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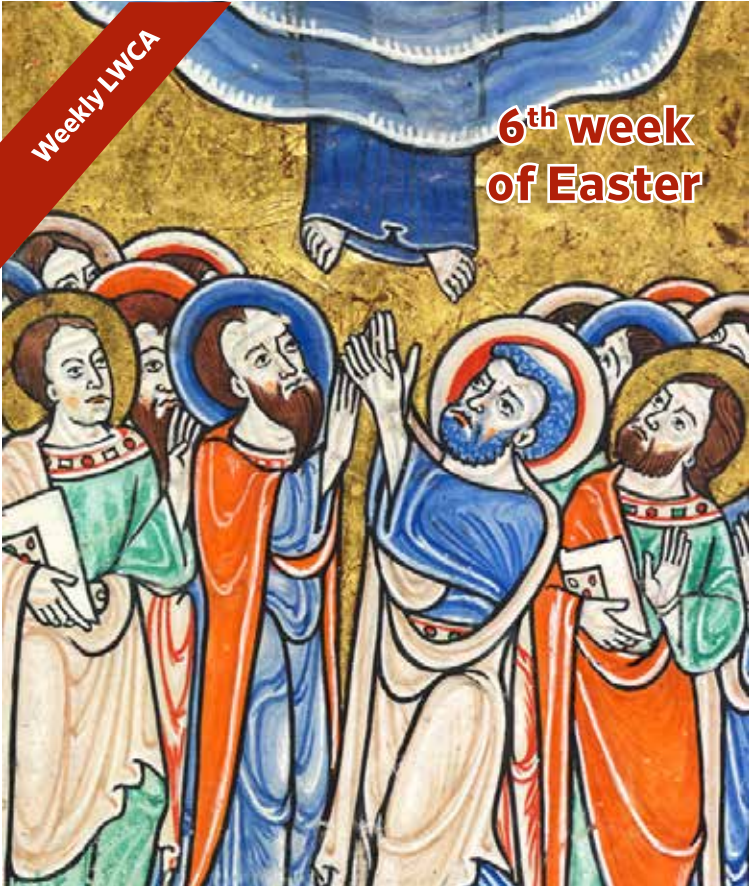
Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

6th week
of Easter

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AFRICA ● 14-20 May 2023 ● Digital n°33

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Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: Ascension of the Lord.

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Editorial

May 2023



Rev. Fr. Walter C. Ihejirika, Nigeria

Complete Joy!

One of our gospel readings this week ended thus: “I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete.” (Jn 15:9-11). Complete joy! This is what Christ promised us. As Pope Francis noted in his encyclical, *Evangelii Gaudium*, “The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness.”

(EG, 1) The Pope goes further to explain that the complete joy enjoyed by believers is based on the fact that, “however dark things are, goodness always re-emerges and spreads. Each day in our world beauty is born anew, it rises transformed through the storms of history... Such is the power of the resurrection, and all who evangelize are instruments of that power.” (EG, 276). Through *Living with Christ*, we partake daily in the joy which comes from the Gospel. We are encouraged, as true disciples of Christ to ensure that we spread the same joy wherever we are.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

For church movements and groups: We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

Other papal intentions and videos can be found on: <http://apostleshipofprayer.org/>

The Liturgy of the Word

In the Eucharistic celebration, the Liturgy of the Word starts with the first reading and ends with the Prayers of the faithful. During this part of the Holy Mass, the focus is on the proclamation and the hearing of the Word of God. God's Word in the Liturgy has a long history. Acts 2, 41-42 reads: *“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day. They devoted themselves to the **teaching of the apostles** and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to prayers.”* From the beginning of Christianity, the proclamation of God's Word in the Liturgy is one of the elements that have always been observed.

Before the Second Vatican Council, the Holy Scriptures were not proclaimed the same way as we do today. On Sundays, only two readings were proclaimed, the books of the Old Testament were hardly read. Moreover, the liturgy was in Latin, which did not allow all the faithful to understand the Holy Scriptures. The first part of the Holy Mass was almost reserved to the celebrant. What mattered was the presence of the faithful during

the offertory. In fact, while the protestant Church emphasised on the Word (*Sola scriptura* = The Word alone), the Catholic Church emphasised on the Sacrifice.

