

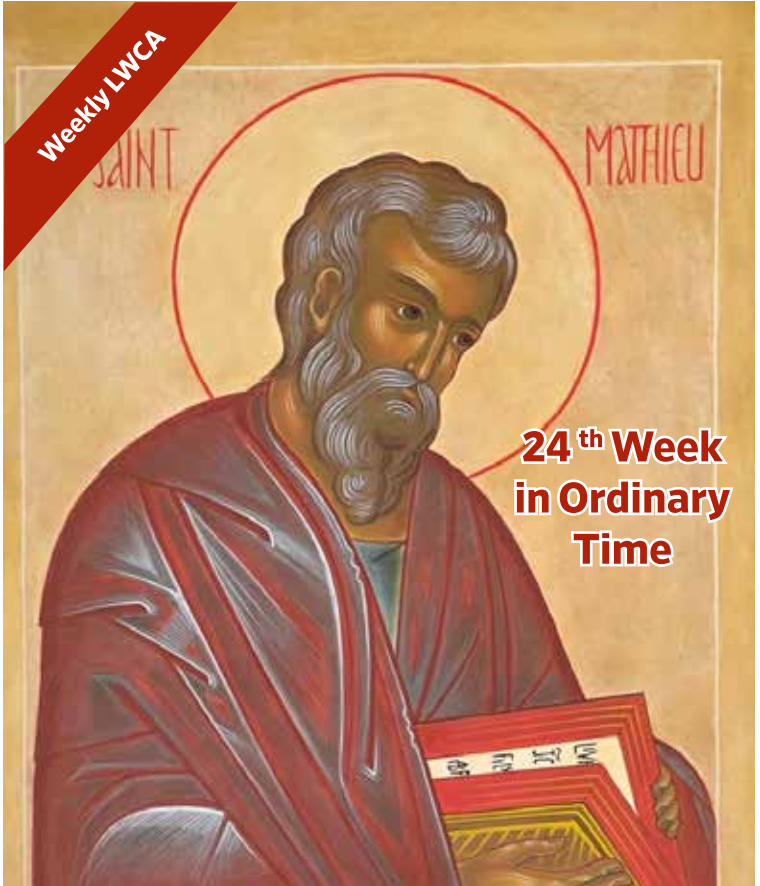
AFRICA

Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

bayard africque



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Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: Saint Matthew the Apostle

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Editorial

September 2023



Rev. Fr. François Nzanzu, a.a. Nairobi-Kenya

To Forgive Others without Limit

This week the church focuses its teaching on forgiveness. There is a popular saying that “to err is human, while to forgive is divine”. That is to say, that the one who sins acts humanly because it is part of our attributes as humans to err or to sin. On the other hand, the one who forgives acts divinely. This is because, to forgive is to participate in a very important attribute and nature of God.

The fact that we are all sinners, we need God’s forgiveness. So, for us to be forgiven, first, we must forgive others. Christian forgiveness does not have limits. We must forgive all, always and forever. We must forgive, because God forgives us every day. Jesus tells us to forgive all, and forever. This means to restore unity, to believe that it is possible to walk together towards a common goal. It means to heal a wound, without leaving a scar. Finally, he who forgives acts like Christ.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

For people living on the margins: We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

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

The Liturgy of the Eucharist: the Communion Rite

The communion rite goes from the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) to the Prayer after Communion. The Lord's prayer is very significant in the Holy Mass. Every Eucharistic celebration gathers all the people into one. As stated in the previous focus on the liturgy, the aim of the Eucharist is the building of the community: ***"...grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with the Holy Spirit, may become one body and one Spirit in Christ"***. The Lord's prayer is recited or sung by God's children who are aware of belonging to the same Father. Some theologians sustain that it is the most important prayer of the Eucharistic celebration since it is the Lord himself who taught it to his disciples.

After the Lord's prayer, the liturgy foresees the prayer for peace followed by the sign of peace. It must be in line with the local customs. The sign of peace should not be an occasion for the assembly to shout and move from one place to another, creating confusion in

the liturgy. For this sign to maintain its meaning the faithful must perform it with calmness. Furthermore, it is important to know that the sign of peace is not compulsory. The rubric in the Missal is clear about that: “**«Then, if appropriate, the Deacon, or the Priest, adds»:** let us offer each other the sign of peace”. In some contexts, the sign of peace may be abolished; one of the major reasons being an epidemic or a pandemic like coronavirus. Contamination must be avoided in the Eucharistic celebration.

