

# APRIL

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## YEAR A

### WEEKDAYS I

Saturday, April 1, 2023  
(Lec. 256)

- 1) Ezekiel 37:21-28
- 2) John 11:45-56

SATURDAY OF  
FIFTH WEEK  
OF LENT

FOCUS: The Lord will deliver his people.

Jesus, sent from the Father, seeks to restore and to gather. By revealing the love of God and by his sacrifice on the cross, Jesus claims every person for himself, inviting all people into God's family.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord makes clear his plan to shepherd the people. He will deliver them as they keep his laws and live peacefully on his land. In the Gospel, many come to believe in Jesus, while those in authority feel threatened by his popularity and develop a plan to kill him.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers with confidence that God will deliver us from all that is evil.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all clergy, may the Lord bless them and keep them close to his side as they shepherd his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public officials, may the Holy Spirit guide them in concern for the common good and inspire their service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from any burden, may Christ bring them relief and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of believers, may the Lord conform us ever more closely to his heart in all we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon see God face to face, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear the prayers of your children that we bring to you today, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023**

(Lec. 37)

Procession with the Palms:

1) Matthew 21:1-11

Mass Readings (Lec. 38)

1) Isaiah 50:4-7

2) Philippians 2:6-11

3) Matthew 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

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

FOCUS: Truly, Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

The congregation's last words in today's communal Gospel reading are those of the centurion: *Truly, this was the Son of God!* This is the central proclamation of our faith that we strive to profess more fully this Holy Week – that the one whom we follow is God's own Son, and God himself. May his name be praised forever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the introductory reading from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus enters Jerusalem. The prophet Isaiah speaks as the suffering servant who has trusted in the Lord while submitting to persecution. In the second reading, Paul speaks of Jesus' total self-gift and God's subsequent exaltation of Jesus. In the Gospel, we hear of Judas' betrayal, the Passover supper Jesus shared with his disciples and, finally, Jesus' death on the cross.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We call on the name of the Lord as we bring our petitions to him.

- 1) For the Church, may God increase her in number and holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may the Lord bring about his justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who do not yet know Christ's saving love, may they come to know the promise of the Lord's faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Spirit draw us closer in union with our Triune God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may the Lord soon welcome them into his eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear and answer our prayers according to your holy will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 3, 2023  
(Lec. 257)

MONDAY OF  
HOLY WEEK

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

FOCUS: As Holy Week begins, we are called to share in the Lord's passion and learn from his example of unconditional love.

Jesus lived his life on earth in service to God's people, culminating in the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life to redeem us. Jesus, the miracle worker, had power over life and death. He could have stopped the pain and suffering that was to come. Instead, he embraced his mission to open eternity for all of us. Our salvation is in his hands.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's reading from the Book of Isaiah gives voice to the servant of the Father who will bring justice to the world. In John's Gospel, Jesus spends time with the family of Lazarus, whom he has raised from the dead.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join our hearts and voices in presenting our petitions to the Father.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may the grace of God continue to strengthen and nourish her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in authority, may God give them strength in their efforts to uphold the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who seek forgiveness, may God's mercy work in and through them and bring peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the grace of the sacraments purify our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God welcome them into his eternal kingdom of love and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercy, we offer our prayers and ask that you look upon them with favor, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 4, 2023  
(Lec. 258)

TUESDAY OF  
HOLY WEEK

- 1) Isaiah 49:1-6
- 2) John 13:21-33, 36-38

FOCUS: Jesus offers his life for the salvation of all.

Although Jesus was *deeply troubled* at the Last Supper as he foretold Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial, he went on to willingly lay down his life for their salvation and for the salvation of all. Let us respond to God's unconditional love by working to spread that love to those around us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah prophesies one who will be more than a servant, who will be a light to the nations so that the salvation of God may reach to the ends of the earth. At the Last Supper with his disciples, Jesus foretells the betrayal of Judas and the denial of Peter.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs to God, trusting that he will hear and answer our prayers.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we be given God's spirit of joyous hope as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mysteries, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may God grant them wisdom in their governing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have suffered betrayal or abandonment by friends or family, may God restore peace to their hearts and bring about reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here, may Christ the suffering servant guide each one of us in being a light for others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in the loving arms of God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we thank you for your steadfast mercy and ask that you hear and respond to our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 5, 2023  
(Lec. 259)

