

# APRIL

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**YEAR B  
WEEKDAYS II**

Monday, April 1, 2024  
(Lec. 261)

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

MONDAY  
WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Rejoice and proclaim the Good News of salvation.

God has chosen us to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus. Our message of Good News brings hope to all who would listen. Thankful for the many good things he has done, let us offer praise to God, who offers new life and mercy. Alleluia!

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Upon receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Peter, accompanied by the Apostles, proclaims that God has raised Jesus. This is in accord with the words of David, a prophet of God who foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of Christ. In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary behold the risen Jesus, who tells them not to fear, and to send his Apostles to Galilee where they will see him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: To the God who calls us out of our fears, we now bring our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to bless and sustain all who live her holy mission, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the people of the world, may the Good News of Jesus Christ guide all nations and people to peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are struggling with addiction, may the healing presence of Jesus transform their lives for the better, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may the blessings of this Easter season fill us with joy in the Lord who calls us to be his chosen people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away, may the Lord grant them eternal life and may perpetual light shine upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Look, O God, with favor upon the prayers that your people have brought before you. Through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 2, 2024  
(Lec. 262)

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

TUESDAY  
WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus has conquered everything – even death.

The risen Lord asks Mary, *Whom are you looking for?* This same question is asked of us, for the human heart is made for God and can only be fulfilled in seeking and finding him. We are meant for God; he has promised us everlasting life through his Son, Jesus Christ, who conquered death and forgives our sins.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter testifies that Jesus was the Christ, and tells the people they are to repent, be baptized, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Three thousand people were baptized. In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene weeps and grieves outside the tomb of Jesus. Two angels appear, and then Jesus appears and asks her why she is weeping, and for whom she is looking. Mary does not recognize Jesus until he says her name, but then Mary goes to the disciples and reports that she has seen the Lord.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our hearts and our petitions to the Lord, trusting that in his time and according to his will he answers every prayer.

- 1) For the Church as she continues to proclaim the risen Christ in word and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may the Gospel be their guide as they govern their people and communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may Jesus, the Suffering Servant, bring them peace and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord make this time of joy in the Resurrection one of growth in holy virtue, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon experience the fullness of God's mercy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, in your great kindness please hear and answer the intentions we have brought before you today, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 3, 2024  
(Lec. 263)

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

WEDNESDAY  
WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name.*

In today's Scriptures, Jesus and his power are revealed in acts of wonder. In the first reading this occurs in a miraculous healing; in the Gospel it is when Jesus breaks the bread at table. In both instances, the response is to go and share the Good News of what has been seen and heard. Let us go and do the same after encountering Jesus in the Eucharist.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter and John encounter a man at the gate of the temple, unable to walk and begging for alms. Peter heals him in the name of Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus comes alongside two disciples walking to Emmaus. They invite Jesus in to share a meal, and there they recognize him when he breaks the bread.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In confidence and faith, let us lift up our needs to the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, may God grant her wisdom and fortitude in helping all people come to know Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God grant them the courage to work tirelessly to defend the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering in any way, may God make his abiding presence known to them as they endure their trials, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may God help us turn our prayers here into action in our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, please look with kindness upon the prayers we offer, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, April 4, 2024  
(Lec. 264)

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

THURSDAY  
WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: God has raised Christ from the dead and opened for all the promise of the Resurrection.

As both mystery and promise, the resurrection of Christ stands at the very heart of our Christian faith. We believe that in the risen Christ we have the answer to our greatest fear and the source of our greatest hope – that one day we shall be found worthy to enter into eternal life with him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

After curing a crippled man, Peter and John re-enter the temple and Peter addresses the people, proclaiming salvation through Jesus. The Gospel recalls a post- resurrection appearance by Jesus to his disciples. Having appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and opened their hearts by word and action, Jesus does the same for the others.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs and petitions to our merciful Father.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide her in faithfully and courageously proclaiming the truth of Christ's resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the whole world, may the Lord open hearts and minds to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick or near death, may the promise of the Resurrection offer them strength and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God help us turn away from the temptation of sin and choose obedience to his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they come to share in the fullness of eternal life in the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, hear our prayers and answer them in your loving kindness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, April 5, 2024  
(Lec. 265)

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

FRIDAY  
WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus is always with us.

