



FREE DIGITAL  
SAMPLE FOR

DECEMBER  
19-25, 2021



DAILY  
UNIVERSAL  
PRAYER  
AND COMMENTARY







**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021**

(Lec. 12)

- 1) Micah 5:1-4a
- 2) Hebrews 10:5-10
- 3) Luke 1:39-45

**FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**

FOCUS: Christian communities are called to share in joy.

The interaction between Mary and Elizabeth can teach us about Christian community. The women share in the joy of being a part of God's plan. Likewise, Christians can draw together to celebrate with one another, as well as to support one another.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Micah prophesies that the ruler of Israel will come from Bethlehem-Ephrathah. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews writes that Christ said that he had come to do God's will and that all *have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all*. In the Gospel, Mary visits Elizabeth and the child in Elizabeth's womb leaps at the sound of Mary's voice.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Gathered before our loving God, we place our needs before him.

- 1) For God's Church on earth, may the Holy Spirit grant us strength and joy as we share the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected leaders, may God grant them understanding and courage for sowing unity rather than division, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all expectant parents and their unborn children, may God grant health and wellness to mother and child, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God help us to support and uplift one another in prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may God grant them everlasting joy and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Almighty God, you sent your Son to walk with us and redeem us. We lift these prayers up to you in the confidence that you always grant what we need, through Christ our Lord.



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



Monday, December 20, 2021  
(Lec. 196)

- 1) Isaiah 7:10-14
- 2) Luke 1:26-38

**MONDAY  
OF ADVENT  
- FOURTH WEEK**

FOCUS: Like Mary, we are called to humbly obey the Lord.

We hear again the story of the Annunciation, that touchstone moment when Mary accepts God's will for her and for the salvation of the world. Her "yes" to God undoes Eve's "no," ushering in a new age. Her assent makes "God with us" possible. She is the Mother of God, the Mother of the Church, and a Mother to all.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah says that the Lord will provide Ahaz a sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. In the Gospel, the angel Gabriel tells Mary that she will bear a son and name him Jesus and that he will be the Son of God. Mary replies, *may it be done to me according to your word*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With the same trust and confidence in God that Mary had, we offer these petitions to him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God instill us with courage to be a sign of Christ's presence on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For people throughout the world, may they come to know lasting peace through faith in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are hungry or homeless, may they experience Christ's comfort and consolation, and have their needs met, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we be blessed with the humble faith of Mary to know and follow God's will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they rest in eternal peace in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, we humbly ask you to hear and answer our prayers according to your will. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



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



Tuesday, December 21, 2021

(Lec. 197)

- 1) Song of Songs 2:8-14  
or Zephaniah 3:14-18a
- 2) Luke 1:39-45

TUESDAY  
OF ADVENT  
- FOURTH WEEK  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Peter Canisius,  
Priest and Doctor  
of the Church)

FOCUS: We anticipate Christ's coming with love and joy.

Just as the infant in Elizabeth's womb *leaped for joy* in the presence of the expectant Mary, may we, too, await Christ's coming with joyful anticipation this season of Advent. Let us, like Mary, prepare our hearts for the coming of the Savior.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author speaks of her lover calling out to her, *Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!* In the Gospel, an expectant Mary visits and greets Elizabeth, who calls Mary *blessed* and recognizes her as the mother of the Lord.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We place our trust in God as we offer our prayers to him for our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may fill the Church with joy at the coming of Christ this Christmas, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God's wisdom may lead policymakers in their work of defending the sanctity and dignity of all life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That God's comfort and abiding presence may fill the hearts of those who are lonely or depressed during the holiday season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Christ may have a place in the hearts and homes of those of us gathered here, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be welcomed into God's loving embrace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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



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



Wednesday, December 22, 2021  
(Lec. 198)