The Second Vatican Council emphasised the importance of the Holy Scriptures in the liturgy. The Word of God must be proclaimed in all sacraments. Therefore, Holy Mass can never be celebrated without the proclamation of the Holy Scriptures. It is the Word heard in the first part of the Mass that becomes flesh in the second part of the Mass. Christ is present in the proclamation of the Word. He is the one who speaks when the Holy Scriptures are proclaimed in the liturgy. Since the Second Vatican Council, there are three readings on Sundays and solemnities. Generally, the first reading is from the Old Testament, the second from the letters of St Paul and the last from the Gospels.

Of all the readings, the Gospel has a special place. This can be seen from certain liturgical elements: the Gospel is preceded by a song of acclamation, the faithful stand up for this song of acclamation until the end of the proclamation of the Gospel. While the other readings are read by lay people, the Gospel is read by a deacon or

a priest. If a deacon reads the Gospel, he first asks for a blessing from the main celebrant. If incense is used, the book of the Gospels is incensed at the beginning of the reading and kissed at the end. Other liturgical gestures that accompany the acclamation of the Gospel include; ***“Praise be to you Lord Jesus”***, a sign of the cross on the forehead, a sign of the cross on the lips and a sign of the cross on the chest. All these elements distinguish the Gospel from the other readings.

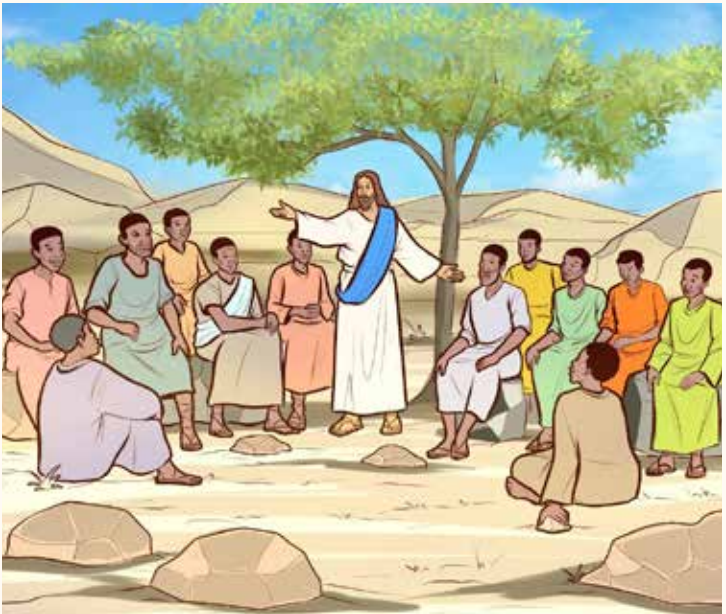
***Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. Kombi,
Kinshasa, D.R. Congo***



Sunday May 14

6th Sunday of Easter

*Acts 8: 5-8. 14-17/ Psalm 66: 1-3. 4-5. 6-7. 16. 20/ 1 Peter 3: 15-18/
John 14: 15-21 .*



And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor, to be with you for ever, (John 14:16)



Seeing God Face to Face

There are no words to express what our life will be like in the Heaven. We know, as we have recently been reminded, that we shall be with Christ and see God (cf. 1 Jn 3:2). This is an admirable promise and mystery which essentially makes up our hope. If our imagination cannot reach there, the heart needs to reach there instinctively and profoundly.

What we now glimpse through revelation and can scarcely imagine in our present being will be a most blessed reality. In the Old Testament the happiness of Heaven is described evoking the promised land after such a long and hard walk through the desert. There, in the new and definitive homeland, all the good things are found; there the fatigues of such a long and difficult pilgrimage will end.

The Lord spoke to us in many ways of the incomparable happiness of those who love God with works in this world. Eternal bliss is one of the truths most insistently preached by our Lord: “Now the will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me (...) It is



Sunday May 14

my Father's will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and that I should raise that person up on the last day." (Jn 6:39-40).

The Apostles often speak to us of the happiness we await. St. Paul teaches that now we see God as in a mirror and under dark images; but then we will see him face to face, and that the joy and happiness there are indescribable.