Sometimes we need a friend to tell us, *It is the Lord*. Even when we know Jesus and have a deep relationship with him, the daily grind and mundane aspects of daily living can blur our vision to his presence. When things are going well and also when they are not going so well, Jesus is waiting for us, giving us direction, sustaining us with what we need.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter is questioned by the Sanhedrin. He preaches salvation and declares Jesus the stone they rejected which has become the cornerstone. In the Gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias where they are fishing. Jesus directs them to put their net on the right side, resulting in a huge catch of fish.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in our God of mercy, let us offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For bishops, priests, and deacons, may our risen Savior fill them with zeal as they preach the Gospel of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God enlighten their minds and give them courage to follow him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the newly baptized and all entering the Church, may the Holy Spirit guide their path and draw them into fullness of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Holy Spirit fill us with the joy of Christ's resurrection and make us faithful witnesses of his truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in Christ, may he welcome them to his heavenly kingdom to rejoice with him forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, please hear and answer our prayers this day in your wisdom, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, April 6, 2024  
(Lec. 266)

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

SATURDAY  
WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Persevere in prayer and trust in the Lord.

There are obstacles in life that are seemingly unbearable. It's not unusual to sometimes wonder where God is in our life. But doubts need not rule. The Apostles doubted the first reports of Jesus' resurrection, but came to believe. Perseverance in prayer helps us regain and maintain our foothold of faith when our steps are precarious, and gives us the courage to trust in the One who died for our sins.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter and John are called before the Jewish leaders, elders, and scribes to answer for stirring up the Jews through a miracle they performed in the name of Jesus. In the Gospel, although the risen Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene and then to two disciples along the road, the Apostles did not believe them.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As Jesus invites us to follow him, we turn our hearts and minds to the Father and present our petitions before him.

- 1) For the pope, bishops, and all clergy, may the joy of the Easter season refresh them and fill them with renewed spirit and energy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Lord grant them the gifts and virtues needed to serve the common good of their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families separated by discord, may the Holy Spirit bring healing and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For we who worship and share community here, may truth, beauty, and goodness be our guide in all we say and do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may they find eternal happiness in the arms of our risen Savior, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we humbly pray that you grant these petitions and prayers. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024**

(Lec. 44)

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

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

FOCUS: We are called to live out God's mercy.

In today's Gospel, Jesus confers his divine power to forgive sins on the Apostles through the Holy Spirit. This forgiveness is still available to us in the sacraments. The gift of God's mercy calls us to also perform acts of mercy to ensure that, as in the earliest communities of believers, no one among us is in need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading describes how the early community of believers held everything in common. In the second reading, John writes that to love God is to keep his commandments, and that faith in Jesus conquers the world. In the Gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples in a locked room and breathes on them, giving them the power to forgive sins.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers before the Lord, who knows our every need.

- 1) That the Church may continue to grow in charity and faith as she remains a sign of God's merciful love for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Lord may look favorably upon, and provide the resources for, the needs of individuals and communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who have been separated from God by sin may experience forgiveness and healing through the sacrament of reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us gathered here may be guided by the Holy Spirit in our work to build up the kingdom of God on earth by our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may be welcomed into the kingdom of heaven and see the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you sent your Son not to condemn the world, but to save it. We ask you to hear the prayers we offer for ourselves and for the needs of the world, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 8, 2024  
(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: *Nothing will be impossible for God.*

As we celebrate the Annunciation, we give thanks for the wonders God has worked throughout salvation history. Our readings powerfully describe God as close to us and capable of incredible things. May we remember nothing is impossible for God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Ahaz tries to resist the temptation of asking for a sign from the Lord. Isaiah responds that the Lord will give a sign of a virgin bearing a son named Emmanuel. In the second reading, we learn of the value of being faithful to God's will. In the Gospel, the angel Gabriel appears before Mary and announces that she will bear a son and name him Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With reliance on our good and gracious God, let us bring before him our prayers.