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

WEDNESDAY OF  
HOLY WEEK

FOCUS: *Lord, in your great love, answer me.*

As Lent comes to a close and we prepare for the Triduum, let us remember that it is never too late to repent. The first reading reminds us that the Lord God knows our burdens and knows *how to speak to the weary*. Let us turn to him, acknowledge our sinfulness, and accept the grace he offers us to truly be his followers.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Isaiah, the prophet speaks of the abuse the suffering servant endures, then states his confidence in God's aid and vindication. In the Gospel, we hear of Judas' plot to betray Jesus. Judas denies his disloyalty when Jesus confronts him at the Passover meal with the Twelve.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's mercy, we bring him the prayers and petitions of this faith community.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord guide her in bringing the love of the paschal mystery to every soul on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political leaders, may the Lord inspire a spirit of resolute selflessness for their public service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are estranged from loved ones, may our merciful Father bring them peace and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our Elect, may Christ dispel any darkness that remains in their lives as they prepare for baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be crowned with the glory of everlasting life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you sent your Son for our salvation. Hear the prayers we bring to you today with trusting hearts, in his name.

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**Thursday, April 6, 2023**

(Lec. 39)

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

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

FOCUS: The world is saved by the blood of the Lamb of God.

We begin the Sacred Triduum where we enter into the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ with this commemoration of the Last Supper of the Lord. As the people of Israel were saved by the blood of the lambs in the time of Moses and Aaron, so is the world saved by the blood of the Lamb of God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The people of Israel were saved by God and delivered from the bondage of slavery in Egypt by the sacrificial blood of lambs. Paul writes that with the Eucharist, first offered at the Last Supper, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is made real and present. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that we are to be selfless in our response to his gift of pure love.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** United as the body of Christ, we turn to our Lord with prayers for the good of our assembly, the Church, and the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God increase within us our love for one another and help us grow closer to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the Holy Spirit open their eyes to the unique responsibilities they are entrusted with in serving others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For catechumens and candidates preparing to receive the Lord Jesus for the first time this Easter season, may Jesus increase their desire for him as their daily bread, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this Eucharistic assembly, may God's grace help us to keep the Eucharist at the center of our lives and prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may they soon be with Jesus in paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Heavenly Father, we entrust ourselves to you by living as faithful followers of your Son. We ask that you hear these prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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**Friday, April 7, 2023**

(Lec. 40)

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

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

FOCUS: In the suffering and death of Jesus, God shows the depth of his love for all humanity.

Jesus Christ gave his life as an offering for sin. He surrendered to death so that we might have life and forgiveness of our sins. While we wait at the cross on this solemn and mournful day, we also know that the cross will give way to the empty tomb and the promise of new life in the risen Lord.

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah foretells how the Messiah will suffer and give his life as a ransom for humanity; he will die so that others might live. The writer of Hebrews explains how Jesus is the great high priest who has become the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. The Gospel from John tells the story of Jesus' passion.

#### THE SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS

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Saturday, April 8, 2023

(Lec. 41)

**HOLY SATURDAY  
EASTER VIGIL**

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

### **New Testament Readings**

- 8) Romans 6:3-11
- 9) Matthew 28:1-10

FOCUS: *He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee.*

Following Jesus is demanding. We may be afraid that his call is too challenging for us. But just as the women encountered the risen Christ in the Gospel, he comes to us today. He meets us where we are, just how we are, and says, *Do not be afraid.*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Genesis and Exodus, God creates everything that is, making man and woman in his likeness; he makes a promise to Abraham and his descendants; and frees the Israelites from slavery. The prophets speak of God's love and relationship to his people, his invitation to turn to him in all things, and his promise of salvation. Scriptures recall our salvation history. Saint Paul writes that we were baptized into Christ's death so as to enjoy the newness of life. In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb and an angel of the Lord descended from heaven. The angel said that Jesus *has been raised [from the dead] just as he said.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord delights to provide for his people. Trusting in his goodness, let us offer our prayers this night.

