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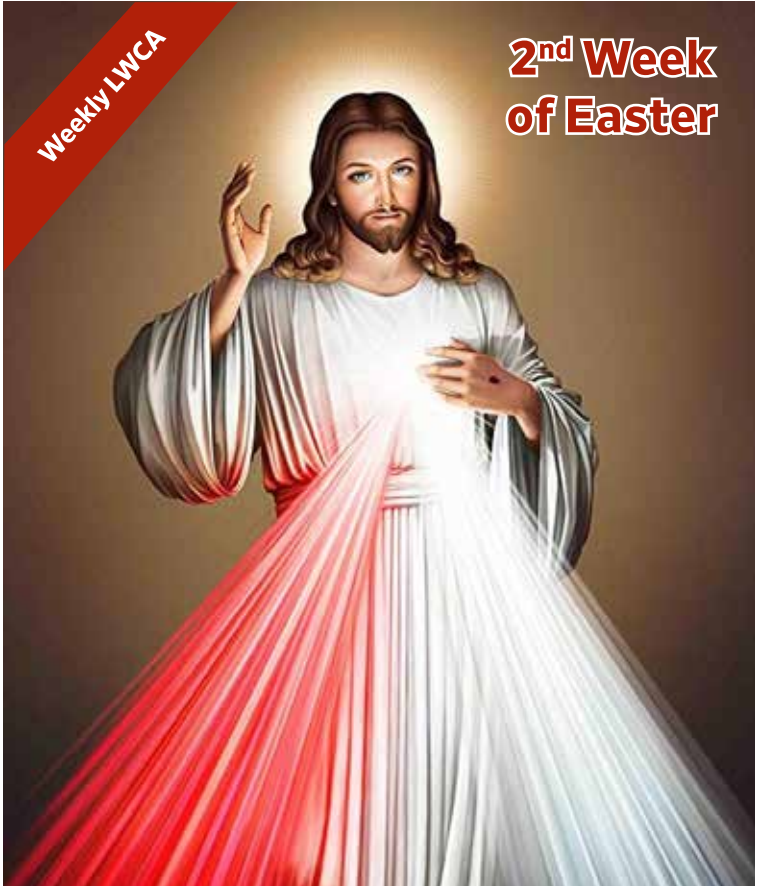
# Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

2<sup>nd</sup> Week  
of Easter

bayard africaine



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#### **Liturgical texts:**

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#### **On our cover:** Merciful Jesus

© The Kazimirowski painting of Divine Mercy.

# Editorial

April 2023



Rev. Fr. Joy Senanu Kwamla Ofori-kumeni,  
Accra-Ghana

## Divine Mercy

**T**heologically, our faith teaches us that the beginning of mankind can be traced to the Genesis Story of Creation. How were things supposed to have been? And what changed everything for humanity?

God in the Garden gave man four Gifts for good living: Infused Knowledge, Integrity, Impassability, and Immortality. Collectively, these are called Preternatural Gifts. However, on account of sin, humanity lost these four gifts and fell into a natural state.

God being a merciful God, did not give up on man. He did everything possible to restore these lost gifts to man in a more perfect way, He sent His Son to do that. The Easter story is a story of Restoration of our only gifts through Christ.

This is the message of Easter to mankind, the mercy of God epitomized in Jesus Christ. This is why on the Second Sunday of Easter we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. Divine Mercy is the kind of mercy that forgets our past, interested in our present, and has hope for our future. It is unconditional.



# The Pope's Prayer Intention

***For a culture of peace and non-violence:*** We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

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

### **The Introductory Rites**

**A**ccording to the Roman Missal, the initial rites range from the gathering of the faithful to the prayer called Collect. The Missal emphasizes the communal character of the Eucharistic celebration in the following words: “*When the people are gathered, the Priest approaches the altar with the ministers while the Entrance Chant is sung*”. The liturgical celebration can never be a personal activity. The two main actors in the liturgy are Christ and the Church. The communal character of the Eucharistic celebration is also expressed by the invitation: *Let us pray*, and the use of the first person plural: *We ask this...*

During the procession, the choir sings the entrance song. The Roman Missal contains an Entrance Antiphon for each Eucharistic celebration. They should be selected according to the theme of the day. The Entrance Antiphon discloses the liturgical theme that the Church proposes to the faithful. Liturgical songs are not sung at random. Composers of the songs must have a solid theological, liturgical and biblical formation.