The happiness of eternal life will consist first of all in the direct and immediate vision of God. This vision is not only a most perfect intellectual knowledge, but also communion of life with God, One and Triune. To see God is to encounter Him, to be happy in Him. From the loving contemplation of the Three divine Persons there will follow in us an unlimited joy. All the demands of happiness and love of our poor heart will be fulfilled, without end.

Rev. Fr. Silvano Ochuodho, Nairobi-Kenya



Entrance Antiphon (*Is 48:20*)

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: the Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

The Gloria is said.

Collect

Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (*Acts 8:5-8.14-17*)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

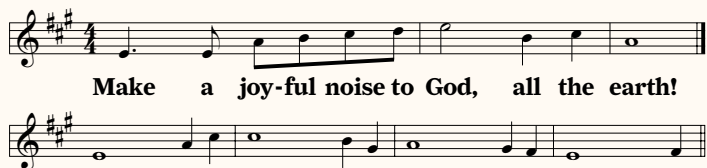
In those days: Philip went down to a city of Samaria, and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the multitudes with one accord gave heed to what was said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs which he did. For unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed; crying with a loud voice; and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city. Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria



Sunday May 14

had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for the Spirit had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —————
(Psalm (65) 66:1-3a.4-5.6-7a.16 and 20)



**R. Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.
or: Alleluia.**

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; /O sing to the glory of his name. /O render him glorious praise. /Say to God, “How awesome your deeds!” R.
“Before you all the earth shall bow down, /shall sing to



you, sing to your name!”/Come and see the works of God: /awesome his deeds among the children of men. R.

He turned the sea into dry land; /they passed through the river on foot. /Let our joy, then, be in him; /he rules forever by his might. R.

Come and hear, all who fear God; /I will tell what he did for my soul. /Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer, /nor withhold from me his merciful love. R.

Second Reading (1 Peter 3:15-18) _____

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Beloved: In your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defence to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence; and keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing right, if that should be God’s will, than for doing wrong. For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Sunday May 14

Acclamation (*Jn 14:23*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. If a man loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*John 14:15-21*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. “I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

R. Lord, hear us!

For good leaders in Africa and in other parts of the world, let us pray to the Lord our God. R.

For good witnesses of the word of God ; for fruitful apostolates and pastoral works let us pray to the Lord our God. R.

For those threatened and killed for their faith, let us cry out to the Lord our God. R.

For charity, peace, mercy, and the end of natural catastrophes, let us pray to the Lord our God. R.

Prayer over the Offerings

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Sunday May 14

Communion Antiphon (*Jn 14:15-16*)

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty ever-living God, who restore us to eternal life in the resurrection of Christ, increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Monday May 15

6th week of Easter

Ferial

Or: **St Isidore the Farmer**, *memorial*

Entrance Antiphon

(Rom 6:9) **Christ, having risen from the dead, dies now no more; death will longer have dominion over him, alleluia.**

Collect

Grant, O merciful God, that we may experience at all times the fruit produced by the paschal observances. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Acts 16:11-15)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is the leading city of the district of Macedonia, and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days; and on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we



Monday May 15

supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to listen to what was said by Paul. And when she was baptised, with her household, she begged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm (148) 149:1bc-2.3-4.5-6a and 9bc)

R. The Lord takes delight in his people.
or: Alleluia.

Sing a new song to the Lord, /his praise in the assembly of the faithful. / Let Israel rejoice in its Maker; /let Sion’s children exult in their king. **R.**

Let them praise his name with dancing, /and make music with timbrel and harp. /For the Lord takes delight in his people; / he crowns the poor with salvation. **R.**

Let the faithful exult in glory, /and rejoice as they take their rest. /Let the praise of God be in their mouths. /This is an honour for all his faithful. **R.**

Acclamation
(John 15:26b.27a)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The Spirit of truth will bear witness to



me, says the Lord; and you also are witnesses. **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____
(John 15:26-16:4a)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “When the Counsellor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me; and you also are witnesses, because you have been with me from the beginning. I have said all this to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues; indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service

to God. And they will do this because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you of them. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, we pray, these offerings of your exultant Church, and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness, grant also that the gifts we bring may bear fruit in perpetual happiness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 20:19) **Jesus stood in the midst of his disciples**

and said to them: Peace be with you, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord, and grant, we pray that those

you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Commentary

John 15: 26 -- 16: 4a

Jesus has come to show us the way, the truth and the life of God, to mark, with his footsteps, the way that leads to God; to teach, with his words and his miracles, what is the truth about our end on earth and in eternity; to give us the life of God, through the sacraments.

