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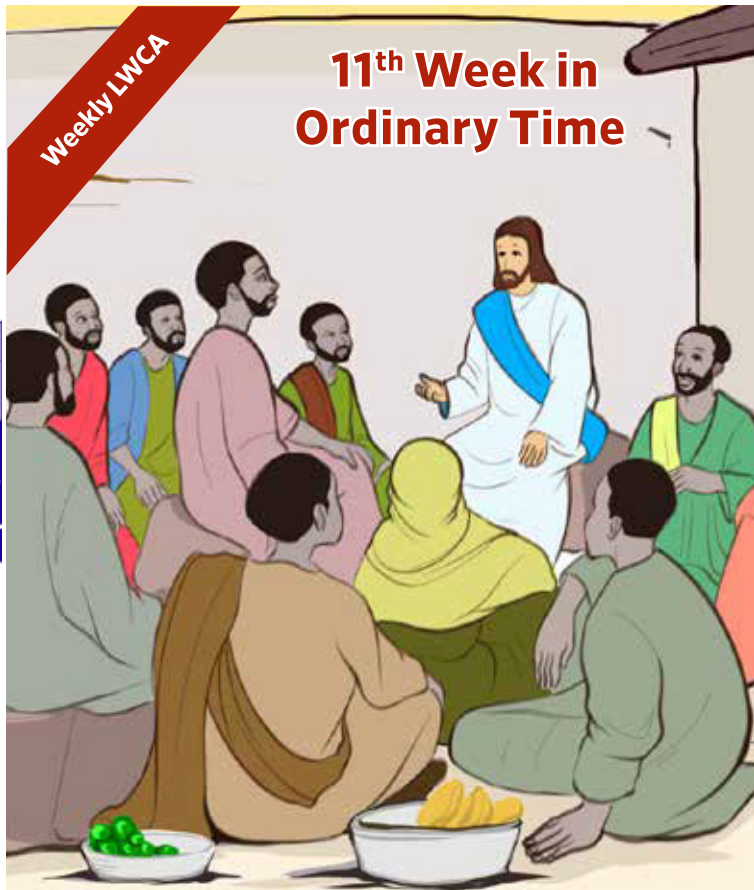
# Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

## 11<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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Living with Christ June 2023

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#### **Liturgical texts:**

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**On our cover:** Jesus teaching his disciples

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# Editorial

June 2023



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

## God's Presence in our "Ordinary Life"

Following the celebration of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ we enter in the Ordinary time of the Church. We are in the eleventh week in Ordinary Time - the part of the liturgical year where Christ walks with us in our ordinary life-

The liturgical colour for Ordinary Time is green. Green colour symbolizes hope. It represents a time of growth and expansion of the Church following the death and resurrection of Jesus. Green colour is a symbol of growth and new life. The 34 weeks of Ordinary Time contain the rest of Jesus' earthly ministry and some of the major events of the Gospels: The miracles, the parables, the calling of the twelve, the sermon on the mount, the bread of life discourse are some of the issues the gospels deal with during the ordinary time to show the ongoing presence of God in our daily life. We are called to be active participants, living our everyday life with Jesus.



# The Pope's Prayer Intention

***For the abolition of torture:*** We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

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

### **The Liturgy of the Word** *(second part)*

**A**fter the reading of the Gospel, the priest or the deacon gives the homily. According to the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 52), *the homily is to be highly esteemed as part of the liturgy itself; in fact, at those Masses which are celebrated with the assistance of the people on Sundays and feasts of obligation, it should not be omitted except for a serious reason.* In general, a homily is an explanation of the readings. It can also be an explanation of any other liturgical text like the collect, the prayer over the offerings, the preface, the prayer after Communion, etc.

In light of the above, the homily should not be substituted with a meeting during which the celebrant invites the faithful to fund some Parish projects. The homily cannot be considered as an exercise of fraternal correction or a message addressed to a particular person in the assembly. Such deviations must be avoided.