## Focus on the Holy Mass

The Roman Missal gives an important information about the veneration of the altar in these words: “*When he has arrived at the altar, after making a profound bow with the ministers, the Priest venerates the altar with a kiss, and if appropriate, incenses the cross and the altar*”. In the Eucharistic celebration, the altar holds a special place. It is the center of the celebration since it symbolizes Jesus Christ himself. In fact, the fifth preface of Easter states that Christ is the *Priest, the Altar and the Lamb of sacrifice*.

Apart from the cross, the candles, and the Missal in some cases, the altar should not have anything on it during the first part of the Eucharistic celebration. It is during the Liturgy of the Eucharist that bread and wine are put on the altar. This helps the faithful understand that the altar is the table of the sacrifice.

After the Entrance song, the Priest and the faithful sign themselves with the sign of the cross while the priest says: *In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*. The cross is the sign of our salvation. In the Holy Mass we celebrate our salvation through the Paschal mystery (Suffering, death and resurrection

of Jesus Christ). After the sign of the cross, the Priest greets the faithful using the following words: *The Lord be with you* or any other words which are indicated in the Missal. The bishop says: *Peace be with you*.

Then comes the moment for the penitential Act. The faithful acknowledge their sins and ask for forgiveness so that the sacrifice may be acceptable to God. This is followed by the *Gloria* song. It is sung on feasts, solemnities, and on Sundays except the Advent and the Lenten seasons. When the *Gloria* song is concluded, the Priest invites the faithful to pray, marks a moment of silence and sings or recites the *Collect* which is referred to as *the Opening Prayer* in other languages. The *collect* is concluded by the long doxology: *Through Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.*

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



# Sunday April 16

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

*Acts 2: 42-47/ Psalm 118: 2-4. 13-15. 22-24 / 1 Peter 1: 3-9 /  
John 20: 19-31*



“... Peace be with you ! As the Father sent me, so I send you.”  
(John 20:21)





## *Don't Doubt but Believe*

**T**he catechism teaches us that faith is the gift of God which enables us to believe without doubting whatever God has decreed. This entails that doubt is a prominent indication of lack of faith. Jesus is always patient with us in our different weaknesses and desires to strengthen and deepen our faith. In today's gospel, Thomas doubted Jesus' resurrection and appearance but Jesus wanted to deepen his faith and appeared again to show Himself to Thomas. Despite His teachings and guidance to the apostles, they erred. Judas betrayed, Peter denied and Thomas doubted. But in all these situations, Jesus was patient with them and gave them opportunities to deepen their faith. The choice to accept and utilise the provided opportunities is a personal decision to make. In life, we make different choices which could be evil but God doesn't give up on us. At different times in our lives, we must have doubted God's ways and actions due to lack of faith but He encourages us today through His words to Thomas, "put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas took no time to profess his faith in Christ, "my Lord and my God". Like Thomas, may we also be alert to understand and decipher what God shows



**Sunday April 16**

and teaches us in the daily events of our lives, which are opportunities to deepen our faith in Him. May we be quick to profess our faith in God, nourish it and keep it aflame so that it will light the way for others to draw closer to God.

Jesus imparts His blessing on those who have not seen but yet believe. If we always keep in mind that God is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent, our faith will be stronger and we would understand that He can do all things and there is nothing impossible for Him. In such disposition, we build a strong faith foundation, and thus, in believing, we can thrust on in faith to know, love and serve God better.

***Rev. Sister Clare Emeruom, Abuja-Nigeria***



### **Entrance Antiphon** (*1 Pt 2:2*)

**Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.**

*Or:*

**Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.**

### **Collect**

God of everlasting mercy, who, in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***First Reading (Acts 2:42-47)*** \_\_\_\_\_

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

[The brethren] held steadfastly to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the



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apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm*** —————  
***(Psalm (117) 118:2-4.13-15ab.22-24)***

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever.

**R. Give praise to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.**

**or: Alleluia**



Let the house of Israel say,  
“His mercy endures forever.”  
Let the house of Aaron say,  
“His mercy endures forever.”  
Let those who fear the Lord say,  
“His mercy endures forever.” *R.*

I was thrust down, thrust down and failing,  
but the Lord was my helper.  
The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.  
There are shouts of joy and salvation  
in the tents of the just. *R.*

The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.  
By the Lord has this been done, /a marvel in our eyes.  
This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice in it and be glad. *R.*

***Second Reading (1 Peter 1:3-9)*** —————

**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is



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imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Acclamation** (*John 20:29*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** (*John 20:19-31*)

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

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he



showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.” Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “You have believed because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have seen and yet believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



Sunday April 16

## Prayer of the Faithful

*The following intentions are suggestions only.*

℟. **Lord, hear us!**

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

For more fruitful apostolates and pastoral works and for personal experience with Christ, let us pray to the Lord our God. ℟.