- 1) For the Church and her mission of announcing the Good News throughout the world, may God continue to bless and sustain this holy work of evangelization, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Lord grant them the fortitude to remain true to his justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For married couples who struggle with infertility, may God give them consolation and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who worship here, may the Holy Spirit help us more firmly embrace our faith in a loving God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away in the light of faith, may God bring them to everlasting life in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: All-powerful Father, hear and give heed to the petitions we bring before you, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 9, 2024  
(Lec. 268)

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

TUESDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.*

We all search for answers in our lives, ranging from solving for x in Algebra to answering the larger questions such as, "What is the meaning of life?" One answer that guides all others, regardless of the questions, are Jesus' words today that he will *be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life*. The things of heaven are not like the things of earth; they are truer and everlasting.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the community of believers is of one heart and one mind, sharing everything in common to bear powerful witness to the resurrected Christ. In the Gospel, Nicodemus asks Jesus about being born of the Spirit, and Jesus replies that *the Son of Man [will] be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the Father of mercies, we bring to him our petitions.

- 1) For our Holy Father and all bishops and priests, may Jesus continue to conform them ever more to his heart as they minister to the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations, may the witness of committed Christians foster an increased respect for human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer with mental or physical illness, may the Holy Spirit outpour his healing and consolation upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us gathered here, may the graces and merits of partaking in the Eucharist draw us deeper in union with our Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they feast with the angels and saints in the presence of God the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious Father, we know that you hear our prayers. Please grant them according to your most holy will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 10, 2024  
(Lec. 269)

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

WEDNESDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Let us rejoice in this season of redemption.

Easter season is a joyful time, full of hope and reminders of how much God loves us. God sent his only Son to offer salvation to us all. Let the actions of our lives reflect this gift of salvation we have received through Jesus.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Freed from prison by an angel, the disciples return to the temple area to continue teaching about Jesus and the path to everlasting life. The Gospel proclaims the truth that God sent his Son into the world, so that the world might be saved through him. Whoever lives by this truth will live forever in God.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As his faithful children, let us turn to our heavenly Father and present our petitions to him.

- 1) That the Church may continue to be purified and sanctified through the grace and mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the peace of Christ may reign in the hearts of civic and political leaders, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who are suffering the loss of a loved one may find comfort in the hope of eternal rest with the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community of faith may grow in holiness and a spirit of thanksgiving, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died having lived with Christ may be welcomed into his heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear these prayers and answer them in your great love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, April 11, 2024  
(Lec. 270)

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

THURSDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
OF EASTER  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Stanislaus,  
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: We witness as community to Christ, our loving Savior.

Life in the body of Christ means life in community. We do not decide what to believe as individuals only, but by lovingly listening to the experience of our sisters and brothers in Christ. Just as we are bound to listen, we are bound to share our own experiences with Jesus.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter and other Apostles demonstrate courage as they continue to witness to the power of the risen Jesus to provide forgiveness of sins and newness of life. The Gospel reading offers assurance that the testimony of Jesus is trustworthy – that God wants eternal life for all.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the voice of Christ be our guide, and lead us to deeper faith in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who govern, may God grant them the humility to be guided by his Word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened by any kind of difficulty, may Christ shine his healing light upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may God create in each one of us a contrite spirit that is pleasing to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they be crowned with the glory of everlasting life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and ever-living God, we ask you to hear and answer the prayers we have brought before you, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, April 12, 2024  
(Lec. 271)

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

FRIDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus revealed the Father and his love for us – a love that is eternal.

Jesus revealed the Father and his love for us in the miracles he performed, such as the multiplication of the loaves, and in the actions of his followers. Gamaliel argued that if God was not the origin of the movement preached by the Apostles, it would come to nothing. The faithfulness of Jesus' followers for 2,000 years is a sign that there is something more here than what any human could create. The Father's love for us is eternal.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Gamaliel cautions the rest of the Sanhedrin to consider how they respond to Peter and John, lest they find themselves *fighting against God*. In the Gospel, Jesus shows he is doing the work of God through his miraculous multiplication of the loaves and fish. Yet the people misunderstand his role, seeking an earthly king.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our needs to God, whose love for us is everlasting.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord continue to guide her in proclaiming his love through their daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders throughout the world, may the wisdom of God lead them to act justly, with the needs of the most vulnerable in mind, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who cannot practice their faith openly, may they be upheld and strengthened through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in our community who are struggling with ill health or injury, may the Lord bring them healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light 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: God of abundant love, you know our needs. Listen to the prayers of your people and grant your help to those in need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, April 13, 2024  
(Lec. 272)

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

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

FOCUS: When we are in darkness, Jesus guides us where we need to go.