It is important to know that the homily must be given by a priest or a deacon, but never by a layperson. It is important to clarify this liturgical rule. Saying that the

homily cannot be given by a layperson does not mean that a lay person cannot intervene in some contexts. Sometimes it happens that the priest or the deacon cannot give the homily due to a language barrier. In this case, a well-prepared layperson like a catechist can share the word of God. In liturgy, the context must be taken into account in order to avoid some exaggerations.

After the homily, a moment of silence should be observed in order to give the faithful an opportunity to internalise the message that they have heard and to pray that the Lord may give them the grace to put into practice what they have heard. That moment of silence is also meant to let the Holy Spirit continue teaching the faithful since the celebrant cannot exhaust God's Word.

After the moment of silence, it is time for the profession of Faith or Creed. According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, *the purpose of the Creed is that the congregation may respond to the Word of God as proclaimed. The congregation also honors and confess the great mysteries of faith by pronouncing the rule of faith in a formula approved for liturgical use and before the*

*celebration of these mysteries in the Eucharist begins.* There are two formulas that can be used: The Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed which is longer and the Apostles' Creed which is shorter.

After the profession of faith, there is the Universal Prayer or the Prayer of the Faithful. The assembly responds to the Word of God and offer prayers to God. Petitions are offered for the needs of the Church, for the public authorities, for the burdened by any kind of difficulty and for the local community. The celebrant begins the Prayer of the Faithful with an introduction and concludes it with prayer.

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



# Sunday June 18

## 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Exodus 19: 2-6a/ Psalm 100: 1-2. 3. 5 (3c)/ Romans 5: 6-11/  
Matthew 9: 36- 10: 8*



...“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.”  
(Mathew 9:37)





## *While we Were yet Sinners....*

**I**n human wisdom, good is rewarded and evil deed or sins or mistakes are punished. In fact, the best you can get out of making a mistake or committing a sin is nothing (no punishment or reward). But the dynamics of how God treats us is quite different. When scripture says while we were still sinners Christ died for us....it is saying that God is even more generous to sinners. Why will he do that? Does that not encourage them in their sin and mistakes? Come to think of it: who needs more resources? The student who is struggling academically or the one who is good.

In human logic we would say let's invest in the good student so we don't throw money away; in God's wisdom he invests in the weak one that he may also become strong. God seeks a balance, he does not only love that which is lovable but he loves that which is repulsive that he may pick them up, clean them and make them beautiful. Jesus has an eye for the rejected.

The word compassion describes two things: one who feels the pain and frustration of people and not only that but shares in the suffering as well. And secondly, when we transliterate



**Sunday June 18**

the Latin word for mercy (misericordia), one arrives at the meaning: one whose heart is drawn to the miserable state of others. God is drawn to our miserable state, but he does so because he also knows how he can make us beautiful. As my spiritual director in the seminary used to say; God does not call the qualified but calls us to qualify us.

***Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Tema-Ghana***



**Entrance Antiphon** (*Psalm 26:7.9*)

**Hear my voice, O Lord, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!**

**Collect**

O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading** (*Exodus 19:2-6a*)

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**A reading from the Book of Exodus**

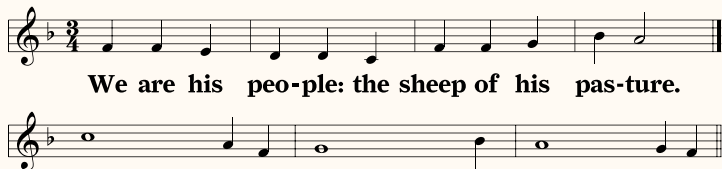
In those days: When the people of Israel came into the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped before the mountain. And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Sons of Israel: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth



**Sunday June 18**

is mine, and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm*** —————  
***(Psalm 100:1-2.3.5 (R. 3c))***



**R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

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

***Second Reading (Romans 5:6-11)*****A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brethren: While we were yet helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man — though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Acclamation (Mark 1:15)***

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** The kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel. **Alleluia.**



**Sunday June 18**

***Gospel (Matthew 9:36-10:8)*** —————

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

At that time: When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest,” And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iseariot, who betrayed him. These Twelve Jesus sent out, charging them; “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And preach as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without pay, give without pay.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**The creed is said.**



## **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 in Africa and all over the world; for fruitful apostolates and pastoral works let us pray to the Lord our God. R.

