christ, his grace is stronger than the demon with the toughest grip on our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord gives Jeremiah a sobering truth, and warning: God's prophets have always faced stubbornness and hostility from the people for speaking the truth, and Jeremiah's experience will be no different. In the Gospel, Jesus says that it is by God's power that he drives out demons, and *whoever is not with [him] is against [him]*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us draw near to our God of love and mercy, bringing our prayers to him with confidence.

- 1) For our bishops, may the gifts of the Holy Spirit help them in every way as they shepherd their flocks, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For community leaders, may God give them a spirit of humility and generosity in leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the chronically ill, may Christ crucified draw them close to himself in their time of suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this community, may the Holy Spirit enkindle in us a spirit of joy for the gift of our faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they soon rest in the peace of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, source of all that is good, listen to our prayers and grant them according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, March 12, 2021
(Lec. 241)
1) Hosea 14:2-10
2) Mark 12:28-34

FRIDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Jesus tells us the greatest commandment is to love God with our total being and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Today's readings are about love. We are called to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbor. This requires us to put God and others above our own wants and needs. Let us, in prayer, ask God each day for the grace to continually grow in our love for him and for others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Hosea calls Israel to return to the Lord, and ask for pardon. In turn, the Lord *will heal their defection*. Jesus answers a scribe's question in today's Gospel, saying the greatest commandment is to love God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: For ourselves and our brothers and sisters in need, let us offer our prayers to the Father who loves us.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may the Lord bless him, sustain him, and protect him from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in leadership throughout the world, may the God of justice guide them in living out their duties with wisdom and a sense of service to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and the oppressed, may God's love and healing embrace them in their suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Holy Spirit give us wisdom to understand all that God teaches and grace to receive Christ's help in our struggles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they find joy and love in the eternal Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we place our prayers before you with love and trust in your mercy, in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Saturday, March 13, 2021
(Lec. 242)
1) Hosea 6:1-6
2) Luke 18:9-14

SATURDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: God calls us to deeper love and knowledge of him through our Lenten practices.

God desires our love and wants us to know his love for us. He invites us to be humble and accept his mercy so that he may heal us and bind up our wounds. Our Lenten prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are empty offerings if they are done without humility and the desire to know and love God more.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Hosea tells the people to return to the Lord, who calls for love and knowledge of God rather than sacrifice and burnt offerings. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of a Pharisee and tax collector who go to pray in the temple area. The tax collector was justified in his humility, while the Pharisee, in exalting himself, was not.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With contrite hearts, let us turn to the Lord who hears our prayers.

- 1) That Christ may perfect the prayer, fasting, and almsgiving offered by the Church this Lent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the word of God may instruct the leaders of the world in the ways of mercy and humility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who are in need of healing may be consoled by God's love and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those who come to this faith community to return to God may be filled with the warmth of his living and loving presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the Lord may raise up those who have died to live in his presence forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, be merciful to us sinners in your response to our prayers, we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021

(Lec. 32)

- 1) 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
- 2) Ephesians 2:4-10
- 3) John 3:14-21

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT**

FOCUS: God sent Christ into the world not to condemn, but to save and to heal.

Throughout history, humans have had a tendency to choose what is the easier – but not necessarily the better – path. The easier path often leads away from God and into the darkness of sin. Christ's way is the way of light. We are called to be his disciples, to let go of preferences and actions which keep us in the dark, and to take the path which leads to truth and goodness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recounts the failure of God's people to listen to his prophets and repent. Their wickedness results in their ruin and exile to Babylon. In the second reading, Paul tells the Ephesians they are saved by grace through faith, which is a gift from God. In the Gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus that God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn it, but to save it.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we commit ourselves to continual conversion to Jesus, the light of the world, let us offer our petitions to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may Christ, the source of their wisdom, strengthen their hearts as they teach God's law in our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and local leaders, may God strengthen them in honor and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, the suffering, and those who live in the darkness of fear, may God bring them the light of his healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God help us live our faith more abundantly in order to bear good fruit for him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they experience the joy and light of heaven, with all those who have gone before us, 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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The following readings may be used on any Lenten day this week, especially in Years B and C when the Gospel of the Man Born Blind is not read on the Fourth Sunday of Lent: Mi 7:7-9/Jn 9:1-41 (243).