- 1) 1 Samuel 1:24-28
- 2) Luke 1:46-56

**WEDNESDAY  
OF ADVENT  
- FOURTH WEEK**

**FOCUS:** Give thanks and praise to the Lord for his goodness and mercy.

In today's readings we find examples of women of faith and prayer: Hannah and Mary. They model trust, gratitude, praise, and confidence in the Lord. We can follow their example, remembering the many ways the Lord has lifted us up and giving him thanks and praise for his goodness and mercy.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

In the first reading, Hannah entrusts her son Samuel to Eli, dedicating him to the Lord. In the Gospel, Mary praises God for the mercy and care he has shown toward his people, especially the lowly.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** Trusting in God's love and mercy, we bring before him our petitions for our Church and the world.

- 1) For all who serve the Church, may God infuse them with joy and wisdom as they preach the word of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in all nations, that a spirit of reconciliation and goodwill may heal division and bring understanding among all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering or burdened with difficulty, may the hope found in the Lord's faithfulness and promise bring them consolation and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For young people in this faith community discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, may the Holy Spirit fill them with wisdom and guide them in prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have gone before us in faith, may the Lord have mercy on them and welcome them into his glory in his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Almighty God, hear these prayers and answer them in accordance with your divine will. In Christ's name we pray.



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



Thursday, December 23, 2021  
(Lec. 199)

- 1) Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
- 2) Luke 1:57-66

THURSDAY  
OF ADVENT  
- FOURTH WEEK  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint John of Kanty,  
Priest)

FOCUS: The time of the Lord is at hand.

John the Baptist, blessed from birth, spent his life preparing the world for the coming of the Messiah. Hopefully, we have spent Advent doing the same. As it draws to a close, we look forward to the joy and hope of Christmas, rejoicing and thanking God for the gift of his Son who comes to save us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Malachi speaks for the Lord, saying that he is sending his messenger to prepare the way of the Lord: *He will sit refining and purifying silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi.* In the Gospel, Zechariah regains his speech after the birth of his son and confirms Elizabeth's statement that the child's name is John.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we look forward to celebrating the coming of the infant Jesus, we join our hearts in prayer and present our petitions to the Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all the clergy, may God give them the spiritual and physical strength to minister to God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our world, may Christ's peace touch the hearts of leaders and lead them to harmony, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are alone during this time of rejoicing, may God show them his tender love and inspire others to reach out to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the grace of the sacraments nurture and strengthen the bonds of charity among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God welcome them into their eternal home in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we present our prayers to you as we look forward with gratitude to celebrating the gift of your Son. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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



Friday, December 24, 2021  
(Lec. 200)

- 1) 2 Samuel 7:1-5,  
8b-12, 14a, 16
- 2) Luke 1:67-79

**FRIDAY  
OF ADVENT  
- FOURTH WEEK**

FOCUS: God fulfills his promises.

God's promise to David to establish an everlasting kingdom from one of his descendants is fulfilled in Jesus. God worked many wonders caring for his children, the Israelites, and sending his beloved Son is the ultimate gift of his love and mercy. God fulfills his promises.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

King David desires to build a house for God, but the Lord reveals that he will establish a house for David and all his descendants. In the Gospel, Zechariah recalls God's promises to David and Abraham and prophesies that his son John will prepare the way of the Lord.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** With confident hope in the God who came to save his people, we bring our needs to him.

- 1) For the Church, may God bless her efforts to build up his kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Holy Spirit bless and strengthen them in their efforts to bring about peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who deal with chronic illnesses, may Christ the healer bring them relief and give them the strength they need to endure, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us gathered here, may the Holy Spirit help make a place in our hearts to welcome the Christ Child, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all our beloved dead, may they be reunited in glory with Christ, our Savior and brother, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Heavenly Father, you are king of all. Look with favor upon the prayers we bring before you today, we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ.