- 1) For the Church, may God's great love draw many souls to his Son, Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in authority, may God move their hearts to serve in humility, always protecting the innocent and the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people suffering from chronic illness, may God bring them hope amid their suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, as we celebrate Christ's resurrection, may he lead us to new life as disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in faith, may Christ welcome them with joy into his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, all power in heaven and on earth is yours. Please hear and answer our prayers in your wisdom, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023**

(Lec. 42)

- 1) Acts 10:34a, 37-43
- 2) Colossians 3:1-4 or  
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
- 3) John 20:1-9 or  
Matthew 28:1-10 (Lec. 41)

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

FOCUS: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

Today's readings describe the effects of Jesus' resurrection on those who walked with him, and also what the resurrection has accomplished for us. In Acts, Peter testifies that belief in the risen Lord leads to the forgiveness of sins. Saint Paul tells the Colossians that our death and life in Jesus will result in our glorification. Everything that Jesus did, he did for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter summarizes the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and his commissioning of the Apostles. The second reading urges the Colossians to concentrate on heavenly – not earthly – things. In the Gospel reading, the women find the empty tomb and tell the disciples. Peter and the beloved disciple run to the tomb and find the burial cloths.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As heirs of salvation, we have confidence to approach God with the needs of our world.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may continue to guide the Church as she proclaims the resurrection of Jesus to all the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That national and international leaders may be empowered by the Holy Spirit in serving their people as Christ came to serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the Resurrection may provide hope to all who mourn the death of loved ones, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That God's love may shine through the words and actions of all in this faith community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the souls of the faithful departed, having died with Christ, may soon find peace and rest in his loving care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Monday, April 10, 2023

(Lec. 261)

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

MONDAY  
WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus has truly risen, in him is our hope.

Matthew's Gospel offers a glimpse of early "resurrection-deniers." This reminds us that for as long as there have been Christians, there have been people trying to deny the reality of Jesus' resurrection. That the chief priests were so threatened that Jesus' body was gone shows the power of fear over the peace of faith. Jesus has truly risen, in him is our hope.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter proclaims the essential truth of the Gospel: God sent Jesus and he was crucified, died, and was buried. He rose from the dead and is glorified in heaven. In the Gospel, the resurrected Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene and *the other Mary*. The chief priests concoct a lie – that Jesus' body has been stolen – for the tomb's guards to spread.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in our loving God, we now bring him our prayers.

- 1) For all who entered the Church at Easter, may the Holy Spirit fill them with grace and strengthen their commitment to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who hold elected office, may the wisdom of God guide their decisions for the good of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who face the daily hardship of searching for food or shelter, may God grant them strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the joy of the resurrected Jesus fill our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they know the eternal joy of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of love and mercy, we praise you for your goodness. Kindly look with favor upon the petitions of your family, which we pray in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Tuesday, April 11, 2023  
(Lec. 262)  
1) Acts 2:36-41  
2) John 20:11-18

TUESDAY  
WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *I have seen the Lord.*

Jesus meets us in the Mass. Patiently, Jesus calls us by name, just as he called Mary Magdalene. In the same way that Mary eventually turns and recognizes her Lord, may we, too, turn and recognize Christ as he calls us by name.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter proclaims Christ crucified and the people are *cut to the heart*, asking what to do. Peter calls them to repent and be baptized. In the Gospel, the risen Christ appears to Mary Magdalene outside the tomb.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Aware of God's quiet presence at work in our lives, we place our needs before him.

- 1) For all clergy and leaders in the Church, may they be filled with every grace and virtue as they proclaim the risen Christ each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God empower them as they work to defend the dignity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who mourn, may they be strengthened by Christ's love and filled with his hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the Holy Spirit increase in us a spirit of conversion and openness to his work in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rejoice in the presence of the risen Lord in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of power and love, you call us by name. Hear our prayers this day and answer them, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 12, 2023  
(Lec. 263)  
1) Acts 3:1-10  
2) Luke 24:13-35

WEDNESDAY  
WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The risen Lord is forever present and active.

