



FREE DIGITAL
SAMPLE FOR

April 26–May 2,
2020



DAILY
UNIVERSAL
PRAYER
AND COMMENTARY





SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020

(Lec. 46)

- 1) Acts 2:14, 22-33
- 2) 1 Peter 1:17-21
- 3) Luke 24:13-35

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: Let us rejoice in the good news of salvation: Jesus is God's promise fulfilled.

The joy of the Easter season is still with us as we rejoice in the risen Christ. He is truly present to us in the celebration of the Mass. He is the promise fulfilled, and we are nourished with his Word, and his body and blood. Just like those on the road to Emmaus, we know him in the breaking of the bread.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter proclaims to the Jews and all in Jerusalem that Jesus, *commended to [them] by God*, was also killed by them. But that God raised him up. Peter writes that all have been ransomed by the *precious blood of Christ*. In the Gospel, two disciples traveled from Jerusalem to Emmaus, discussing all that had happened. Jesus joined them, but they did not recognize him until they sat for a meal and *he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With complete faith in God, we join together in the presence of the Father to offer these petitions.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may Jesus, our head, grant us reconciliation and unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For war-torn nations, may there be peace in every place experiencing violence and war, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those saddened by loss or discouragement, may the promises of the risen Lord lift them from their despair, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this community who struggle with their faith, may God's word open their hearts and nourish them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have died, may they rejoice in the presence of our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we ask that you hear our prayers. We offer them knowing that you will take care of all our needs. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



FREE DIGITAL WEEK OF *DAILY UNIVERSAL PRAYER* FROM FAITH CATHOLIC



Monday, April 27, 2020
(Lec. 273)

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

MONDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Eucharist feeds our soul and prepares us for eternal life.

Though Jesus fed the 5,000 with just five loaves of bread and two fish, he did not come to us to provide food for our bodies. He came to provide everlasting nourishment. His sacrifice of self, and his real presence in the sacrament, opens the doors to the Kingdom and gives us the help we need to stay on the right path toward it. In the Eucharist, we are transformed and prepared for eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Stephen, *filled with grace and power*, worked wonders and signs among the people and spoke to them with wisdom. In John's Gospel, the crowd searches for Jesus and finds him in Capernaum. Jesus tells them he knows they are looking for more signs, but that they should *not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life*. They should *believe in the one [God] sent*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Pope Francis, may God continue to give him the courage and strength necessary for effectively leading our Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may the promptings of the Holy Spirit guide them in working to protect the sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have fallen away from the Church, may they hear the Lord's call to return and partake once again of the bread of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who give of their time and talent in this faith community as lectors, music ministers, catechists, and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they enjoy eternal bliss in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of all goodness, we thank you for hearing our prayers and ask that you answer them according to your will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.



FREE DIGITAL WEEK OF *DAILY UNIVERSAL PRAYER* FROM FAITH CATHOLIC



Tuesday, April 28, 2020
(Lec. 274)

- 1) Acts 7:51–8:1a
- 2) John 6:30-35

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

FOCUS: The command to love does not come with exceptions.

Today's passages are about total love and commitment to God and his promises. Stephen never stops preaching the Gospel or living the command to love others. Even as he is being killed, he desires only the good for his murderers and prays for God's forgiveness of them. Jesus, as we know, gave his life for our sake, praying for his persecutors and those around him. The command to love, it seems, does not come with exceptions, but is a compass that points all to the truth found in Jesus and the commandments of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Stephen scolds his audience of scribes and elders, calling them *stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, [who] always oppose the Holy Spirit*. Yet as these people stone him to death, he prays to God, *Lord, do not hold this sin against them*. In the Gospel, the crowd asks for more signs and wonders, and references Moses and the manna in the desert. Jesus speaks of heavenly bread and proclaims, *I am the bread of life*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful that the Lord is gracious with his bounty, let us present our needs and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, as the Body of Christ in the world, may God bless her with purity and unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected leaders, may God grant them fortitude to rise above all that divides them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering religious or ethnic persecution, may God protect them from all harm and prejudice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our community who are awaiting baptism and full communion with the Church, may God give them strength to live out their baptismal promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find a place in heaven at the eternal banquet of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and merciful God, we offer these prayers, knowing in faith that you will answer them according to your will. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.



FREE DIGITAL WEEK OF *DAILY UNIVERSAL PRAYER*
FROM FAITH CATHOLIC



Wednesday, April 29, 2020
(Lec. 275)

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

WEDNESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER
(OBL MEM)

Saint Catherine of Siena,
Virgin and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: God uses us, his followers, to call others to himself.

God is always drawing us to himself. The Father sent Jesus who tells his disciples of his readiness to accept anybody who comes to him. But who can come to Jesus unless they know about him? We are helped by the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father and Son to remain with us, and to help and empower us in our lives of faith. We, in turn, can bring people to Jesus by being witnesses of his life, as Philip was.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The passage from Acts describes the zeal of the disciples, such as Philip, even during persecution. The people of Samaria *paid attention* to Philip's words, and there was *great joy* in that city. Jesus, in the Gospel, tells the crowds that he will accept anybody whom the Father sends him. He is the bread of life, *and everyone who sees [him] and believes in him may have eternal life*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that God the Father wills the best for all people, we come to him now with our needs and those of our neighbors.

- 1) For Catholic missionaries, may God give them strength and courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For judges and all who work in law enforcement, may God, the perfect judge, bless them with the gifts of wisdom, justice, and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who bear the burdens of loneliness, infirmity, poverty, or lack of basic necessities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the children in this community, may the Holy Spirit help them grow in grace and knowledge of God's saving power, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may Jesus accept them to himself and bring them everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of compassion, you will eternal life for all of your children here on earth. Listen to our prayers and grant what is best, through Jesus Christ our Lord.



**FREE DIGITAL WEEK OF *DAILY UNIVERSAL PRAYER*
FROM FAITH CATHOLIC**



Thursday, April 30, 2020
(Lec. 276)

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

**THURSDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER**
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Pius V,
Pope)

FOCUS: Jesus is the bread of life, nourishing us now and forever.

Jesus is the bread of life. He is all we need for the journey of life. Jesus nourishes us with God's love, and strengthens us for life's daily challenges. We can partake of this bread both physically, in the Eucharist, and spiritually, by living each day as Jesus taught.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Philip converts an Ethiopian official and then continues his work of spreading the Good News. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that no one comes to him unless the Father draws that person to him. He also identifies himself as the bread of life, come down from heaven. He says whoever eats this bread will live forever.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the generous and unconditional love of the Father, let us offer these petitions for ourselves and for the needs of the world.

- 1) For Church leaders, may God guide their efforts in sharing the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who hold positions of civic authority, may the Spirit of the Lord lead them in serving their people with charity, justice, and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle each day to feed themselves or their families, may God give them strength and lift them from their difficulties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God grant us the zeal and faith of Philip as we announce the Gospel of the Lord in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they see God in all his splendor in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we bring these petitions, knowing that your love surpasses our understanding. We ask that you hear and answer our prayers according to your will, through your Son, Jesus Christ.



**FREE DIGITAL WEEK OF *DAILY UNIVERSAL PRAYER*
FROM FAITH CATHOLIC**



Friday, May 1, 2020

(Lec. 277)

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

Or for Memorial (Lec. 559)

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

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

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

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

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

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



**FREE DIGITAL WEEK OF *DAILY UNIVERSAL PRAYER*
FROM FAITH CATHOLIC**



Saturday, May 2, 2020

(Lec. 278)

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

SATURDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER
(OBL MEM)

Saint Athanasius,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Belief in Jesus leads to new life.

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

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

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