## CHRISTMAS 2021 – VIGIL

(Lec. 13)

- 1) Isaiah 62:1-5
- 2) Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
- 3) Matthew 1:1-25  
or Matthew 1:18-25

**THE NATIVITY  
OF THE LORD  
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: *God is with us.*

The readings highlight Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promise to the Jews for a Messiah. Today we celebrate that Messiah's legacy and birth, as God reveals himself fully in the person of Jesus Christ, born of a woman into human time and history who then sends his disciples to share this Good News with all.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies Jerusalem's vindication and glorious transformation. Saint Paul preaches in the synagogue of Antioch, showing Jesus' lineage as arising from God's choosing of David as king and his promise of a savior. He also tells them that John the Baptist *heralded his coming*. In the Gospel, Matthew first tells *the genealogy of Jesus Christ*, from Abraham to Jesus, and then *how the birth of Jesus Christ came about*.

## UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we herald the coming of our Savior, let us bring to God our own needs and those of the Church and the world.

- 1) For the Church, may God bless her efforts to boldly announce the coming of the Prince of Peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God give them grace to govern with humility and concern for the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are grieving this holiday season, may the Lord bring them consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here today, may the Lord strengthen and sustain our faith in all we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they celebrate this blessed Christmas feast face to face with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, you give the light that dispels all darkness. We ask you to hear and answer our prayers through your Son, Christ Jesus, the Lord.







## CHRISTMAS 2021– NIGHT

(Lec. 14)

- 1) Isaiah 9:1-6
- 2) Titus 2:11-14
- 3) Luke 2:1-14

**THE NATIVITY  
OF THE LORD  
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: *Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice.*

Jesus, the Light of the World, comes to us when nights are longest, and the days are short. He comes to a burdened world, smashing the yoke of sin. As our Redeemer, he breaks through the darkness in our hearts, bringing freedom and light. *Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice.*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies the time when *the people who walked in darkness [will] have seen a great light ... for a child is born to us, a son is given us*. Saint Paul exhorts Christians to live holy lives as they await the coming of Christ. In the Gospel, Joseph and Mary travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem to enroll in the census, and there she gives *birth to her firstborn son*. An angel shares this *news of great joy* with shepherds in the surrounding fields.

## UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With great rejoicing in our King, who has appeared in glory, let us offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For the Holy Father, may God grant him joy and strength as he leads the Church in the ways of peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Holy Spirit give them grace in governing with prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who lack stable housing, may they find strength in God and the loving support of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here this holy night, may Christ be born in our hearts and guide us with his light, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may their joy be full as they join the angels and saints singing “Glory to God in the highest,” let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, in your wisdom, please hear and answer our prayers through your Son, Jesus Christ.





## CHRISTMAS 2021 – DAY

(Lec. 16)

- 1) Isaiah 52:7-10
- 2) Hebrews 1:1-6
- 3) John 1:1-18  
or John 1:1-5, 9-14

**THE NATIVITY  
OF THE LORD  
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: The birth of Jesus brings the light of God's love into our world.

Today is a day of great rejoicing for all humanity. God has fulfilled the promises of old and the light of his love has appeared among us as a newborn Child. God has made his dwelling among us and given us power to become his children and to receive from him the fullness of grace.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies the one who *brings glad tidings*, announcing the good news of salvation. In the Letter to the Hebrews, the author writes that over time *God spoke in partial and various ways*, but *in these last days he has spoken to us through the Son*. In the Gospel, John proclaims Jesus as the Incarnate Word of God: the fullness of God's Revelation to us. He also writes of John who came before Jesus *to testify to the light*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we celebrate the newborn King, let us place our prayers before our loving Father.

- 1) For the Church, the body of Christ in the world, may God bless her efforts to share the Good News with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the Gospel message of peace inform their work for justice in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all the sick and the dying, may God comfort them and bless their caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish discerning a call to the priesthood or consecrated life, may the Lord bless them and keep them on their spiritual journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they find eternal rest and joy in the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, in the birth of your only Son we glimpse the glory of your kingdom and the promise of a share in your eternal life. On this holy day, hear our prayers and answer them according to our need. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