Monday, March 15, 2021
(Lec. 244)

MONDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

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

FOCUS: Life, renewal, and healing – these are the hallmarks of God’s new creation.

Today’s psalm contains the words, *his anger lasts but a moment; a lifetime, his good will*. This is our Lenten hope, the hope that we will each experience that divine good will, and with it will come healing and renewal for every human heart.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord speaks through Isaiah, saying he *will create new heavens and a new earth*, where weeping and crying will be no more. In the Gospel, Jesus heals the son of a royal official, after which the official *and his whole household came to believe*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we continue our Lenten journey, let us seek the Lord’s mercy by laying before him our needs and concerns.

- 1) For the Church, may her Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and sharing bring forth within her a harvest of grace and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in leadership positions in our country and throughout the world, may God encourage them in their decision-making and help them meet the needs of their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, may Christ the healer bring them relief and give them the strength they need to endure, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those preparing to be baptized this Easter, may the Holy Spirit continue to deepen their awareness of God’s loving and transforming presence in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in faith, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ’s glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, March 16, 2021
(Lec. 245)
1) Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12
2) John 5:1-16

TUESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: The waters of baptism refresh us and sustain our spiritual lives.

Today's readings, with their powerful symbols of water, remind us of the healing and strengthening power of baptism. At our baptism, we were cleansed and prepared for a life of discipleship. Let us offer support and prayers for those about to be baptized and welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Ezekiel tells of an angel showing him water flowing from all sides of the temple, and the great river that resulted from it. The angel told him that the water refreshes and gives life. In the Gospel, Jesus cures a man who had waited by the healing pool of Bethesda for years. Jesus is opposed by the religious leaders because he healed on the Sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us approach our merciful God with our prayers for our world.

- 1) For our Holy Father, may God continue to bless him with strength and courage for his worldwide shepherding of souls, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those responsible for public policy, may God guide them in enacting laws that uphold the eternal law of truth given in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from illness of any kind, may the healing and peace of Christ come upon them and give them strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For people in our faith community who are preparing to be cleansed in the waters of baptism at the Easter Vigil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon experience the joy of eternal life with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all compassion, we come to you with complete trust. Please hear our prayers, we ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, March 17, 2021
(Lec. 246)
1) Isaiah 49:8-15
2) John 5:17-30

WEDNESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Patrick,
Bishop)

FOCUS: God will never abandon his people.

God's love for us is greater than a mother's love for her child. How comforting to know that God will not forsake us – will never stop loving us. In spite of our sin, our Lord will reconcile us to himself as long as we repent and seek forgiveness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies the redemption of God's people, asserting that God's love for his people is greater than that of a mother for her child. In the Gospel, Jesus angers the people by referring to God as his Father. He tells them that he and the Father act in unity, and that he does nothing on his own but only *the will of the one who sent [him]*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We open our hearts to the Lord this day, bringing our needs before his loving mercy.

- 1) That the grace and love found in the sacraments of the Church may help all of us draw closer to the astounding mercy of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those who lead nations may be guided in all their duties by Christ, who glorified God in all things, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who feel weak mentally, physically, or spiritually may have the grace and consolation of the Lord and be strengthened by him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community of believers may be strengthened by the Spirit for a life of obedience and compassion, following Christ's example, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may know eternal rest in God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving Father, in your goodness hear and answer the prayers we bring before you this day. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, March 18, 2021
(Lec. 247)

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

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

FOCUS: Jesus came to reconcile us with God.

Humans can easily forget the works of God. We need healing from sin and can only get that healing from God. Christ gave us an amazing gift – himself – that opened up to us the inner life of the Holy Trinity. Jesus spoke with authority and did miraculous works to show us that he was united with the Father and that we could have faith in him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord tells Moses of his wrath for his people because they have created a *molten calf* for worship. He vows to destroy them, but Moses intercedes and God relents of his punishment. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the people that the Father has sent him. That they do not believe him means they also do not believe Moses, who wrote about him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us lift our hands and hearts to God as we bring our petitions to him.