In today's Gospel, the Apostles are rowing in the darkness without Jesus. When Jesus comes to them, walking on the sea, he assures them of his identity and tells them not to be afraid. They trust him, and they arrive at their destination right away. Just so, if we trust Jesus rather than ourselves, we will find our way quickly and easily, even in the midst of tumultuous seas.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, tension grows between the Hellenists and the Hebrews regarding their widows. The Apostles appoint seven men to handle the food distribution. In the Gospel the Apostles, after rowing several miles, see Jesus walking on the water. They are frightened but Jesus reassures them, and they arrive right away at their destination.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's merciful and abundant love, we bring our prayers and petitions to him.

- 1) That God may bless all deacons of the Church with a spirit of charitable service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Spirit may inspire government authorities to act in favor of the poor, the widowed, and all in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That everyone oppressed by hunger or loneliness may experience the bounty and consolation of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community of faith may receive all the gifts we need to bring Jesus into the darkness of our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died having trusted in the Lord may soon greet him on the heavenly shores, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, hear and answer these petitions that we present, through Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024**

(Lec. 47)

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

**THIRD SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: *[We] look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.*

Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises of salvation, and he has come to save us – body and soul. Our physical and spiritual realities are infused with one another, integrated within our creation as *Imago Dei* – made in the image of God. Christ was raised, body and soul, by the Father, and his glorified body was seen by the Apostles and many others. Through him we will be reunited to God, our Father and Creator, on the last day. As we profess in our creed, we look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter witnesses that Jesus, who was handed over out of ignorance, was raised from the dead and is the fulfillment of the prophets. In the second reading, John exhorts his community not to commit sin and to keep God's commandments. In the Gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples, shows them his hands and feet, and eats in front of them.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the power of the risen Christ, let us bring our needs to God today.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Lord guide them in caring for the physical and spiritual needs of those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Lord grant them fortitude in defending the dignity and sanctity of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are struggling in their faith, may they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here, may the Spirit renew us in the hope of the Resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in eternal peace with the Father in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of hope, receive these prayers we offer you today, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 15, 2024  
(Lec. 273)

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

MONDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.*

In this third week of Easter, still basking in the joy of the Resurrection, today's readings begin to move us toward living that joy within the realities of a fallen world. Doing so is not easy, but the choices we make in living for the Lord are rewarding and life-giving. Our everyday, small sacrifices weave the tapestry of what binds us to Christ and give us strength to face the challenges that surround us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading Stephen, one of the first deacons, is brought before the Sanhedrin. False witnesses accuse him, and the Sanhedrin see *that his face was like the face of an angel*. In the Gospel, Jesus offers those who partook of the miracle of the bread and fish *food that endures for eternal life*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We now bring our needs to the Father, confident he will provide for our good.

- 1) That the Lord may raise up holy men and women for the priesthood and religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may look graciously upon nations and people in conflict and grant them peace and goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who have separated themselves from God may be given hearts of repentance and the desire to return to God's loving arms, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Holy Spirit may continue helping each of us gathered here to grow in our ability to love and serve God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may find peace and rest with all the angels and saints in our Lord's loving care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and provide all we truly need, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 16, 2024  
(Lec. 274)

- 1) Acts 7:51–8:1a
- 2) John 6:30-35

TUESDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.*

As we continue the Easter season, we hear Jesus call himself the bread of life. He is the nourishment we truly need. Whatever needs we might think we have will pass away. What we truly hunger and thirst for can only be satisfied by Jesus. He welcomes us to genuine fulfillment.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Stephen is put to death for rebuking the people, the elders, and the scribes. In the Gospel, the crowd asks Jesus what he can do, comparing him to Moses. Jesus tells them it was his Father that gave them manna in the desert and says: *I am the bread of life.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of our need for God in all things, let us bring to him our petitions.