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. R.

For peace, mercy, security and terrorism in some parts of Africa, let us pray to the Lord our God. R.

## **Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the two fold needs of human nature, nourishing us with food and renewing us with your Sacrament, grant, we



**Sunday June 18**

pray, that the- sustenance they provide may not fail us in body or in spirit. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon** (*Psalm 26:4*)

**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.**

*Or: - (Jn17:11)*

**Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me, that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.**

**Prayer after Communion**

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union of the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





# Monday June 19

11<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## **Ferial**

*Or: St Romuald, optional memorial*

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Ps (25) 26)* **Hear my voice,  
O Lord, for I have called to  
you; be my help. Do not  
abandon or forsake me, O  
God, my Saviour!**

### **Collect**

O God, strength of those  
who hope in you, graciously  
hear our pleas, and since  
without you mortal frailty  
can do nothing, grant us  
always the help of your  
grace, that in following  
your commands we may  
please you by our resolve

and our deeds. Through our  
Lord. **Amen.**

### **Reading** ————— **(2 Corinthians 6:1-10)**

**A reading from the second  
Letter of Saint Paul to the  
Corinthians**

Brethren: Working together  
with Christ, we entreat you  
not to accept the grace of  
God in vain. For he says, "At  
the acceptable time I have  
listened to you, and helped  
you on the day of salvation."  
Behold, now is the acceptable



time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labours, watching, hunger; by purity knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet

always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm——  
(Psalm (97) 98)***

**R. The Lord has made known his salvation.**

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 songs, and sing out your praise. R.

## Acclamation

*(Ps (118) 119)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light for my path.  
**Alleluia.**

## Gospel ————— *(Matthew 5:38-42)*

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

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if any

would sue you and take your coat, let him have cloak as well; and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the two fold needs of human nature, nourishing us with food and renewing us with your Sacrament, grant, we pray, that the sustenance they provide may not fail us in body or in spirit. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Communion Antiphon

*(Ps (25) 26)* **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.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

As this reception of your  
Holy Communion, O Lord,

foreshadows the union of  
the faithful in you, so may  
it bring about unity in your  
Church. Through Christ  
our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Grace in Vain**

### **Commentary**

**2 Corinthians 6:1-10**

God's grace is a powerful help offered to us in order for us to live a fulfilled life and produce fruit. Yet though powerful, in the wrong "hands" it may yield no fruit. This does not mean this grace is powerless but the recipient makes it look that way. We render the grace of God vain when we don't use it; abuse it; don't cooperate with the grace; or fan into flames these gifts. This grace is what makes a person turn his left cheek when the right cheek has been struck.

***Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Tema-Ghana***



# Tuesday June 20

11<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## Entrance Antiphon

*(Ps (25) 26)* Hear my voice,  
O Lord, for I have called to  
you; be my help. Do not  
abandon or forsake me, O  
God, my Saviour!

## Collect

O God, strength of those  
who hope in you, graciously  
hear our pleas, and since  
without you mortal frailty  
can do nothing, grant us  
always the help of your  
grace, that in following  
your commands we may  
please you by our resolve  
and our deeds. Through  
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading

*(2 Corinthians 8:1-9)*

A reading from the second  
Letter of Saint Paul to the  
Corinthians

We want you to know,  
brethren, about the grace  
of God which has been  
shown in the churches of  
Macedonia, for in a severe  
test of affliction, their  
abundance of joy and their  
extreme poverty have  
overflowed in a wealth  
of liberality on their part.  
For they gave according  
to their means, as I can  
testify, and beyond their  
means of their own free  
will, begging us earnestly

for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints –and this, not as we expected but first they gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. Accordingly, we have urged Titus that as he had already made a beginning, he should also complete among you this gracious work. Now as you excel in everything – in faith, in utterance, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in your love for us – see that you excel in this gracious work also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by

his poverty you might become rich. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm <sup>(145)</sup> 146)***

**R. My soul, give praise to the Lord!  
or Alleluia.**

My soul, give praise to the Lord; I will praise the Lord all my life, sing praise to my God while I live. R.