For those who still do not believe in Christ, for our salvation and the salvation of the world, let us pray to the Lord our God. ℟.

For peace, mercy, security and the end of any kind of violence. ℟.

## Prayer over the Offerings

Accept O Lord, we pray, the oblations of your people (and of those you have brought to new birth), that renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism, they may attain unending happiness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





### **Communion Antiphon** (*Jn 20:27*)

**Take your hand and feel the place of the nails, and be no longer doubtful but believing, alleluia.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this paschal Sacrament may have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Solemn Blessing — Easter (Optional)**

Bow down for the blessing.

May almighty God bless you through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend you from every assault of sin. **Amen.**

And may he, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten, endow you with the prize of immortality. **Amen.**

Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**



# Monday April 17

2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter

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## Entrance Antiphon

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

## Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we who have been renewed by paschal remedies, transcending the likeness of our earthly parentage, may be transformed in the image of our heavenly maker. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading

*(Acts 4: 23-31)*

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

In those days: When Peter and John were released they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who by the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, ‘Why did the Gentiles rage,



and the peoples imagine vain things? The kings of the earth set themselves in array, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'—for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the

place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm—  
(Psalm 2:1-3.4-6.7-9)***

**R. Blessed are all who trust in you, O Lord.**

**Or: Alleluia.**

Why do the nations conspire, / and the peoples plot vain? They arise, the kings of the earth; princes plot against the Lord and his Anointed. "Let us burst asunder their fetters. Let us cast off from us their chains. R

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord derides and mocks them. Then he will speak in his anger, his rage will strike them with terror.

“It is I who have appointed my king on Sion, my holy mountain.” R.

I will announce the decree of the Lord: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day. Ask of me and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, and the ends of the earth as your possession. With a rod of iron you will rule them; like a potter’s jar you will shatter them”. R.

### **Acclamation** *(Colossians 3:1)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is

seated at the right hand of God. **Alleluia.**

### **Gospel** ————— *(John 3:1-8)*

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

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into

his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." 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.**

## Commentary

### Be Born from Above

John 3: 1-8

Jesus emphasised in the gospel of today the need to be born from above in order to enter the kingdom of God. This brings out the essence of the sacrament of baptism, which cleanses us from sin, makes us Christians, children of God and prepares us for the kingdom. Christ was baptised with water and the spirit not because he was with sin, but to be in solidarity with us. In accepting to be born from above in baptism, we make the choice to get rid of our burden of guilt and to live a worthy life.

***Rev. Sister Clare Emeruom, Abuja-Nigeria***



# Tuesday April 18

2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter

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## 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

Enable us, we pray, almighty God, to proclaim the power of the risen Lord, that we who have received the pledge of this gift, may come to possess all he gives when it is fully revealed. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading

*(Acts 4: 32-37)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not any one needy among them, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the

proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made to each as any had need. Thus Joseph who was surnamed by the apostles Barnabas (which means, Son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field which belong to him, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm*** —  
***(Psalm (92) 93:1abc.1c-2.5)***

℟. **The Lord is king, with  
majesty enrobed.**

**or: Alleluia.**

The Lord is king, with  
majesty enrobed. The Lord  
has robed himself with

might; he has girded himself  
with power. ℟

The world you made  
firm, not to be moved; your  
throne has stood firm from  
of old. From all eternity, O  
Lord, you are. ℟

Truly your decrees are to  
be trusted. Holiness is fitting  
to your house, O Lord, until  
the end of time. ℟

**Acclamation**

*(John 3:15)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** The Son  
of man must be lifted up, that  
whoever believes in him may  
have eternal life. **Alleluia.**

***Gospel*** —————  
***(John 3:7b-15)***

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

At that time: Jesus said to  
Nicodemus, "You must be



born anew. The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can this be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand this? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what to what we have seen; but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the

serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” 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 bring

your help in this present life and ensure for us eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Share with Others

## Commentary

John 3: 7b-15

The apostles were first called Christians because of the way they lived their lives. In the first reading, we hear of how they lived a communal life and shared with each other so that no one was ever in want. Sharing is an antidote for poverty. If we share what we have with others especially the less privileged, lives will be improved and we will experience joy. At this Easter time, may we continue to touch lives by acts of sharing and almsgiving.