But now he must return to the right hand of the Father. We are fortunate that before returning, he promises to send us the Holy Spirit who will bear witness to that way, truth and divine life! Let us prepare to welcome the Paraclete!

Rev. Fr. Silvano Ochuodho, Nairobi-Kenya



Tuesday May 16

6th week of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

(Rv 19:7.6) Let us rejoice and be glad and give glory to God, for the Lord our God the Almighty reigns, alleluia.

Collect

Grant, almighty and merciful God, that we may in truth receive a share in the Resurrection of Christ your Son. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reading

(Acts 16: 22-34)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: The crowd of Philippians joined in attacking Paul and Silas; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas

were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" and they said,

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptised at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
*(Psalm (137) 138:1ac-
 2a.2bcd-3.7c-8)*

R. With your right hand
 you save me, O Lord.

or: Alleluia.

I thank you, Lord, with
 all my heart; /you have
 heard the words of my
 mouth. /In the presence
 of the angels I praise you.
 /I bow down toward your
 holy temple. **R.**

I give thanks to your
 name /for your merciful
 love and your faithfulness.
 /You have exalted your
 name and your promise
 over all. /On the day I
 called, you answered me; /
 you increased the strength
 of my soul. **R.**

With you right hand
 you save me; /the Lord will

accomplish this for me. /O
 Lord, your merciful love
 is eternal; /discard not the
 work of your hands. **R.**

Acclamation

(Jn 16:7.13)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I will send
 the Spirit of truth to you, says
 the Lord; he will guide you
 into all the truth. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————

(John 16:5-11)

**A reading from the holy
 Gospel according to John**

At that time: Jesus said
 to his disciples, “Now I
 am going to him who
 sent me; yet none of you
 asks me, ‘Where are you
 going?’ But because I have
 said these things to you,
 sorrow has filled your

hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convince the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgement: of sin, because they do not believe in me; of righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries, so that the renewal constantly at work within us, may be the cause of our unending joy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Lk 24:46.26) **The Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, and so enter into his glory, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

Hear, O Lord, our prayers, that this most holy exchange, by which you

have redeemed us, may for us eternal gladness.
 bring your help in this Through Christ our Lord.
 present life and ensure **Amen.**

God's Love

Commentary

John 16: 5-11

Sentimentally we seem to lose, because we do not see Christ nor hear his voice, nor feel attracted by the strength of his words or the affection of his gaze. But now, by the grace of the Spirit, we can have him closer than ever: in us, within us; a closeness which is "living together"- that makes it possible for us to understand the mysteries of God and His love.

Lord Holy Spirit: fill my heart with the love of God; burn with your fire my earthly attachments, my selfishness, my laziness, my sensuality.

Rev. Fr. Silvano Ochuodho, Nairobi-Kenya



Wednesday May 17

6th week of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 18:50; 22:23) I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;
I will tell of your name to my kin, alleluia.

Collect

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as we celebrate in mystery the solemnities of your Son's Resurrection, so, too, we may be worthy to rejoice at his coming with all the Saints. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading

(Acts 17:15,22-18:1)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed. So Paul, standing in the middle of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this

inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all men life and breath and everything. And he made from one every nation of men to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel after him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us, for ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your

poets have said, ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the Deity is like gold, or silver, or a stone, a representation by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all men whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all men by raising him from the dead.” Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, “We will hear you again about you

this." So Paul went out from among them. But some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them. After this he left Athens and went to Corinth. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 148:1-2.11-12.13.14)

R. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

or: Alleluia.