- 1) For the Church during this Lenten season, may the Holy Spirit continue conforming our hearts to the life and love of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who shape public policy, may the Lord open their hearts to hear and respond in justice to the cries of those with no voice, especially the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the terminally ill, may the peace of Christ enfold them in their time of suffering and grant them a holy and happy death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all families, may God bless their sacred bonds and strengthen their love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the angels come to greet them and lead them to the heavenly Jerusalem, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you are all-powerful and all-loving. Look favorably upon our needs, we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021

(Lec. 543)

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

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

FOCUS: Joseph is a model of humble, obedient faith.

The humility and faith of Saint Joseph have much to teach us. Joseph may not have understood all that God was doing in and through him, but he simply and consistently did as the Lord commanded. As followers of Jesus, we are asked to do the will of God in faith – even if we don't understand where it will lead.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God promises to raise up an heir to David and to make his kingdom endure forever. In the second reading, Saint Paul explains that Abraham's righteousness came not through the law but through his faith. In the Gospel, an angel comes to Joseph in a dream and tells him to take Mary into his home.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For all priests, that conformed to the image of Christ, our eternal high priest, they may serve with courage and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all governmental leaders, may they be given wisdom to act with justice as they serve their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have been affected by the coronavirus, may God protect them from needless anxiety and bring them health in mind and body, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Lord help us to hear the invitation to follow him and give us the strength to do so, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may their faith be credited to them as righteousness so as to be welcomed into the Kingdom of their heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we bring you these prayers today, confident in your plans to bring good to us and our world. Hear and answer us, we ask through Jesus Christ your Son.

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Saturday, March 20, 2021
(Lec. 249)
1) Jeremiah 11:18-20
2) John 7:40-53

SATURDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: The word of God is rejected by those who do not listen and who fail to see.

God's word is spoken, through his prophets and his Son Jesus, to his people longing for redemption. Many fail to listen and see what God is doing for them. Rather than uniting around Jesus and the prophets, people are divided and plot against them. If we listen to God's word and see what it does, we would not reject it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, though Jeremiah's enemies are plotting against him, he entrusts the Lord with his cause. In the Gospel, the crowd discusses Jesus' identity as a prophet or the Christ. Heated debates cause division in the crowd and among authorities, because they believe that the Christ could not possibly come from Galilee.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Like Jeremiah, we entrust our cause to the Lord, confident that he hears our concerns.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may enkindle in the Church the fire of his love and the joy of his consolations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God's justice and mercy may set the standard for local and national authorities who enact and enforce laws, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That God may shield those unjustly condemned and not granted due process, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Christ may give each of us the curiosity of Nicodemus and reveal to us how he works in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may be brought by the Lord to their eternal home in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, Just Judge, searcher of our hearts and souls, grant us what we truly need, according to your divine wisdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021

(Lec. 35)

- 1) Jeremiah 31:31-34
- 2) Hebrews 5:7-9
- 3) John 12:20-33

**FIFTH SUNDAY
OF LENT**

FOCUS: We follow and serve with hearts remade in Christ.

To make us his people and show us his love, God established a covenant with us. Christ came to usher in a new covenant – one that would reconcile us to God and draw all people to himself. With hearts remade, we follow and serve him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord announces *a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah*. The Letter to the Hebrews speaks of Jesus as *the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells Andrew and Philip that the time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified, and that those who serve him must follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We offer our prayers to our God, who calls us to be his people.

- 1) That Christ may form his deacons, priests, and bishops ever more in his image and spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Lord may teach all nations and people – from the least to the greatest – to know his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those whose hearts are experiencing despair may be consoled by God's peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Holy Spirit may cleanse our hearts and give us steadfast spirits for the final weeks of our Lenten journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may soon experience eternal life in the glory of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of heaven and earth, in your loving kindness hear and answer our prayers. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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

Monday, March 22, 2021
(Lec. 251)

MONDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT

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

FOCUS: Justice and mercy are life-giving.