Blessed is he who is helped by Jacob's God, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made the heavens and the earth, the seas and all they contain. R.



It is the Lord who preserves fidelity forever, who does justice to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free. *R.*

It is the Lord who opens the eyes of the blind, the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger. *R.*

### **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 loved you. **Alleluia.**

### **Gospel** ————— *(Matthew 5:43-48)*

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

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even tax collectors do the same? And if you salute only your brethren, what

more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the two fold needs of human nature, nourishing us with food and renewing

us with your Sacrament, grant, we pray, that the sustenance they provide may not fail us in body or in spirit. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (25) 26)* **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.**



**Prayer after Communion**

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union of

the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Christian Love  
Stands out****Commentary****Matthew 5:43-48**

The expression of love for each other is present in all religions. What makes Christian love exceptional is the fact that it is not only directed at those who love us but to our enemies. This is challenging, yet this is the true value of love modelled after divine love, which is aimed at both good and bad. The church of Macedonia is an example of showing such love with their generosity. Remember you have not loved until you act for or in favor of the good of your enemy.

***Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Tema-Ghana***



# Wednesday June 21

11<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## Memorial

St Aloysius Gonzaga, religious

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Psalm (23) 24:4.3)* **The clean of hands and pure of heart shall climb the mountain of the Lord, and stand in his holy place.**

### Collect

O God, giver of heavenly gifts, who in Saint Aloysius Gonzaga joined penitence to a wonderful innocence of life, grant, through his merits and intercession, that, though we have failed to follow him in innocence, we may imitate

him in penitence. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Reading

**(2 Corinthians 9:6-11)**

**A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians**

Brethren: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly



or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm (111) 112)***

**R. Blessed the man who fears the Lord.**

Blessed the man who fears the Lord, who takes great delight in his commandments. His descendants shall be powerful on earth; the generation of the upright will be blest. R

Riches and wealth are in his house; his justice stands firm forever. A light rises in the darkness for the upright; he is generous, merciful and just. R

Open-handed, he gives to the poor; his justice stands firm forever. His might shall be exalted in glory. R

**Acclamation***(John 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** —————  
*(Matthew 6:1-6.16-18)*

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

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in

the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they



disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Grant us, O Lord, that by the example of Saint Aloysius, we may take

our place at the heavenly banquet, clothed always in our wedding garment, so that by the participation in this mystery, we may possess the riches of your grace. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

**God gave them bread from heaven; men ate the bread of angels.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Bring us who have been fed with the food of Angels, O Lord, to serve you in purity of life and, following the

example of Saint Aloysius, constant thanksgiving.  
whom we honour today, Through Christ our Lord.  
may we persevere in **Amen.**

## **The Law of Sowing and Reaping**

### **Commentary**

The general advice in life is that whatever you want to do, do it well; in a manner that you would have no regrets. We must really commit ourselves or give ourselves fully to things we are convinced about because that is the only way to reap the full benefits of whatever venture it may be. Is it prayer, is it fasting or charity? Nothing should be done sparingly because all these are offerings to God and him alone; not for vain glory or the praise of others.

***Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Tema-Ghana***



# Thursday June 22

11<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## **Ferial**

*Or: St Paulinus of Nola, bishop, optional memorial*

*Or: St John Fisher, bishop and Thomas More, martyrs, optional memorial*

## **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Ps (25) 26)* **Hear my voice,  
O Lord, for I have called  
to you; be my help. Do not  
abandon or forsake me, O  
God, my Saviour!**

## **Collect**

O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may

please you by our resolve and our deeds. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Reading** ————— **(2 Corinthians 11:1-11)**