Praise the Lord from the heavens; /praise him in the heights. /Praise him, all his angels; /praise him, all his hosts. **R.**

Kings of the earth and all peoples, /princes and all judges of the earth, /young men and maidens as well, /the old together with the young. **R.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, /for his name alone is exalted, /his splendour above heaven and earth. **R.**

He exalts the strength of his people. /He is the praise of all his faithful, /the praise of the children of Israel, /of the people to whom he is close. **R.**

Acclamation

(Jn 14:16)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor, to be with you for ever. **Alleluia.**



Gospel _____ **(John 16:12-15)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you the things that are to come. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worth way of life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 15:16.19) **I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, and have appointed you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly

mysteries to pass from of life. Through Christ our former ways to newness Lord. **Amen.**

Commentary**Being Attentive to Christ****John 16: 12-15**

Jesus, we are swamped with news: bombarded with all kinds of opinions, reviews, discoveries, events, happenings, and exploits.

It's not a bad thing to know a little, or a lot, of everything. The problem is that, with so much noise, we may not hear what is important; with so much information we may not know what we need most to live an upright Christian life, full of meaning, which is also a light for others.

May we learn to be attentive to you and strive to always remain in your wavelength.

Rev. Fr. Silvano Ochuodho, Nairobi-Kenya



Thursday May 18

6th Week of Easter

Ferial

Or: St John I, pope, martyr, Optional memorial

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (67) 68:8-9.20) **O God,**
when you went forth
before your people,
marching with them and
living among them, the
earth trembled, heavens
poured down rain,
alleluia.

Collect

O God, who made your
people partakers in your
redemption, grant, we pray,
that we may perpetually
render thanks for the
Resurrection of the Lord,

Who lives and reigns with
you. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Acts 18:1-8)*

**A reading from the Acts of
the Apostles**

In those days: Paul left
Athens and went to
Corinth. And he found
a Jew named Aquila, a
native of Pontus, lately
come from Italy with his
wife Priscilla, because
Claudius had commanded

all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them; and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them, and they worked, for by trade they were tentmakers. And he argued in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with preaching, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be upon your heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titus Justus, a worshipper of God; his house was next

door to the synagogue. Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue believed in the Lord, together with all his household; and many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptised. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (97) 98:1.2-3ab.
3cd-4)

**R. The Lord has shown his
deliverance to the nations.
or: Alleluia.**

O sing a new song to the Lord, for /he has worked wonders, /His right hand and his holy arm /have brought salvation. R.

The Lord has made known his salvation, /has



shown his deliverance to the nations. /He has remembered his merciful love /and his truth for the house of Israel. *R.*

All the ends of the earth have seen /the salvation of our God. / Shout to the lord, all the earth; /break forth into joyous song, /and sing out your praise. *R.*

Acclamation

(John 14:18)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ————— *(John 16:16-20)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “A little while, and you will see me no more; again a little while, and you will see me.” Some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, because I go to the Father”? They said, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he means. “Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him; so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A

little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'? Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your

graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Mt 28:20) **Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

Almighty ever-living God, who restore us to eternal life in the resurrection of Christ, increase in us,

we pray, the fruits of this paschal sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Joy of the Risen Christ

Commentary

John 16: 16-20

According to the Gospel of St. Luke, a blessing was Jesus' last gesture on earth. The Eleven had set out from Galilee to the mountain that Jesus had indicated to them. The disciples, on seeing the Risen One again, adore him, prostrate themselves before him as their Master and their God. They are now much more deeply aware of what they had already, had in their hearts and had confessed: that their Master was the Messiah. They are amazed and filled with joy to see that Christ has always been so near.

Rev. Fr. Silvano Ochuodho, Nairobi-Kenya



Friday May 19

6th week of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

(Rv 5:9-10) **You have redeemed us, Lord by your blood, from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us a kingdom and priests for our God, alleluia.**

Collect

O God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, raise us up, we pray, to the author of our salvation, who is seated at your right hand, so that when our Saviour comes again in majesty, those you have given new birth in

Baptism may be clothed with blessed immortality. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading --- *(Acts 18:9-18)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

[When Paul was in Corinth,] the Lord said to him one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man shall attack you to harm you; for I have many people in this city.” And

he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack upon Paul and brought him before the tribunal, saying, "This man is persuading men to worship God contrary to the law." But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, I should have reason to bear with you, O Jews; but since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves; I refuse to be a judge of these things." And he drove them from the tribunal. And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue,

and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to this. After this Paul stayed many days longer, and then took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and with Priscilla and Aquila. At Cencreae he cut his hair, for he had a vow. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽⁴⁶⁾ 47:2-3.4-5.6-7)

R. God is king of all the earth.

or: Alleluia.