- 1) For the pope and bishops around the world, may God continue to bless and sanctify them in their service to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political leaders and their responsibility to care for all of creation, may God give them the wisdom to lead well, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from anxiety or fear, may God grant them peace and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community and our work of discipleship, may God continue deepening our commitment to spreading the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God's perpetual light shine upon them and may they rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, hear and answer the needs we place before you, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 17, 2024  
(Lec. 275)

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

WEDNESDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Take nourishment from the Lord first.

Jesus promises that if we place our faith in him, he will sate all hunger. We hunger for many things – bodily, intellectually, and spiritually. Some of those may even compete with each other, as we strive to live as the Lord intends, with a faithfulness and love he commands. Being nourished by the Lord first, before all other things, helps order our other desires, and gives us the strength to witness to the belief we have in eternal life with the Son.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, as persecution of the Church heightens following the death of Stephen, the faithful scatter into the countryside of Judea and Samaria. Philip's preaching is well-received there. In the Gospel, Jesus announces himself as the bread of life who satisfies. Eternal life is offered to those who believe in him.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Placing our trust in God who understands our hearts and provides for what we truly need, let us offer him our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit guide her in continuing to act on the word of God proclaimed in the Scriptures, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, may the Lord open the hearts of all to hear and believe the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have had to flee their homes or homelands, may they find God's welcome and embrace at their new destination, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the newly baptized within this community, may the Lord provide holy examples to guide them as they live their Christian journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be brought into God's presence and enjoy the eternal banquet with peace and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we know you hear our every word and intention. Grant us all that we need, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, April 18, 2024  
(Lec. 276)

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

THURSDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit continues to draw us ever closer to the Son and Father.

God saves us by entering into our humanity completely in the person of Jesus Christ and dwelling among us. Jesus even enters into death. God, who is life, enters into death. Just as darkness cannot stand when someone turns on a light, death cannot stand in the presence of Christ. The Holy Spirit continues to draw us ever closer to the Son and Father, that we might live with him forever.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Philip is sent to the Ethiopian eunuch and proclaims Jesus to him. Philip baptizes the eunuch before being taken away to continue to proclaim the Good News in other towns. In the Gospel, Jesus announces that he is the bread of life and that he will give his *Flesh for the life of the world*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the love of God, let us bring our needs before him today.

- 1) For all priests, may the Lord give them strength and wisdom for their sacramental ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Holy Spirit empower them in working for peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with chronic or debilitating illness, may God bring them consolation, peace, and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may we be given the grace to witness to Christ's presence in the sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away, may they come to join the company of all the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God and Father, hear these prayers we offer you today, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, April 19, 2024  
(Lec. 277)

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

FRIDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: We are all the Lord's instruments – trust in his plan.

The Lord wills our salvation and desires us to live in communion with him forever. He has a specific plan for each of us, and this plan leads to eternal life. We can trust in his plan fully and have faith in doing so, even through suffering. When we eat and drink of Christ's flesh and blood, he gives us strength to trust and grow closer to him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saul sets out to persecute Christians, but he is stopped and blinded by the Lord. He follows the Lord's instructions and continues on to Damascus, where Ananias comes to him, and he regains his sight. In the Gospel, Jesus explains this truth: that he is the bread of life; whoever eats of his flesh and drinks of his blood will have eternal life.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we prepare our hearts to be in union with Christ in the Eucharist, we offer our petitions to the Lord.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may the Lord guide her people in fervently spreading the Good News to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may the Holy Spirit guide them in their decision-making to always choose life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are affected by natural disasters or violence in their communities, may the Lord grant them peace and relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may the light of our faith shine brightly before those we encounter each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they experience the wonder of God in his kingdom forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we ask that you hear our prayers and look favorably upon them, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, April 20, 2024  
(Lec. 278)

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

SATURDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: With eyes that see God's presence, we turn to the Lord.