***Rev. Sister Clare Emeruom, Abuja-Nigeria***



# Wednesday April 19

2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter

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## Entrance Antiphon

*(Ps (17) 18:50; 22:23)* I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will tell of your name to my kin, alleluia.

## Collect

As we recall year by year the mysteries by which, through the restoration of its original dignity, human nature has received the hope of rising again, we earnestly beseech your mercy, Lord, that what we celebrate in faith we may possess in unending love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading

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*(Acts 5:17-26)*

A reading from the Acts of Apostles

In those days: The high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." And when they heard this, they entered the temple at

daybreak and taught. Now the high priest came and all those who were with him and called together the council and all the senate of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, and they returned and reported “We found the prison securely locked and the sentries standing at the doors, but when we opened it we found no one inside.” Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were much perplexed about them wondering what this would come to. And some one came and told them, “The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and

teaching the people.” Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but without violence, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm (33) 34:2-3.4-5.6-  
7.8-9)***

**R. The lowly one called,  
and the Lord heard him.  
or: Alleluia.**

I will bless the Lord at all times, praise of him is always in my mouth. In the Lord my soul shall make its boast; the humble shall hear and be glad. R.

Glorify the Lord with me; together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord, and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. *R.*

Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This lowly one called; the Lord heard, and rescued him from all his distress. *R.*

The angel of the Lord is encamped around those who fear him, to rescue them. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him. *R.*

### **Acclamation**

*(John 3:16)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son; that whoever believes in

him should have eternal life. **Alleluia.**

### **Gospel** ————— *(John 3:16-21)*

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

Jesus said to Nicodemus, “God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God.

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God.” 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 been 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 worthy 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 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 former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## God's Love for Us

### Commentary

John 3: 16-21

The gospel passage of today is one of my favourite bible passages. Jesus who is God made man revealed the reason why He was sent by the Father. The underlying reason being 'Love'. Love of God for us is unfathomable and unconditional. This kind of love is called 'agape love' – selfless love. Musing over God's love for us should propel us to return love selflessly. As God loves us, may we in turn love God and love our neighbour and be ready to die for the sake of love as Jesus did for us.

***Rev. Sister Clare Emeruom, Abuja-Nigeria***



# Thursday April 20

2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter

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## 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 for the salvation of the world brought about the paschal sacrifice, be favourable to the supplications of your people, so that Christ our High Priest, interceding on our behalf, may by his likeness to ourselves bring

us reconciliation, and by his equality with you free us from our sins. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading

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*(Acts 5:27-33)*

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

In those days: When the officers had brought the apostles, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with



your teaching and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." When they heard this they were enraged and wanted to kill them. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm (33) 34:2 and 9.17-  
18.19-20)***

**R. The lowly one called,  
and the Lord heard him.**

**or: Alleluia.**

I will bless the Lord at all times, praise of him is always in my mouth. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him. R.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. When the just cry out, the Lord hears, and rescues them in all their distress. R.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;

those whose spirit is crushed he will save. Many are the trials of the just man, but from them all the Lord will rescue him. R.

### **Acclamation**

*(John 20:29)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. **Alleluia.**

### **Gospel** —————

*(John 3:31-36)*

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

Jesus said to Nicodemus, “He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth belongs to

the earth, and of the earth he speaks; he who comes from heaven is above all. He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony; he who receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for it is not by measure that he gives the Spirit; the Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God rests upon him.” 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.**

## Witnessing For Christ

### Commentary

John 3: 31-36

Witnessing is what we are called to do as followers of Christ. The apostles were witnesses for Christ. They gave up their lives for Christ and became martyrs. We too can be martyrs not only by being killed for Christ's sake but also by dying to self and sacrificing for others. Our way of life can contribute to the transformation of others. Pope Paul VI says, "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.