Our Easter celebrations remind us to trust God with our greatest needs. From the day of his resurrection, Jesus has made his presence available to us in his word and the Eucharist. The risen Lord has the power to transform our lives, especially through the sacraments passed down from the Apostles to the bishops until the present day.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Outside the temple, Peter heals a man crippled from birth. The man enters the temple, walking and jumping and praising God, and all who see him are amazed. On the day of his resurrection, Jesus walks with two disciples on the road to Emmaus. After explaining the Scriptures about himself, he is revealed to them in the breaking of bread.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's providence, we place our needs before the Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Lord fill us with Easter joy and strengthen us in our witness to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political leaders, may the Spirit grant them the vision and courage they need to embrace sound and moral principles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from limited mobility or chronic pain, may the risen Christ comfort and heal them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the graces received in our participation in the Eucharist unite us more closely to Christ and to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they share in the joy of salvation with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you raised your Son from the dead so that we might have new life with you. Hear and answer our prayers, we pray, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, April 13, 2023  
(Lec. 264)  
1) Acts 3:11-26  
2) Luke 24:35-48

THURSDAY  
WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: We are witnesses, seeing and testifying to the miraculous presence of Christ in the world.

Jesus charged his disciples with being *witnesses* of miraculous things, most notably of his resurrected body in today's Gospel. To be a witness means not only that we see something special, but also that we go forth to *testify* to it, as Peter did in the first reading.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading recounts Peter's speech to a crowd following the healing of a crippled beggar. Peter proclaims Jesus as the fulfillment of messianic prophecy. In the Gospel, Jesus returns to his disciples in true flesh and blood, hungry for food and eager to teach.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that his words lead to eternal life, we turn to our Father in prayer.

- 1) For the Church, may God continue to help us grow in holiness as we nurture a culture of healing and life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may the peace of Jesus heal our brokenness and restore justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are ill and struggling with their pain, may God's grace bring them comfort and relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may we grow in faith, hope, and love, transformed by grace to a life of Gospel fidelity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they enjoy eternal life in heaven and behold the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord of hosts, hear these prayers we offer today, and graciously answer them according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, April 14, 2023  
(Lec. 265)  
1) Acts 4:1-12  
2) John 21:1-14

FRIDAY  
WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Lord wants to be part of our daily lives.

It is easy to get wrapped up in our daily work and responsibilities, and to feel we are alone in carrying these burdens. Today's Gospel reminds us that the Lord wants to be part of our daily lives, including our daily work. He wants to spend time with us, nourish us, and give us rest. Let us say yes to his offer.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear how Peter and John are arrested and questioned after healing a crippled man and proclaiming the resurrection in the name of Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus reveals himself to the disciples a third time after his resurrection when, after a night spent fishing in vain, they catch an abundant number of fish after following Jesus' instructions.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord's love and care, let us bring before him our prayers for the Church, for the world, and for ourselves.

- 1) For our Holy Father, may the Holy Spirit continue to uphold him in strength and joy as he proclaims the Good News of the Resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace, may the Lord bring reconciliation and healing to all families, communities, and nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel lonely or isolated, may Christ comfort them with his loving presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the grace of the sacraments strengthen and transform us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in peace in the fullness of God's grace and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST Merciful God, hear these prayers we have offered in faith and answer them in accordance with your holy will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, April 15, 2023  
(Lec. 266)

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

SATURDAY  
WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel.*

As we near the end of the Octave of Easter, our readings shed light on our commission. Jesus' final words to the Eleven can be seen at work in the powerful witness of Peter and John in Acts. As we look to their example, let us consider how we can be more effective in proclaiming the Gospel.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Acts, leaders attempt to quiet Peter and John, urging them to stop speaking in Jesus' name. Peter and John respond that it is impossible for them to stop their mission. In the Gospel, Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene and two of the Apostles. Both Mary and the Apostles went and told the other disciples, who did not believe them. Jesus rebukes the Eleven for their unbelief.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Longing for peace in our hearts and in our world, let us bring our prayers before God.