God hears the cries of the innocent Susanna and sends the prophet Daniel as an advocate to work for justice. Jesus also advocates for a woman facing a death sentence. Both women encounter mercy and hope through the presence of God. Is there someone in this Lenten season to whom we can offer the gift of hope?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, *a young boy named Daniel* comes to the aid of Susanna, a Jewish woman falsely accused of adultery by two Jewish elders. In his wisdom he proves Susanna's innocence. In the Gospel, a woman caught in adultery and about to be stoned to death is brought before Jesus. The religious leaders intend to test Jesus on the law, but he does not condemn her. He says that whomever among them is without sin may cast the first stone.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We turn now to the God of justice and mercy to offer our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God unite us in our witness to his mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For judges, attorneys, and all those who work in criminal justice, may God help them to act with both justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are estranged from loved ones, may God grant them the grace of forgiveness and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in our community who are preparing for baptism, may the Lord make their Lenten season one of joyful purification and enlightenment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may God soon welcome them into his Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we put these prayers before you and ask you to answer them according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, March 23, 2021
(Lec. 252)
1) Numbers 21:4-9
2) John 8:21-30

TUESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo,
Bishop)

FOCUS: Jesus has come to transform death into life by means of his cross.

The bronze serpent on the pole prefigures Christ on the cross. Just as the Israelites were saved from the serpents when they looked on the image of a serpent, when we look on Jesus' sacrificial death and believe in him, he has the power to save us from death.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Israelites are punished with venomous serpents for complaining against God, but when they repent, God heals them by means of a mounted bronze serpent. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the Pharisees that they will die in their sin, and declares that when the Son of Man is lifted up they will realize who he is.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that we belong to our all-loving Father, let us bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For all who serve in the Church, may the grace of God further strengthen them in their mission, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our leaders and all who hold power in this world, may God grant them the ability for just and prudent decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, injured, and dying, and for those who care for them, may Christ, the Divine Physician, bring healing and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord sow seeds that bear much fruit in building up the kingdom of God on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of all the faithful departed, may they be rewarded with eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, March 24, 2021

(Lec. 253)

1) Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95

2) John 8:31-42

WEDNESDAY OF

FIFTH WEEK

OF LENT

FOCUS: Jesus is the one who was sent from the Father to bring us true freedom.

Because they will not obey the king, the three men are cast into the fire. Their faith in God gives them courage. They are protected by the Lord so that Nebuchadnezzar will learn of God's power. Jesus calls us to be true to his Word so that we will come to know the freedom of God's children.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading today, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into a white-hot furnace for refusing to deny their faith. An angel delivers them from harm. In the Gospel, Jesus tells those who believe in him that he has come from the Father, and that if the Son frees them they will truly be free.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord who saves, let us offer our prayers of petition.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to uphold her in times of trial, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the Lord bless them with the gifts necessary to serve their people with justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened by illness or addiction, may God's promises and generous love be a comforting presence to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For we who are gathered here to worship, may the Lord give us the wisdom and faith to make our homes true domestic churches, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they soon find eternal peace and rest in God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, hear our prayers, for we bring them to you confident in your care for us, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, March 25, 2021

(Lec. 545)

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

**THE ANNUNCIATION
OF THE LORD
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: The will of the Lord is greater than anything we could imagine.

In the Gospel, Gabriel tells Mary that *nothing will be impossible for God*. Mary, in her purity, knows that to say “yes” to the will of God is to assent to something more true, good, and beautiful than what she believes to be possible. How does this compare with how we think of God’s will in our lives?

LLITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Ahaz receives the prophecy about the virgin birth of Emmanuel. The Letter to the Hebrews says that Christ came to do the will of God, and that *we have been consecrated through the offering of the Body of Jesus Christ once for all*. In the Gospel, the angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that she will conceive and bear a son, who *will be called holy, the Son of God*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Nothing is impossible for God, and we know he hears us when we call. We now bring our petitions to him.