***Rev. Sister Clare Emeruom, Abuja-Nigeria***



# Friday April 21

2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter

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## **Ferial**

*Or: St Anselm, bishop, religious and doctor, optional memorial*

### **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.**

proclamation of your praise. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Reading** ————— *(Acts 5:34-42)*

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

### **The Gloria is said.**

### **Collect**

O God, hope and light of the sincere, we humbly entreat you to dispose our hearts to offer you worthy prayer and ever to extol you by dutiful

In those days: A Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, held in honour by all the people, stood up and ordered the apostles to be put outside for a while. And he said to them, “Men of

Israel, take care what you do with these men. For before these days Theudas arose, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him; but he was slain and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. After him Judas the Galilean arose in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him; he also perished, and all who followed him were scattered. So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this undertaking is of men, it will fail; but

if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonour for the name. And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** —  
*(Psalm (26) 27:1.4.13-14)*

**R.** There is one thing I ask  
of the Lord, to live in the  
house of the Lord.

**or: Alleluia.**

The Lord is my light  
and my salvation; whom  
shall I fear? The Lord is  
the stronghold of my life;  
whom should I dread? **R.**

There is one thing I ask  
of the Lord, only this do I  
seek: to live in the house of  
the Lord all the days of my  
life, to gaze on the beauty  
of the Lord, to inquire at his  
temple. **R.**

I believe I shall see the  
Lord's goodness in the  
land of the living. Wait  
for the Lord; be strong; be

stouthearted, and wait for  
the Lord! **R.**

**Acclamation**  
*(Matthew 4:4b)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Man  
shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that  
proceeds from the mouth of  
God. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————  
*(John 6:1-15)*

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

At that time: Jesus went  
to the other side of the  
Sea of Galilee, which is  
the Sea of Tiberias. And a  
multitude followed him,  
because they saw the signs  
which he did on those who  
were diseased. Jesus went

up into the hills, and there sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a multitude was coming to him, Jesus said to Philip, "How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" This he said to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are they among so many?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in

the place; so the men sat down, in number about five thousand. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign which he had done, they said, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world!" Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make king, Jesus



withdrew again to the hills by himself. 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**

*(Romans 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. **Amen.**

## Be Sensitive

## Commentary

John 6: 1-15

Sensitivity to people's needs and concerns is a way to show love to our neighbour. Jesus was sensitive to the people throughout His ministry on earth and that endeared Him to all. Today, Jesus knew what the crowd needed and attended to it, even before they expressed their need for food. In every day of our lives, we meet people who are going through different kinds of difficulties, may we reach out to them to ameliorate their situation, following the footsteps of Christ, our model.

***Rev. Sister Clare Emeruom, Abuja-Nigeria***



# Saturday April 22

2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter

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## Entrance Antiphon

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

## Collect

Set aside, O Lord, the bond of sentence written for us by the law of sin, which in the paschal mystery you canceled through the Resurrection of Christ your Son. Who lives and reigns with you. **Amen.**

## First Reading

*(Acts 6:1-7)*

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

In these days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven

men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm —**  
**(Psalm (32) 33)**

**R. May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.**

*or Alleluia.*

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for the upright. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp; with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**

For the word of the Lord is faithful, and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth. **R.**

Yes, the Lord’s eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

**Acclamation** (*John 14:6b, 9c*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Christ is risen, who created all things and has had mercy on the human race. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————  
(*John 6:16-21*)

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

When the evening came, the disciples of Jesus went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea rose because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat.

They were frightened, but he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Sanctify graciously these gifts, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of the 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.**

**Get Involved in the Work  
of God****Commentary****John 6: 16-21**

The apostles, considering the proclamation of the gospel very prominent, devoted themselves to it and never wanted anything to distract them. Choosing reputable people to carry out the duty of distribution is a way of getting people involved in the work of God. In the footsteps of the apostles, may we, in our parish churches desist from involving in power tussle but rather identify those who are capable of handling different roles and encourage them to get involved for the progress of the Church.

***Rev. Sister Clare Emeruom, Abuja-Nigeria***



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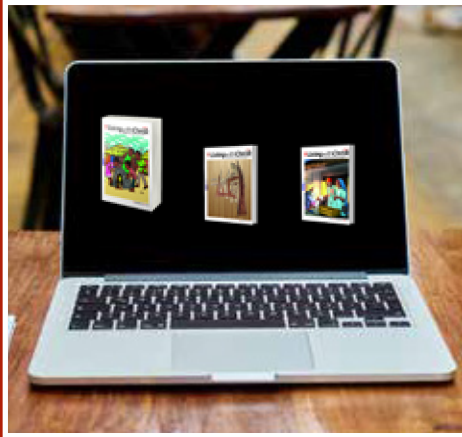
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