- 1) For the Church and her universal mission to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world, may God bestow boldness and zeal to this holy work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold leadership positions in our community, may God give them an attentive ear to respond to the needs of those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer with grief, may the Holy Spirit grant them consolation even as they mourn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community and our call to missionary discipleship, may God shine new light on this path for us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may all who have died in the light of faith be granted a place at the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, through your Son you showed us the way to you. Listen to our needs this day, and answer them according to our need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023**

(Lec. 43)

- 1) Acts 2:42-47
- 2) 1 Peter 1:3-9
- 3) John 20:19-31

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

FOCUS: The Lord invites us to touch his wounds and encounter the font of all mercy.

Jesus gives Thomas a great gift when he invites Thomas to touch his wounds. In his wounds, Christ displays his response of mercy to our sinfulness. When we doubt, we can ask the Lord for the grace to touch his wounds through prayer and to receive his mercy for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Acts, we hear a description of the early Church as a community of deep faith, shared possessions, and continual growth. Saint Peter speaks of the power of faith that endures through adversity. In the Gospel, Jesus reveals himself twice to his disciples. Thomas would not believe without seeing Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Lord grant them fortitude in the mission entrusted to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit inspire courage in acting on behalf of the most vulnerable, especially the elderly and the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with faith, may God reveal himself to them and bring upon them his faithful presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, may they be confident in our love, support, and prayers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon find peace and joy in God's loving presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Monday, April 17, 2023  
(Lec. 267)  
1) Acts 4:23-31  
2) John 3:1-8

MONDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: In baptism, the action of the Holy Spirit unites the baptized to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Through baptism, we are united with Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' time, people such as the pharisee Nicodemus had difficulty grasping that. But Nicodemus inquired of Jesus what that meant – and Jesus answered, *unless one is born of water and Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Acts of the Apostles, the early disciples call out for the Lord to grant them the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel from John, Jesus instructs the pharisee Nicodemus on the need to be born again, of water and the Spirit.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us lift our hearts and minds to God as we present our petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God enable us to manifest his kingdom by our actions and our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Holy Spirit empower them in governing with prudence, justice, and fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are overwhelmed by sin or suffering, may the Lord pour his grace upon them and bring them healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all within this community of faith, may the Holy Spirit help us to bear good fruit in all we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they find comfort in the loving arms of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of glory, we place these prayers in your hands, trusting that you will grant us what we most need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 18, 2023  
(Lec. 268)  
1) Acts 4:32-37  
2) John 3:7b-15

TUESDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *With great power the Apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.*

Jesus' followers are those who are born from above, through the waters of baptism and through the Holy Spirit. They believe in the Word who was sent down from heaven. That belief offers eternal life. In thanksgiving, Jesus' followers give witness to his resurrection and look after the needy among them.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles relates the sense of community among the early believers, who shared everything in common. The Apostles shared the Good News of Jesus' life and resurrection. In the Gospel, Jesus lauds those who are born of the Spirit – those who will understand the heavenly things to which he testifies.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord calls us to imitate his love and holiness. With trust in God's goodness, let us offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may the Holy Spirit magnify the power of God in them as they testify to the resurrection of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may the Lord have mercy on the suffering and trials of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering from physical or spiritual pain, may the healing power of Christ bring them relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this worship community, may we grow in compassion and love through the grace of the Holy Spirit and the example of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be brought into the light of the risen Lord in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special intention/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, hear the prayers of your Church gathered here in faith and hope, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 19, 2023  
(Lec. 269)  
1) Acts 5:17-26  
2) John 3:16-21

WEDNESDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Eucharist pierces the darkness with the love of Jesus.

Jesus brings great light into the world through his love. The Apostles recognized this great light and were steadfast in *teaching the people*. Through Jesus' great love, we go forth proclaiming his resurrection and the power of the Holy Spirit. The Eucharist pierces the darkness with the love of Jesus.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the bars of prison cannot contain the power of the Holy Spirit, for the Apostles who were put in jail were *in the temple area and [were] teaching the people*. In the Gospel, we know Jesus in the Eucharist today is *the light [that] came into the world*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that our Lord hears our prayers and petitions, we come to him now with open hearts, asking for his mercy.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all bishops, may the Holy Spirit be their strength as they shepherd the faithful closer to his heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and local leaders, may the Lord be their guide in their efforts to promote the sanctity of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are experiencing grief or loss, may the consolation of the Holy Spirit be upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us gathered here, may the grace of the Easter season help us faithfully live out our baptismal mission of being priest, prophet, and king, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, especially those who have died alone or have no one else to pray for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and ever-living God, hear our prayers and fulfill them according to your most holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, April 20, 2023  
(Lec. 270)  
1) Acts 5:27-33  
2) John 3:31-36

THURSDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *The one who comes from heaven is above all.*

Today we see that the high priest and his companions, who are of the earth, cannot bring themselves to utter the name of Jesus, referring instead to *that name* and *this man*. But the Apostles extol Jesus as the one from above, the *leader and savior* of Israel, exalted at the right hand of God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from Acts recounts the questioning of the Apostles by the Sanhedrin. The Apostles defiantly bear witness to Jesus as the risen Savior. The Gospel contrasts earthly and heavenly people. The Son of God, having received all things from the Father, testifies to what he has seen and heard.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our petitions to our generous God, who does not ration the gift of the Spirit.

- 1) That the Church may be emboldened by God in spreading her message of salvation to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That Jesus, who has authority over all things, may guide those in earthly authority to follow his example, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those suffering from mental illness may receive the support and care they need in order to share their gifts and talents with the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Holy Spirit may inspire all the members of our faith community in testifying boldly to the name of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enter the heavenly Jerusalem, joining the angels and saints in giving glory to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God and Father, hear and grant our prayers, which we make in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Friday, April 21, 2023  
(Lec. 271)  
1) Acts 5:34-42  
2) John 6:1-15

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

FOCUS: Christ exceeds our hopes and expectations.

The crowd that follows Jesus does so from a limited perspective of who he is. Even Jesus' disciples do not seem to expect much from him. Yet Christ responds to our needs, both physical and spiritual, in a way that goes beyond what we know or expect.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, urges caution in the Sanhedrin's response to the Apostles. In the Gospel, Jesus gives thanks for five barley loaves and two fish. After distributing them, the disciples collect 12 baskets left over.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers to our loving God, who provides what we need and multiplies our blessings.

- 1) For ordained and lay leaders in the Church, may God direct them in humble service to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and state representatives, may God's wisdom guide their decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of war, may God move leaders to find peaceful solutions to conflict and to stop unjust aggression, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in this faith community who suffer from addiction, depression, or alienation, may God hold them close and help us respond to their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all 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: Merciful Father, we entrust our prayers to you in the holy name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, April 22, 2023  
(Lec. 272)

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

SATURDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: God always provides for us.

Today we see how, in the early Church, God's wisdom and creativity provided a new layer of leadership and ministry in response to conflict and need. Like the disciples in the boat who felt a moment of insecurity, may we, in times of distress, be comforted by the Lord's wondrous presence.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Acts, there is a dispute between the Greek and Hebrew Christians over the care of widows. As a result, the Apostles appoint seven men to assist. In the Gospel, Jesus joins the disciples by walking on the sea. They are alarmed, but Jesus identifies himself and tells them not to fear.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hearts open to the Lord's blessings, let us bring the needs and longings of our community to God.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit direct them in teaching God's law to the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, may God's holy presence allay fear and inspire cooperation and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who endure chronic pain, may the Lord pour his grace upon them and bring them relief and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the newly baptized, may our risen Lord continue to inspire them in the ways of holiness and discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they be welcomed into heaven to rest in God's eternal bliss, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, all things are possible with you. Please hear and answer our prayers, we ask, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023**

(Lec. 46)

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

**THIRD SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: Salvation through Christ broken and shared was always God's plan.

God sent his only Son, who would save our souls not through silver or gold but by his own precious blood. The disciples did not always understand this, as much as Jesus had proclaimed it. The risen Christ broke bread and shared it with them, and they began to truly see and comprehend.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter teaches that David foresaw Jesus' resurrection. In the second reading, Peter teaches that we are redeemed by Christ's blood, and that Christ was known *before the foundation of the world*. In the Gospel, Luke shares the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus who learn from the risen Christ the meaning of his death and resurrection.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us lift our hearts before our risen Lord and share with him our prayers.