The early Church saw God's presence everywhere: through physical healings, vibrant community life, and testimony amid persecution. Today, while Christ's physical body, and glorified resurrected body, is not here in the same way as it once was, he is just as present. Like those early Christians, may we turn to the Lord with eyes that see God's work all around us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the early Church is at peace and is growing, while walking *in the fear of the Lord*. Peter heals a man named Aeneas and brings a woman named Tabitha back from death. In the Gospel, many of Jesus' disciples find his words too hard, and they return *to their former way of life*. The Twelve Disciples renew their commitment to Jesus, trusting that he has the words of eternal life.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's goodness, we offer him these prayers as a community of faith.

- 1) For Pope Francis, our shepherd, may the Lord grant him courage in leading the Church in love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of civil authority, may the Holy Spirit guide them in seeking to build societies upon the Gospel principles of holiness and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer this day, may Jesus comfort them in their affliction and provide hope for tomorrow, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Holy Spirit give us eyes to see the Lord's presence all around us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked as Christ's own forever, may God welcome them home into the eternal kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, please hear and answer our prayers according to your perfect will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024**

(Lec. 50)

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: Respond to the Lord's sacrificial love with gratitude, trust, and love.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that he suffered and died for us because of the depth of God's love for us, because this is what a Good Shepherd does for those in his care. How should we respond to such love? With gratitude, trust, and love; by listening to his voice in our lives and being obedient to his commands. This is not always an easy task, but one with which the Lord is happy to assist us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter testifies that a disabled man has been healed in the name of Jesus Christ, the One through whom salvation comes. In the second reading, John reflects on the Father's love for us, through which he has made us his children. In the Gospel, Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep and freely lays down his life for them.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Lord grant them wisdom and humility in shepherding his flock on the path of holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of all people, may the Holy Spirit lead all hearts to repentance for sin and trust in God's mercy and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are ill, may Christ heal them in body and spirit and comfort them with his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of our faith community, may the Good Shepherd help us to love one another as he loves us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died with faith in the Resurrection, may the Lord raise them up and welcome them into his heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Heavenly Father, hear these prayers we have humbly brought before you and answer them in accordance with your divine providence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 22, 2024  
(Lec. 279)

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

MONDAY OF  
FOURTH WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: God offers everyone the gift of salvation.

Today's readings share the theme of God's salvation meant for all, in the person of Jesus Christ. God loves every person and wishes to save them. Wherever people find themselves, Jesus is calling them to his sheepfold. In love we are to invite all into relationship with Christ, through whom we are transformed and saved.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter is criticized for reaching out to the Gentiles and sharing meals with them. He assures all that God has directed him. In the Gospel, Jesus says he is the gate through which all are saved.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Conscious of a world in need of God's love, let us bring our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, may the Spirit of truth and love always inspire welcome and healing to all who approach her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For people throughout the world, may Christ's message of love reach every heart and mind, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who feel left out or marginalized from communities and society, may the Lord grant them inclusion and connection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may our prayers and support help open the hearts of those discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they soon be brought through the heavenly gates, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, mindful that there is no end to your mercy, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 23, 2024  
(Lec. 280)

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

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

FOCUS: Jesus and the Father are one. All who follow him have eternal life.

Jesus says that his sheep hear his voice, and he knows them and they follow him. His followers must know him and his voice well enough to distinguish it from other voices that cry for their attention. Jesus invites us to know him intimately, well enough to hear and respond to his voice as he calls, directs, and invites us to the eternal life for which we were made.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the early disciples travel and spread the Good News of Jesus, and many come to believe in him. After hearing of many conversions, the Church in Jerusalem sends Barnabas to Antioch. In the Gospel, the Jews ask Jesus to tell them if he is the Christ. He says he does all of his works in his Father's name, and that his sheep hear his voice and he knows them and they follow him. Through him his sheep have eternal life, for his Father has given them to him.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord has promised to hear the prayers of the faithful. In faith, we lift our hearts and intentions to him.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all shepherds in the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to help them hear Jesus' voice and live in response to it, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Lord give them all they need in order to serve his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and suffering, may the Lord draw them near to himself as he shepherds them with his healing love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may Jesus' voice inflame our hearts and help us follow him with courage and boldness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon rest in the peace and joy of the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of compassion and love, we entrust our intentions to you, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 24, 2024  
(Lec. 281)

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

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

FOCUS: As the faithful who believe in the Gospel, we have the responsibility to proclaim it.