While offering each other the sign of peace, the faithful sing or recite the *Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)*. The faithful prepare themselves to have the Body and the Blood of Jesus Christ. We don't deserve to receive such a great gift. That is why there is need for the assembly to ask for forgiveness before receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. In the Catholic Church there are two ways of receiving the Holy Communion: in the hand or on the tongue. But in some circumstances and for some reasons, the episcopal conference of the bishops of a specific country or a bishop of a given diocese may decide to abolish the reception of the Communion on the tongue.

While the celebrant and the other ministers distribute the Holy Communion to the faithful, the choir sings a Communion Antiphon or any other song that is in link with the celebration. After the distribution of the communion, the Missal foresees a sacred silence, or a psalm or other canticle of praise or a hymn. In some African dioceses, the choir sings a thanksgiving song to express gratitude to the Lord for the graces received in the Eucharistic celebration.

The prayer after Communion is the very last element of the Communion rite. In general, this prayer makes a connection between the Eucharistic celebration and life. In fact, liturgy is life. The faithful are invited to put into practice what they hear in the readings and in the homely. They are also invited to become what they receive.

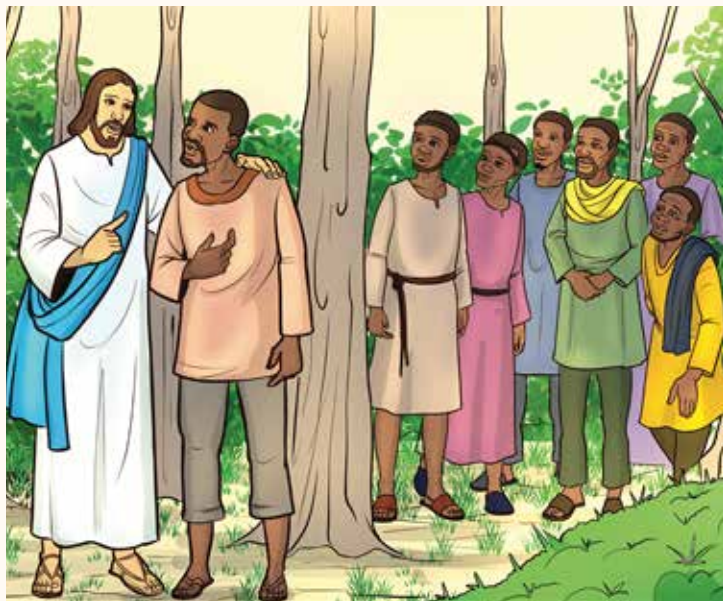
Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. Kombi,
Kinshasa, D.R. Congo



Sunday September 17

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Sirach 27: 30- 28: 7 / Psalm 103: 1-2. 3-4. 9-10. 11-12 (8) /
Romans 14: 7-9 / Matthew 18: 21-35*



“So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” (Matthew 18: 35)



Forgiveness of Offenses

Sometimes it seems to be a difficult task to forgive someone who hurt us or caused damage in our lives. The message of our readings today is a call to forgive one another whatever the damage to us may be. In the first reading, Sirach asks us to forgive our neighbor the wrong he has done to us so that our sins may be pardoned when we pray. For him, there is no need to harbour anger and to maintain wrath against another and seek for healing and forgiveness from the Lord at the same time. We should not be angry with our neighbour because anger and wrath are abominations to avoid if we want also to be forgiven by God.

In the gospel today, Peter asked Jesus how often one must forgive, seven times? Jesus answered: “No, not seven time but seventy times seven times...” Notice that in the rabbinic teaching it was that a man must forgive his brother three times only. And in the Old Testament forgiveness was limited to three times. Peter wants to be more generous in stretching the number to seven. But Jesus says: “No, not seven times, but seventy times seven times.” In other words, for Jesus forgiveness must unlimited, that we should



Sunday September 17

always forgiveness. Forgiveness must be without limit for a Christian. The willingness to forgive others is the greatest test of an authentic Christianity.

In his reply to Peter, Jesus tells the story about forgiveness involving an unjust steward who, after being forgiven by the King, was unable to forgive his fellow servant. With this parable Jesus is telling us that if we ourselves want to receive mercy from God, we must show mercy to those who offend us. To be forgiven, we must forgive. Just as God has forgiven us through the death of Jesus, so also we must forgive others. If we forgive others, we shall also be forgiven. If we do not forgive others, we shall not also be forgiven.