- 1) For the pope and all bishops, may the Holy Spirit continue to outpour upon them the gift of a shepherding heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders, may God guide them in working diligently to promote the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all expectant mothers, may the Lord surround them with the support they need as they bring life into the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God strengthen our faith and help us to grow in understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in baptism with Christ, may the Lord welcome them into his eternal kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, thank you for receiving our prayers. Please answer them according to your holy will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, March 26, 2021

(Lec. 255)

1) Jeremiah 20:10-13

2) John 10:31-42

FRIDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Trust God, even in the face of hardship.

Do we truly trust in God to “have our backs”? Have we ever kept quiet when we should have spoken up, or did nothing when we had the opportunity to do something good because we were afraid of others’ reactions? Jeremiah discovered he had false friends and Jesus was nearly stoned for blasphemy, yet both trusted in the Father above all.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah speaks of the persecution he has faced, and of friends who are now enemies. He gives praise to God for rescuing him. In the Gospel, the people intend to stone Jesus for blasphemy, but he deflects their accusations and eludes their attempt to arrest him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With the same trust Jeremiah had in God’s providence, let us bring him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For all seminarians and prospective religious, may God bless their efforts of study and discernment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the Holy Spirit inspire them in the promotion of peace and the resolution of conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer hardship for the sake of the Kingdom, may the Holy Spirit grant them the grace of fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this community of worship preparing to receive the Easter sacraments, may the love of Christ embrace them ever more deeply during this time of preparation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may Christ welcome them to the wedding feast of the Lamb, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercy and love, we praise you along with your servant Jeremiah. We humbly ask you to hear the prayers and petitions we bring before you today, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, March 27, 2021
(Lec. 256)
1) Ezekiel 37:21-28
2) John 11:45-56

SATURDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: If we persevere in hope, God will reward us by welcoming us into his Kingdom.

Waiting on the promises of God is difficult, for his ways are not our ways. For those who persevere in hope, the generosity of God is abundant. That is on display in the fulfillment of the messianic kingdom prophesied by Ezekiel. All the nations have been gathered together under one prince, and under the sanctuary of God who will be among them forever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ezekiel proclaims the words of the Lord. God will restore Israel, unite the nation under one prince, and make an everlasting covenant with them. In the Gospel, the Jewish people are concerned that Jesus' activities will cause them trouble with the Romans. The Sanhedrin begins planning to kill Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers to the Father, who restores all things in Christ Jesus.

- 1) For the Church, may God continue to guide her in repentance and healing for the wrongs perpetrated by her members, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, that all may come to know the truth and beauty of God's promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those affected by war, may the mercy of God bring an end to the turmoil and institute a lasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God continue to nurture and sustain our faith each and every day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the sight of the Lord, may they rest eternally in his loving arms, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Praise to you, God and Father, for everything you have done for us. Hear our prayers and grant them according to your holy will, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

(Lec. 37)

Procession with the Palms:

- 1) Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16

(Lec. 38)

Mass Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 50:4-7
- 2) Philippians 2:6-11
- 3) Mark 14:1–15:47 or 15:1-39

**PALM SUNDAY
OF THE PASSION
OF THE LORD**

FOCUS: Do the choices we make reflect our own will or the will of God?

Estimates say that human beings make as many as 35,000 choices each day. Through his sin of pride, the first man, Adam, attempted equality with God. Through humility and docility, Jesus put aside pride and accepted death on a cross for the salvation of mankind. In each moment, we have a choice – will we follow the example of Adam or the example of Jesus?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah speaks of the well-trained tongue and open ears that God has given him, saying, *The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.* In the second reading, Saint Paul testifies to the selflessness and humility of Jesus in obediently accepting death on the cross. At Jesus' name *every knee should bend ... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.* The Gospel narrates Jesus' last hours, from his anointing with perfumed oil by a woman, through his last supper, betrayal, passion, death, and burial.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us come before our merciful God with humble hearts, and offer these petitions.