As with us today, the Christians of the early Church included people from many different places and paths in life. Like them, we can pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us proclaim the Gospel. Jesus came as the Light of the World, and we have the opportunity and responsibility to share that light.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, after Saul and Barnabas returned to Jerusalem, along with John (Mark), the Holy Spirit called them once again to go forth from that Church, this time to Cyprus. In the Gospel, Jesus points out that he does not condemn people; rather, those who choose not to receive the Word are condemned by the Word they have chosen to reject.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in the Father, who gave us his Son as the Light of the World, we bring our needs and petitions to him.

- 1) For all in the Church who feel called to a religious or priestly vocation, may the Holy Spirit give them courage in responding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may the Lord guide them in enacting policies that affirm the dignity of all life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For Christians persecuted for their faith, may the love of Jesus give them fortitude and wisdom in their time of great need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our families and loved ones in this community, may the Holy Spirit be our guide in every thought, word, and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to experience the joys of God's heavenly kingdom with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord of hope, you sent your Son to be our Light. Look with favor upon the needs we bring to you this day, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, April 25, 2024  
(Lec. 555)

**SAINT MARK,  
- FEAST**

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

FOCUS: *We proclaim Christ crucified; he is the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

Modern culture often interprets the word “grace” simply as “being in another’s favor.” We are to “stay in others’ good graces.” Yet we know that the grace we receive from God is so much more than that. It is unmerited, unrelentingly generous, unfailing love that sanctifies and saves us from death. Peter refers to *the true grace of God* as that which will be manifested even in our hardships. Christ is the fullness of God’s grace, he is God’s power and wisdom revealed, and that is what we are commissioned to proclaim.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Peter, in today’s first reading, exhorts his fellow believers to be humble, sober, and vigilant. They will face suffering, but Peter promises them God’s strength to persevere. In the Gospel, Jesus commissions his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to the whole world. Then Jesus ascends to his Father in heaven.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Relying on the Lord’s promise to hear our every prayer, let us present him with our petitions.

- 1) For the Church and all believers, may the Spirit of unity draw us together as Christ’s body, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern, may God provide them with daily wisdom in decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer injustice, may Christ’s truth and light infiltrate our world to alleviate their pain, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the Holy Spirit inspire us to share the Good News in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they, through the mercy of God, rest in eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear these prayers that we offer with sincere hearts this day, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, April 26, 2024  
(Lec. 283)

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

FRIDAY OF  
FOURTH WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Good News of the Resurrection leads to everlasting life.

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus accomplishes something beyond what is humanly possible. His teachings present the way, the truth, and the life that are available for all *who are God-fearing*. Jesus' death and resurrection reveal that the end of earthly life is not the end of life. To follow his ways is to follow him into life eternal in the heavenly kingdom.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul journeys to Antioch to share with the Jewish community the word of salvation: Jesus was put to death but rose from the dead. He is the fulfillment of the Scriptures. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that he is preparing a place for them in his Father's house, accessible to them if they follow his way, his truth, and his life.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now bring our prayers before the Father, whose house has many dwelling places prepared for us.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit amplify her prophetic voice in this world, calling for God's peace and justice to flourish, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Prince of Peace guide them in promoting peaceful relationships among all nations and peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For farmers and all who help with growing and producing food, may the Spirit of Life bring forth a rich bounty, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may the Lord continue to guide us in being faithful witnesses to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away, may they now rest in the dwelling place of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we ask you to look with favor upon these prayers we have offered, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, April 27, 2024  
(Lec. 284)

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

SATURDAY OF  
FOURTH WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus reveals the Father to us.