Rev. Fr. Derrick Hammond, Ghana



Entrance Antiphon

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Collect

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (Sirach 27:30-28:7)

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Anger and wrath, these also are abominations, and the sinful man will possess them. He that takes vengeance will suffer vengeance from the Lord, and he will firmly establish his sins. Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray. Does a man harbour anger against another, and yet seek for healing from the Lord? Does he have no mercy towards a man like himself, and yet pray for his own sins? If he himself, being flesh, maintains wrath, will he then seek forgiveness from God? Who will make expiation for his sins? Remember the end of your life, and cease from enmity, remember destruction and death, and be true



Sunday September 17

to the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not be angry with your neighbour; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook ignorance. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm _____
(Psalm (102) 103:1-2.3-4.9-10.11-12)

The Lord is mer-ci-ful and gra-cious; slow to
an - ger, and a-bound-ing in stead - fast love.

R. The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits. *R.*



It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion. R.

He will not always find fault;
nor persist in his anger forever.
He does not treat us according to our sin,
nor repay us according to our faults. R.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so strong his mercy for those who fear him.
As far the east is from the west,
so far from us does he remove our transgressions. R.

Second Reading (Romans 14:7-9)—————

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brethren: None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

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



Sunday September 17

Acclamation (*John 13:34*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, even as I have love you. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*Matthew 18:21-35*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. ‘Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. “But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owned him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went



and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. “When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

℟. **Lord, hear us!**

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

For good witnesses of the word of God in Africa and all over the world; for fruitful apostolates and pastoral works, let us pray to the Lord our God. ℟.



Sunday September 17

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

For peace, mercy, security and the end of conflicts and killings in the world, let us pray to the Lord our God. *R.*

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these, your servants' offerings, that what each has offered to the honour of your name may serve the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon (*Ps (35) 36:8*)

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Prayer after Communion

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Monday September 18

24th week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Sirach 36:18) Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Collect

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(1 Timothy 2:1-8)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved: First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.



For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony to which was given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm (27) 28)

R. Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard the sound of my appeal.

Hear the voice of my pleading as I call to you for help, as I raise my hands toward your holy place. R.

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts. I was helped; my heart rejoices, and I praise him with my song. R.

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for his anointed. Save your people and bless your heritage. Shepherd them and carry them forever. 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 not perish but have eternal life. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(Luke 7:1-10)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: After Jesus had ended all his sayings in the hearing of the people he entered Capernaum. Now a centurion had a slave who was dear to him, who was sick and at the point of death. When he heard of Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his slave. And when they came to Jesus, they begged him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation, and he built us our synagogue." And Jesus went with them.

When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this he marvelled at him, and turned and said to the multitude that followed him, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave well.



Monday September 18

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these, your servants' offerings, that what each has offered to the honour of your name may serve the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (35) 36:8) **How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.**

or

(1 Corinthians 10:16)

The chalice of blessing that we bless is a communion in the Blood of Christ; and the bread that we break is a sharing in the Body of the Lord.

**Prayer after Communion**

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that

its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Healing of the Centurion's Slave**Commentary**

Luke 7: 1-10

The gospel is about the healing of a Centurion's slave. The Centurion believed that Jesus could heal his slave. As a person, he had good reputation and relationships with his neighbors. He was a generous man of good actions. He built the synagogue for the people. He cared for the health of his slave and sent the elders to ask Jesus to come and heal his slave. The elders and the centurion are examples of a prayer of intercession done in favor of other persons. Let us imitate them.

Rev. Fr. Derrick Hammond, Ghana



Tuesday September 19

24th week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: Saint Januarius, bishop, optional memorial

Entrance Antiphon

(Sirach 36:18) **Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.**

Collect

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Reading

(1 Timothy 3:1-13)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved: The saying is sure: if any one aspires to the office of bishop, he desires a noble task. Now a bishop must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, sensible, dignified, hospitable, an apt teacher, no drunkard, no violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and no lover of money. He must

manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every day; for if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how can he care for God's Church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may be puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil; moreover he must be well thought of by outsiders, or he may fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for gain; they must hold the mystery of the faith with a clean conscience. And let them also be tested first; then if they prove themselves blameless let them serve as deacons. The

women likewise must be serious, no slanders, but temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husband of one wife, and let them manage their children and their households well; for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
 (Psalm (100) 101)***

R. I walk with blameless heart.

I sing of merciful love and justice; I raise a psalm to you, O Lord. I will ponder the way of the

blameless. O when will you come to me? R.

I will walk with blameless heart within my house; I will not set before my eyes whatever is base. R.

Whoever slanders a neighbour in secret I will bring to silence. Proud eyes and haughty heart I will never endure. R.

