



FREE DIGITAL
SAMPLE FOR

January
24-30, 2021



DAILY
UNIVERSAL
PRAYER
AND COMMENTARY





SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021

(Lec. 68)

- 1) Jonah 3:1-5, 10
- 2) 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- 3) Mark 1:14-20

**THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Prepare each day for the end of our earthly lives.

There is an ancient practice of reflection on mortality that goes as far back as Socrates: *Memento Mori*, or, *Remember, thou art mortal*. Today's Scriptures are perfect for the Christian spiritual practice of thinking about our life, and eventual death – a reminder that our ultimate goal in faith is to live with God after this life. Awareness of our own mortality should spur us to act righteously each day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

At God's command, Jonah goes to Nineveh, prophesying destruction. The citizens of Nineveh repent and are spared. Saint Paul urges the Corinthians to act in a way that reflects the passing away of this world. In the Gospel, Jesus arrives in Galilee, proclaiming the *time of fulfillment* has arrived, and that all are to *repent, and believe in the Gospel*. The Apostles Simon, Andrew, James, and John leave their lives as fishermen to follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With the same trust the first Apostles had to follow Jesus, let us turn to God and bring him our needs.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may we, through God's grace, continue to grow in the likeness of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our nation's leaders, may the Holy Spirit inspire them in promoting justice for all, especially the marginalized, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those nearing the end of their earthly lives, may Jesus bring them comfort, peace, and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this gathered family of faith, may God bless us and protect us in this new year, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may our merciful Savior welcome them to paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercy and love, we turn to you with trust in your infinite goodness. We ask that you hear the prayers we bring you in the name of Jesus, your Son.



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



Monday, January 25, 2021

(Lec. 519)

- 1) Acts 22:3-16
or Acts 9:1-22
- 2) Mark 16:15-18

**THE CONVERSION
OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: On this feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, let us join him in sharing the Good News with others.

Saint Paul was transformed from persecutor of Christians to defender of the Gospel after his encounter with Christ. As the “Apostle to the Gentiles,” he was a powerful force in the early Christian communities. His preaching, particularly on Christ crucified, baptism, Christians as the Body of Christ, and our relationship to the divine (and God’s to us) helped the Church develop much of its theology.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saul – who seeks to bring anyone *back to Jerusalem in chains* who belongs *to the way* – instead hears the voice of Christ and is struck blind in the encounter. After a few days he is healed, baptized, and begins proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God. In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus appears to the Eleven and instructs them to *go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As a community of faith, let us join together in prayer as we present our petitions to God.

- 1) For our Holy Mother Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to bless and preserve her as she guides her children in faith and with love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in positions of authority, may God help them use their time, their talent, and their resources to best help those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in need of healing, may the faithfulness of our heavenly Father bring them hope and relieve their suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in our faith community who have fallen away from the Lord, may the Holy Spirit steady their feet and direct their path in return, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the eternal presence of our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we place our petitions before you and trust that you will provide all we need. We offer these prayers in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



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



Tuesday, January 26, 2021

(Lec. 520)

1) 2 Timothy 1:1-8
or Titus 1:1-5

(Lec. 318)

2) Mark 3:31-35

**TUESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**(OBL MEM
Saints Timothy and Titus,
Bishops)**

FOCUS: Encourage one another in love and affection, for we are all Christ's brothers and sisters.

We can often be limited by our own definitions of words – even simple words such as family. The word usually makes us think of those people to whom we are related by blood or adoption. But Jesus tells us today that we need to look at all Christians as our family.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to Timothy with great affection, calling him *my dear child*, and encouraging him to bear any hardship *with the strength that comes from God*. In the Gospel, Jesus, after being told that his mother and brothers and sisters were asking for him, said, *whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother*.

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 all Church leaders, may they be blessed with the wisdom and courage of the Holy Spirit to lead us through difficult times, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials across the world, may God open their hearts and minds to his will for all people to be treated with basic human dignity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those hindered by financial difficulties, physical burdens, or other damaging effects and circumstances due to COVID-19, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, through the intercession of Saints Timothy and Titus, may we have the grace to live a life of service in God's name, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may God accept them with loving arms into his heavenly family, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear the prayers we offer today. We ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.



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



Wednesday, January 27, 2021
(Lec. 319)

- 1) Hebrews 10:11-18
- 2) Mark 4:1-20

WEDNESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Angela Merici,
Virgin)

FOCUS: The love and mercy of our extravagant Lord are freely given and fully redeeming.