- 1) That the Church may continue to be the standard bearer for love and compassion for all people in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all leaders of state may be guided by the Almighty in the just use of power, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who suffer or grieve may find meaning through God's mercy and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all received into the Church this Easter may continue to be led by the Lord on the path of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died in Christ may rejoice forever with him in his glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, we trust in your love and seek your strength in all we do. We bring these prayers before you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 24, 2023  
(Lec. 273)  
1) Acts 6:8-15  
2) John 6:22-29

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

FOCUS: Work for the food that brings eternal life.

The crowd got into boats searching for Jesus. They put effort into finding him because he fed them with bread. We work many hours to put bread on the table and pay the bills. But do we put effort into God's works, such as building up his kingdom on earth and receiving his precious body and blood?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Acts of the Apostles, Stephen works wonders and argues from a place of wisdom. Those who could not win the debate brought him before the Sanhedrin and called false witnesses. In John's Gospel, the crowds who had been fed by Jesus search for him the next day. Jesus admonishes them to work for food that endures for eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Gathered as a family united in faith and baptism, let us with confidence bring our needs and prayers before our loving God and Father.

- 1) For bishops, priests, and deacons, may God continue to increase their faith and lead them in fruitful ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public officials, may God move their hearts and lead them in serving with humility and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who hunger, may God fulfill their needs with nutrition for their bodies and spiritual food that leads to salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may Christ be our guide in witnessing to his saving power with grace and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in Christ, may he grant them eternal life and rich fellowship with the saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Father, in your mercy, please hear and answer our prayers this day according to your will. We ask through Jesus Christ, your Son.

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Tuesday, April 25, 2023  
(Lec. 555)

- 1) 1 Peter 5:5b-14
- 2) Mark 16:15-20

**SAINT MARK,  
EVANGELIST  
- FEAST**

FOCUS: God, in his power, will protect us.

Today's Gospel focuses on the call we have all received as baptized disciples of Christ. Our gift of faith is meant to be shared with all of those we meet. The task can seem daunting, but our readings assure us that God is with us in all of his infinite power.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter advises the community that God, in his power, will protect them *because he cares for [them]*. In the Gospel from Mark, Jesus gives the great commission: *Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's presence in our lives, let us bring our needs before him.

- 1) For the Church and her mission to reach every creature on earth, may God bless and sanctify her efforts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold leadership positions, may God inspire them in always using their influence for the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For parents striving to form their children in faith, may the Holy Spirit fill them with wisdom and fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly on our journey of missionary discipleship, may God's providential love for us encourage and sustain us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God welcome them into his heavenly kingdom this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, you sent your Son to teach us the way to you. Hear our prayers this day, and answer them according to our need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 26, 2023  
(Lec. 275)  
1) Acts 8:1b-8  
2) John 6:35-40

WEDNESDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus, the bread of life, is full of love for each of us.

Jesus tells us that he will not reject anyone who comes to him. No doubt of ours is too deep; no sin is too grave to cut us off from the love of Christ. For God's love depends not on us, but simply on the one who *is love*. Come, Jesus says, and receive the *bread of life*, love itself.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, the early Church faces persecution at the hands of Saul and others. Nevertheless, men and women continue to share the Good News that Jesus is the Messiah. In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims himself to be the *bread of life*, eager to satisfy our hunger and satiate our thirst.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Filled with joy this Easter season, we bring our petitions before the Lord.

- 1) For the Church and her ministers throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit embolden their faithful witness to the resurrected Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our nation and all who serve in government positions, may the Lord promote peace and unity in their hearts and daily work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are hungry in body, mind, or spirit, may Jesus, the bread of life, fill them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God inspire us in withstanding any trials we face as we share our faith with love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they come to share in the baptismal promise of new life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, hear the needs we have brought before you this day, we ask through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, April 27, 2023  
(Lec. 276)  
1) Acts 8:26-40  
2) John 6:44-51

THURSDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: In the Eucharist, the Lord gives us his own body, blood, soul, and divinity.