My eyes are on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me. The one who walks in the way of the blameless shall be my servant. R.

Acclamation

(Luke 7:16)

Alleluia. Alleluia. A great prophet has risen among us, and God has visited his people. **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____ *(Luke 7:11-17)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep,” And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother.

Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!” And this report concerning him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these, your servants’ offerings, that what each has offered to the honour of your name may serve the

salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (35) 36:8) **How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.**

or

(1 Corinthians 10:16)

The chalice of blessing that we bless is a communion in the Blood of Christ; and the bread that we break is a sharing in the Body of the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that

its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Compassion of Jesus

Commentary

Luke 7:11-17

Today's gospel is about the raising of the widow's son. Jesus was moved with pity and compassion when he saw the funeral crowd carrying the body of the widow's only son. Compassion is to suffer with, putting ourselves in the place of another person and experience what he or she feels in a difficult situation. On seeing the widow, Jesus suffered with her who not only lost her husband but now her only son. Compassion moved him to act and restore the life to her son. How compassionate are we?

Rev. Fr. Derrick Hammond, Ghana



Wednesday September 20

24th week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saints Andrew Kim Taegon, and companions, martyrs

Entrance Antiphon

The blood of the holy Martyrs was poured out for Christ upon the earth; therefore they have gained everlasting rewards.

Collect

O God, who have been pleased to increase your adopted children in all the world, and who made the blood of the Martyrs Saint Andrew Kim Tae-gon and his companions a most fruitful seed of Christians, grant that we may be

defended by their help and profit always from their example. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— **(1 Timothy 3:14-16)**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved: I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to

behave in the household of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion: He was manifested in me flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations; believed on in the world, taken up in glory. The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (110) 111)

R. Great are the works of the Lord.

or: Alleluia.

I will praise the Lord with all my heart, in the meeting

of the just and the assembly. Great are the works of the Lord, to be pondered by all who delight in them. *R.*

Majestic and glorious his work; his justice stands firm forever. He has given us a memorial of his wonders. The Lord is gracious and merciful. *R.*

He gives food to those who fear him; keeps his covenant ever in mind. His mighty works he has shown to his people by giving them the heritage of nations. *R.*

Acclamation

(John 6:63c.68c)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Your words, Lord are Spirit and life; you have the words of eternal life. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(Luke 7:31-35)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said, “To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the market place and calling to one another, ‘We piped to you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.’ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of man has come eating and drinking; and you say, ‘Behold, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners! Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.’” The Gospel

of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, almighty God, on the offerings of your people and, through the intercession of the blessed Martyrs, grant that we ourselves may become a sacrifice acceptable to you for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Matthew 10:32) **Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father, says the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

Nourished with the food of the valiant as we celebrate

the blessed Martyrs, we humbly ask you, O Lord, that, clinging faithfully to Christ, we may labour in the Church for the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Criticism against God's Messengers

Commentary

Luke 7: 31-35

Sometimes we like to judge and criticize others. Today Jesus denounces people's indifferent, judgmental and critical attitude. His contemporaries were too critical of his teachings and deeds and indifferent towards the gospel message and messengers. They criticized those who took on leadership positions in the Christian community. Jesus was accused of loving earthly pleasures as he shared the life and all activities of men. Let us ask ourselves if we are we too critical towards God's messengers.

Rev. Fr. Derrick Hammond, Ghana



Thursday September 21

24th week in Ordinary Time

Feast

Saint Matthew, apostle

Entrance Antiphon

(Matthew 28:19-20) **Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, says the Lord.**

The Gloria is said.

Collect

O God, who with untold mercy were pleased to choose as an Apostle Saint Matthew, the tax collector, grant that, sustained by his example and intercession, we may merit to hold firm

in following you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Ephesians 4:1-7.11-13)*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brethren: I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the

unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

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

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (18) 19:2-3.4-5)

R. Their sound goes forth through all the earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims the work of his hands. Day unto day conveys the message, and night unto night imparts the knowledge. R.

No speech, no word, whose voice goes unheeded; their sound goes forth through all the earth, their message to the utmost bounds of the world. R.