All peoples, clap your hands. /Cry to God with shouts of joy! /For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,

/the great king over all the earth. R

He humbles peoples under us /and nations under our feet. /Our heritage he chose for us, /the pride of Jacob whom he loves. R

God goes up with shouts of joy. /The Lord goes up with trumpet blast. /Sing praise for God; sing praise! /Sing praise to our king; sing praise! R

oAcclamation
(Matthew 28:19a, 20b)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I

am with you always, to the close of the age. **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____
(John 16:20-23a)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. When a woman is in labour, she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she is delivered of the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a child is born into the world. So

you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. In that day you will ask nothing of me.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept in compassion, Lord, we pray, the offerings of your family, that under your protective care they

may never lose what they have received, but attain the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Rom 4:25) **Christ our Lord was handed over for our transgressions, and was raised again for our justification, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

Keep safe, O Lord, we pray,
those whom you have saved
by your kindness, that,
redeemed by the Passion

of your Son, they may
rejoice in his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns for
ever and ever. **Amen.**

Commentary

Total Surrender to Christ

John 16: 20-23

Jesus, there is only one way for us not to fall into the temptation of the easy life, of the selfish posture: to seriously try the benefits of a life that is given, sacrificed but with meaning, for love.

For this, we have to decide seriously, to follow you, for there is nothing worse than half-surrender, than sacrifice for compromise or lukewarm living.

To find true joy, the most fulfilling peace, we must truly give ourselves, take up the Cross every day, give ourselves to others, forgetting ourselves.

Rev. Fr. Silvano Ochuodho, Nairobi-Kenya



Saturday May 20

6th week of Easter

Ferial

*Or: St. Bernardine of Siena, priest, religious and martyr,
Optional memorial*

Entrance Antiphon

(1Pt 2:9) **O chosen people, proclaim the mighty works of him, who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light, alleluia.**

Collect

O God, whose Son, at his Ascension to the heavens, was pleased to promise the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, grant, we pray, that just as they received manifold gifts of heavenly teaching, so on us, too,

you may bestow spiritual gifts. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(Acts 18:23-28)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

After spending some time in Antioch, Paul departed and went from place to place through the region of Galatia and Phrygia strengthening all the disciples. Now a Jew

named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, well versed in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him and expounded to him the way of God more accurately. And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him, and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, for he

powerfully confuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (46) 47:2-3.8-9.10)

R. God is king of all the earth.

or: Alleluia.

All the peoples, clap your hands. /Cry to God with shouts of joy! /For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, /the great king over all the earth. R.

God is king of all the earth. /Sing praise with all your skill. /God reigns

over the nations. / God sits upon his holy throne. R.

The princes of the peoples are assembled / with the people of the God of Abraham. / The rulers of the earth belong to God, / who is greatly exalted. R.

Acclamation (*John 16:28*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I came from the father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.
Alleluia.

Gospel —————
(John 16:23b-28)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask

anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name. Until now you asked nothing in my name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. I have said this to you in figures; the hour is coming when I shall no longer speak to you in figures but tell you plainly of the Father. In that day you will ask in my name; and I do not say to you that I shall ask the Father for you; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Sanctify graciously these gifts, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 17:24) **Father, I wish that where I am, those you gave me may also be with me, that they may see the glory that you gave me, alleluia.**



Prayer after Communion

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery, humbly imploring, O Lord, that, what your

Son commanded us to do in memory of him may bring us growth in charity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In the Name of the Father

Commentary

John 16: 23b-28

Jesus wants me to ask the Father in his name, for if I do, I will receive. On receiving him in Holy Communion, as I receive his body and blood, for a few minutes, whatever I ask, I ask in his name.

In those moments, God the Father attends to me as if You yourself were asking Him, because that is how it is: in receiving You, You make me into You, You make me Christ, intercessor between God and men.

May I not waste those few minutes, the most important of the day and realize the power of what I ask for in Communion.

Rev. Fr. Silvano Ochuodho, Nairobi-Kenya



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Digital

ISSN: 2424-7464; **Contact:** Living With Christ

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Growing up Daily with the Good News