Jesus tells his disciples that he is in the Father and the Father is in him. The Church teaches that “Jesus ... is the tangible and definitive manifestation of how God acts towards men and women” (CSDC 28). In other words, if we want to know God the Father, we do so through knowing his Son, Jesus, and receiving his Holy Spirit.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, large crowds gather to hear Paul preach. Because the Jews reject the word of the Lord, Paul and Barnabas turn the focus of their mission to the Gentiles. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that whoever has seen him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Jesus will do the works he does, and if they ask anything in his name, he will do it.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God’s goodness and love, let us offer him our petitions.

- 1) That all who preach the Gospel in the name of the Lord may be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the word of God may continue to spread to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who suffer in mind or body may be comforted by God’s love for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Holy Spirit may provide all of us with perseverance in our daily witness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may come to dwell with the Father in his eternal love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you sent your Son to abide with us. Hear the prayers we offer, through Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024**

(Lec. 53)

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

**FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: Remain in Jesus as the Father tends and cares for us.

When we remain in Jesus, his word remains in us, and we bear the fruit of love for one another. The Father prunes us, knowing what we need and do not need to grow and flourish. No other vine is as life-giving as that of Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Barnabas introduces Saul to the Apostles in Jerusalem. In the second reading, John teaches that we remain in Jesus by keeping his commandment to love one another. In the Gospel, Jesus uses vineyard imagery to describe our relationship with him and his nurturing Father. Jesus is the true vine, we remain in him as his branches, and his Father is the vine grower pruning us to bear much fruit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord nurtures us in love. Let us bring our prayers before him, trusting that his love is all we need.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may continue to nurture the Church and allow her disciples to bear good fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all the ends of the earth may turn to the Lord for the justice he has shown, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the Father may prune the sins, fears, and bad habits that keep us from growing in his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the fellowship of this faith community may continue to be built up with the consolation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That by the power of the Resurrection those who remained in Jesus in this life may remain with him in the next, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, you tend to us as a grower cares for his vineyard. Grant us all we need to flourish for your glory, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 29, 2024  
(Lec. 285)

- 1) Acts 14:5-18
- 2) John 14:21-26

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

FOCUS: Love lies at the heart of the Gospel.

The mystery of the Resurrection stands at the heart of our Christian faith. The reading from Acts tells of the early history of the Church and its struggle to proclaim the risen Christ to all nations. The Gospel assures us of God's steadfast love as we pursue this sacred mission in our own generation.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas come to Lystra to proclaim the Good News and are mistaken for deities. In the Gospel from John, Jesus seeks to strengthen his disciples by reminding them that love lies at the heart of his mission, and promising them the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Recognizing that God is with us always, let us bring our prayers and petitions before him.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the promise of Easter continue to strengthen them and give them courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in working to protect the dignity and sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, may God restore them to the fullness of life and health and liberate them from all that afflicts them, let us pray to the Lord
- 4) For those in this community who may feel separated from God and his holy Church, may the Lord open their hearts to respond to Christ's message of love and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they come to be wrapped in the loving embrace of Christ for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, as we continue to celebrate the resurrection of your Son, we are mindful of your constant love and steadfast mercy. We ask you to hear and answer our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 30, 2024  
(Lec. 286)

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

TUESDAY OF  
FIFTH WEEK  
OF EASTER  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Pius V,  
Pope)

FOCUS: Jesus leaves us his peace and promises he will return.

Jesus offers his peace to console us in times of difficulties. Our call as his disciples is not only to embrace the peace he offers but also to share it with others in need of the same. Let us ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit on ways to share Jesus' peace.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear the beginnings of Paul's ministry to the Gentiles, a ministry that would cause much suffering for Paul. In the Gospel, as Jesus prepares to leave his disciples, he gives them his peace to strengthen and console them in the difficult days ahead.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence that the Father hears our prayers, let us lift up our needs and the needs of the world as we pray.

- 1) For the Church, may God grant her the grace to be a sign of unity and peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may God guide them toward justice and charity for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families divided by hurt and conflict, may God show them the path to reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God grant us the wisdom and courage to share Jesus with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon rest in the eternal joy and peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you for your presence among us. Hear these prayers that we offer today through Christ our Lord.

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