Acclamation

Alleluia. Alleluia. We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as the Lord; the glorious band of

apostles sings your praise,
O Lord! **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____
(Matthew 9:9-13)

**A reading from the holy
Gospel according to Mat-
thew**

At that time: As Jesus passed on, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a

physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

The Gospel of the Lord.
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

As we celebrate anew the memory of Saint Matthew, we bring you sacrifices and prayers, O Lord, humbly imploring you to look kindly on your Church, whose faith you have nourished by the preaching of the Apostles. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

**(Matthew 9:13) I did not
come to call the just but
sinners, says the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

Sharing in that saving joy, O Lord, with which Saint Matthew welcomed the Saviour as a guest in his home, we pray: grant that we may always be

renewed by the food we receive from Christ, who came to call not the just, but sinners to salvation. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The call of Matthew

Commentary

Matthew 9: 9-13

Today is the feast of Matthew. He was a tax collector. We can learn from him: first, his readiness to respond to Jesus' call. When Jesus called him, he got up and followed him. Second, the voice of God can reach us in all the circumstances of our lives even when we are busy with our work. Jesus called him from his customs office. Third, Jesus calls everyone, even sinners, to follow him on the way to life. He calls sinners to heal and transform them into his disciples.

Rev. Fr. Derrick Hammond, Ghana



Friday September 22

24th week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Sirach 36:18) Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Collect

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(1 Timothy 6:2c-12)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved: Teach and urge these duties. If any one teaches otherwise and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching with accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit, he knows nothing; he has a morbid craving for controversy and for disputes about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander,

base suspicions, and wrangling among men who are depraved in mind and bereft of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. There is great gain in godliness with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world; but if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and hurtful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced their hearts with many pangs.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (48) 49)***

**R. Blessed are the poor
in spirit, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.**

Why should I fear in evil days the malice of the foes who surround me, those who trust in their wealth, and boast of the vastness of their riches? R.

No man can ransom a brother, nor pay a price to God for his life. How high is the price of his soul! The ransom can never be enough! No one can buy life unending, nor avoid coming to the grave. R.

Then do not fear when a man grows rich when the glory of his house increases, he takes nothing with him when he dies; his glory does not follow him below. R.

Though he flattered himself while he lived, "People will praise me for all my success," yet he will go to join his forebears, and will never see the light any more. R.

Acclamation

(Matthew 11:25)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————

(Luke 8:1-3)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus went on through cities and villages, preaching and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons

had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these, your servants' offerings, that what each has offered to the honour of your name may serve the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (35) 36:8) **How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.**

or

(1 Corinthians 10:16)

The chalice of blessing that we bless is a communion in the Blood of Christ; and the bread that we break is a sharing in the Body of the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that

its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Converted Women Follow and Help Jesus

Commentary

Luke 8: 1-3

In his journey of announcing the good news, Jesus heals people with evil spirits and various diseases, among them Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Susanna. These women were healed, gave up worldly things and followed Jesus. If you believe that Jesus is your Savior and God, you will be with him and you will be healed of your illnesses. Jesus helps people to change their ways. These women converted and became great supporters of the ministry of Jesus and the Twelve providing them out of their resources.

Rev. Fr. Derrick Hammond, Ghana



Saturday September 23

24th week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, priest

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in my distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who, by a singular grace, gave the Priest Saint Pius a share in the Cross of your Son and by means of his ministry, renewed the wonders of your mercy, grant that, through his intercession, we may be

united constantly to the sufferings of Christ, and so brought happily to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading _____ **(1 Timothy 6:13-16)**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved: In the presence of God who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus who in his testimony



before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ; and this will be made manifest at the proper time by the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has ever seen or can see. To him be honour and eternal dominion. **Amen.** The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (99) 100:1- 2.3.4.5)

**R. Come before the Lord,
singing for joy.**

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy. **R.**

Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us; we belong to him. We are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with songs of praise. Give thanks to him, and bless his name. **R.**

Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age. **R.**

Acclamation (*Luke 8:15*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____ (*Luke 8:4-15*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: When a great crowd came together and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered

away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said this, he called out, “he who has ears to hear, let him hear.” And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from



their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit

with patience.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive with favour, O Lord we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (117) 118:4-5) **You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept. May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.**

Prayer after Communion

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this Sacrament, that we may come to possess your

redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Commentary

The Parable of the Sower

Luke 8: 4-15

In the gospel Jesus tells us about the Parable of the Sower. This story teaches us how the word of God we listen to grows in our hearts. The four different kinds of soil are the kind of hearts which receive the word of God. God is the sower and the seed is the word of God. Some hearts are sterile and others are fertile. If the seed finds fertile soil in our hearts, if our hearts are generous, open and available for the word of God, it will bear much fruit. So, the question is: what kind of heart is yours?

Rev. Fr. Derrick Hammond, Ghana



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Growing up Daily with the Good News