Christ gives himself freely and fully out of love for us, extravagant in his giving and forgiving. He puts his law in our hearts, writes it upon our minds, and forgets when we sin and fall short. He sows his Word widely and freely, hoping it bears fruit. To him we are worth the extravagance.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author writes that Christ made *one sacrifice for sins*. The Lord has put his law in the hearts of his people, and remembers their sins no more. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower who scatters seeds widely, some of which bear fruit. Jesus likens the fruitful seeds to those who hear and accept his Word.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We offer our petitions to our gracious and forgiving Lord.

- 1) That God may accept the offering of ourselves united to Christ through the Church's holy sacrifice of the Mass, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the law of our land may be inspired by the law of the Lord that has been written upon our minds and put in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the hearts of those heavy with guilt or shame may be touched by the extravagant mercy and love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the word of God sown in the hearts of this faith community's catechumens, candidates, and religious education students may find rich soil and bear abundant fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may soon rejoice with Christ and all the angels and saints in the eternal kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, we come to you in our need and surrender ourselves to your grace. Hear the prayers we offer today through Christ our Lord.



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



Thursday, January 28, 2021
(Lec. 320)

- 1) Hebrews 10:19-25
- 2) Mark 4:21-25

THURSDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Thomas Aquinas,
Priest and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: God made us for a generosity that mirrors his own.

We are exhorted to cling to our faith because God is trustworthy. We trust in him because of who he is, knowing that he will always be with us doing the work he's called us to. When we give as he's called us to, he goes with us and beyond us, demonstrating and inviting us to generosity of total self.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author exhorts the Hebrews to have absolute trust in God, and *to hold unwaveringly to [their] confession that gives [them] hope*. In the Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples whether a light ought to be placed under a basket rather than on a lampstand, as a way of introducing several truths, including, *Nothing [is] hidden except to be made visible*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to our generous God and bring him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For our Church leaders, may the Lord conform them to his generosity in their faith and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders, may God grant them wisdom and courage in working for racial justice in our communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are living in fear, may the Lord comfort them with the firm knowledge of his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord increase the measure of faith given us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us in the hope of eternal life, may the Lord soon bring them into his loving embrace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, receive our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. Through Christ our Lord.



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



Friday, January 29, 2021
(Lec. 321)

- 1) Hebrews 10:32-39
- 2) Mark 4:26-34

FRIDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We have confidence in God's providence.

God takes humble things and transforms them into marvels and wonders that offer sustenance and shelter. He does this in ways that are beyond our understanding and knowledge. We are encouraged to remain confident in God's providence, that in whatever ways the kingdom of God is in our midst – as tiny seeds or as flowering buds – it will one day be ready for harvest.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews commends them in their endurance of suffering for the faith, and says, *do not throw away your confidence; it will have great recompense*. In the Gospel, Jesus says the kingdom of God is like seed, scattered on land, which sprouts and grows *of its own accord*. The man who scatters the seed *knows not how* this happens.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present to our loving God the needs of our community, and those of the world.

- 1) For God's holy Church, may she be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to follow the Lord with focus and zeal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may God guide the leaders of all nations in protecting the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from feeling inadequate or unworthy, may they find peace in God's providence and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For peace and justice in our homes and communities, may he who is acclaimed as beloved Son dwell in our hearts and fill us with his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon rest in the eternal light and peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers we bring to you in humility, and answer them in your gracious mercy. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



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



Saturday, January 30, 2021
(Lec. 322)

- 1) Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19
- 2) Mark 4:35-41

**SATURDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME**
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: Those who believe the promises of God demonstrate this by their actions.

Abraham's faith was an active one; he believed in God and his promises. He is the perfect example of what someone with faith does. The disciples in the Gospel, by contrast, show a lack of faith and understanding when they question Jesus' care for them in the storm.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author of Hebrews writes about the activity of faith: realizing what is hoped for, and serving as evidence of what is not seen. He recalls the faithful actions of Abraham. In the Gospel, Jesus and his disciples are caught in a storm at sea, which terrifies the disciples. Jesus calms the sea and the wind, and questions the disciples' level of faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hope and faith in God's promises, let us bring our needs to him.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may our Lord bring her safely through all the storms and trials she faces, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our leaders, may God as architect direct their actions to build a more just society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those enduring suffering, confusion, or fear in their lives, may Christ protect them and give them his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God's Holy Spirit inspire us in loving and forgiving one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our loved ones who have died, may God's merciful embrace welcome them home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we believe in your loving care for us and we ask you to hear the prayers we offer. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