The eunuch was searching for knowledge and understanding. The Lord, through Philip, gave him this and more: He was given a new life as he came to know Jesus and was brought into the body of Christ through baptism. The Lord gives those who come to the Eucharistic table even more – his own body, nourishment for eternal life. Let us give thanks to the Lord for such a gift.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear how the angel of the Lord led Philip to where he encountered an Ethiopian eunuch. Philip explained the Scriptures to the eunuch and then baptized him. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that he was sent by the Father and that his flesh is the bread that gives eternal life.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the Lord's love and mercy, let us bring before him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the pope, bishops, and priests, may the Holy Spirit deepen their knowledge, understanding, and love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who wish to know the Lord, may God lead them to where they will hear his sacred word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those with terminal illness, may the Lord strengthen them and reassure them of his love and promise of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of our worship community, may the grace of the Eucharist help us to share the fruits of this gift with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us in faith, may the Lord bless them with the reward of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we give you thanks for hearing us and ask that you answer these petitions in accordance with your will, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, April 28, 2023  
(Lec. 277)  
1) Acts 9:1-20  
2) John 6:52-59

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

FOCUS: We must take Jesus at his word regarding the Eucharist.

*The Jews quarreled among themselves*, the Gospel tells us. If Jesus thought they were misunderstanding him, he would have certainly explained himself. Instead, he doubles down: His flesh is food; his blood is true drink. Those who eat and drink Christ's body and blood have eternal life through him. He leaves no room for other interpretations.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saul's encounter with the risen Lord converts him to believe in Jesus. He goes to Damascus and a disciple named Ananias cures his blindness, as the Lord instructed him. After being healed, Saul is baptized and immediately begins proclaiming Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus preaches firmly the reality of the Eucharist: One must eat his flesh and drink his blood for eternal life.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the generous love of our Father, we come before his throne with our needs.

- 1) That the Lord may enkindle in our hearts a greater devotion to Jesus in the holy Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may be moved by the Holy Spirit to act with mercy and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who suffer from food insecurity may be blessed by God with the resources they need to be nourished and attain stability, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the assembly gathered here may be fortified and strengthened by the Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may soon be welcomed into eternal life in heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we praise you for your endless generosity. Please hear the prayers we bring before you today, which we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus the Lord.

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Saturday, April 29, 2023  
(Lec. 278)

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

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

FOCUS: Faith in Jesus as the Son of God gives us the strength we need when his words are hard to live out.

Following Jesus is seldom easy, and many times the Gospel challenges us in ways we might think are impossible to live out. In times like those, we can follow Peter's example by putting all of our trust in Jesus rather than in our strength or understanding. We can simply let Jesus work in us and through us as we struggle with the demands of the Gospel.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Acts, Peter works through the power of Jesus to heal a paralyzed man and to bring a beloved disciple, Tabitha, back to life. In the Gospel, after other disciples leave Jesus because of his teaching on the Eucharist, Peter holds fast to his faith in Jesus.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's unending love for us, we bring before him our needs.

- 1) For the Holy Father, may the Lord bless him in his ministry of shepherding the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected leaders at all levels, may God grant them wisdom in performing service for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who lack adequate employment or education, may the Lord look graciously upon their every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may God grant that we always walk in fear of the Lord and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the Lord greet them with mercy and compassion as they enter his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of compassion, look upon the prayers we offer you and answer them in your love and mercy. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023**

(Lec. 49)

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: The sheep follow Christ because they recognize his voice.

Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, is calling us today. He is present, leading us. Christ does not speak only in miraculous visions or through powerful movements of the heart. God speaks through Scripture and through his disciples. Just as Christ sent Peter to preach, he sends his faithful out to call his sheep today.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter proclaims Christ crucified and the people are *cut to the heart*, asking what to do. Peter calls them to repent and be baptized, and *about three thousand persons were added that day*. In the second reading, Peter writes of the suffering Christ endured that *we might live for righteousness*. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that he is the shepherd and the gate who protects and guides his sheep.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs before the Lord with confidence and love.

- 1) For all clergy, may God's Holy Spirit fill them as they shepherd God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and civic leaders, may the Lord give them strength and prudential judgment in protecting all life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle to hear God's voice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here, may God strengthen us to follow him in all we do and say, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away, may they rest in the peace of the Good Shepherd, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear these prayers we offer today and answer them according to your divine will. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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