- 1) For Pope Francis and leaders of the Church, may the Lord bless their efforts to spread the Gospel to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawyers and judges, may God's just judgment inform them in seeking truth, justice, and dignified treatment for all who come before them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted, may the Lord bless them with strength and patience in bearing their crosses and hope in enduring their sufferings, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each one of us gathered here today, may God lead us in this season of Lent to repentance and conversion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they know eternal peace and joy in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we humbly ask you to hear the prayers we offer you this day, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, March 29, 2021
(Lec. 257)

MONDAY OF
HOLY WEEK

- 1) Isaiah 42:1-7
- 2) John 12:1-11

FOCUS: Christ is God's chosen servant, as prophesied by Isaiah, who comes to bring mercy to all.

Jesus' mercy extends to all. Often in our quickness to judge, we do not see our own shortcomings; our cynicism may blind us to the good in others, much like Judas who criticizes Mary in today's Gospel. Do we take time to examine our own hearts and our own intentions? Do we want what is best for others and best for ourselves?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah prophesies God's chosen servant, upon whom he has put his Spirit, and who will bring justice to the earth. In the Gospel, Jesus visits the home of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, and Mary anoints Jesus' feet with costly oil, drying them with her hair.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to be faithful stewards of God's gifts, let us offer our prayers to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may God's law guide them in serving in truth and with justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may the love of Christ empower them in providing for those most in need in their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and the suffering, may the comforting embrace of Jesus and the peace of his healing hand be upon them in their need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we be blessed with the grace we need to be faithful disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom by the communion of saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, March 30, 2021

(Lec. 258)

1) Isaiah 49:1-6

2) John 13:21-33, 36-38

TUESDAY OF

HOLY WEEK

FOCUS: Be a faithful light to the nations.

We live in a global, interconnected society, far removed from the ancient Middle East in population numbers and means of persuasion. One thing that remains the same, however, is that God's people are to be a *light to the nations*. This is both a prophecy and an instruction, neither of which come with a caveat or expiration date. We do not have to be perfect – Peter was not – but we do have to be faithful. Judas was not.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah prophesies of the servant of the Lord who will be made a light to the nations. In the Gospel, while Jesus is at supper with his disciples, he testifies that one of them will betray him, and foretells Peter's three-fold denial.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in our faithful God, we bring our prayers and needs before him today.

- 1) For all leaders in the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to inspire and empower them in their preaching of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our wounded world, may God heal us, reconcile our warring communities, and guide us to everlasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling with chronic pain and illness, may Jesus bless them with hopeful patience as they join their sufferings to his, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Lord develop within us hearts of love and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the eternal light of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of hope and promise, hear our prayers as we offer them to you today, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, March 31, 2021
(Lec. 259)

- 1) Isaiah 50:4-9a
- 2) Matthew 26:14-25

WEDNESDAY OF
HOLY WEEK

FOCUS: Jesus draws near to *speak to the weary a word that will rouse them*.

In these holiest of days, the Church tenderly and triumphantly reminds us that Jesus, the fulfillment of all of the promises of the great prophets, *speak[s] to the weary a word that will rouse them* and walks with us in our weariness now. Christ knows our burdens and feels our pain, and he is here by our side today.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah gives thanks for the abilities God has given him, and proclaims God as his help, and the one who upholds him. In the Gospel, Judas Iscariot betrays Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. As the meal with his disciples begins, Jesus identifies his betrayer.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in his never-ending love for us, we bring our needs and petitions to God.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit enliven us during this Holy Week, sanctifying us through our observance of these mysteries, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in positions of power and authority, may God grant them a disposition of generosity and selflessness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer, or have suffered, from violence, especially the survivors of abuse, may God's restorative presence bring them comfort, healing, and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here who struggle to forgive, may God's mercy permeate our hearts and help us heal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they rest forever in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, we humbly ask you to hear and answer the prayers we offer, through Christ our Lord.

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