**A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians**

Brethren: I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed

you to Christ to present you as a pure bride to her one husband. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if some one comes and preaches another Jesus than the one we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you submit to it readily enough. I think that I am not in the least inferior to these superlative apostles. Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not in knowledge; in every way we have made this plain to you in all things. Did I commit

a sin in abasing myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel without cost to you? I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in want, I did not burden any one, for my needs were supplied by the brethren who came from Macedonia. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. As the truth of Christ is in me, this boast of mine shall not be silenced in the regions of Achaia. And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**





**Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm (110) 111)**

**R.** The Lord's handiwork is justice and truth.

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.**

His handiwork is justice and truth; his precepts are all of them sure, standing firm forever and ever, wrought in uprightness and truth. **R.**

**Acclamation**

*(Romans 8:15bc)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** You have received the spirit of sonship; in him we cry, "Abba! Father!" **Alleluia.**

**Gospel —**

*(Matthew 6:7-15)*

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

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "In praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy

name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For if you forgive men their trespasses, our heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the two fold needs of human nature, nourishing us with food and renewing us with your Sacrament, grant, we pray, that the sustenance they provide may not fail us in body or in spirit. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (25) 26)* **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.**

**Prayer after Communion**

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union

of the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Prayer****Commentary**

What is prayer? How does one pray? What makes prayer effective? These are core questions concerning our faith. It seems that prayer has taken a style in this generation such that anyone who prays differently is seen as not effectively praying. It is hard to tell if communication is effective between two people when you are not part of that conversation. It is not the shouting or the silence, but the application of mind and heart. Hence, no need for babbling.

***Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Tema-Ghana***



# Friday June 23

11<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## Entrance Antiphon

*(Psalm 26:7.9)* Hear my voice, O Lord, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

## Collect

O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading

*(2 Corinthians 11:18.21b-30)*

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brethren: Since many boast of worldly things, I too will boast. Whatever any one dares to boast of – I am speaking as a fool – I also dare to boast of that. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one – I am talking like a madman –



with far greater labours, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I have received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I have been beaten with rods; once I was stoned. Three times I have been shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brethren; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And apart from other

things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

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

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm 33) 34)***

**R. The Lord rescues them  
in all their distress.**

I will bless the Lord at all times, praise of him is always in my mouth. In the Lord my soul shall make its boats; 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.

### **Acclamation**

*(Matthew 5:3)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Blessed are the pure in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **Alleluia.**

### **Gospel** —————

*(Matthew 6:19-23)*

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

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the two fold needs of human nature, nourishing us with food and renewing us with your Sacrament, grant, we pray, that the sustenance they provide may not fail us in body or in spirit. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Psalm 26:4)* **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.**

*Or: (Jn17:11)*

**Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me, that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord,

foreshadows the union in your Church. Through  
of the faithful in you, so Christ our Lord. **Amen.**  
may it bring about unity

**Where your Treasure Is,  
there your Heart will Be  
also**

**Commentary**

Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be  
This is a rule for us to determine whether our hearts  
are with the Lord. In every situation, we give priority to  
what is essential to us or we give some preference to  
what we deem most important. Think of the lengths  
we go to, the struggle and sometimes pain because  
we want to achieve something and measure it with  
the things of God. See if the passion and drive is the  
same. Where lies your heart, determines your action.  
Paul is an example.

***Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Tema-Ghana***





# Saturday June 24

11<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## **Solemnity**

**Nativity of John the Baptist**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Jn 1:6-7; LK 1:17)* **A man was sent from God, whose name was John. He came to testify to the light, to prepare a people fit for the Lord.**

**The Gloria in excelsis is said.**

### **Collect**

O God, who raised up Saint John the Baptist to make ready a nation fit for Christ the Lord, give your people, we pray, the grace of spiritual joys and

direct the hearts of all the faithful into the way of salvation and peace. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **First Reading** ————— **(Isaiah 49:1-6)**

**A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

Listen to me, O islands, and pay attention, you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. He made

my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” But I said, “I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God.” And now the Lord says, who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength –he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob

and to restore the preserved of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm <sup>(138)</sup> 139:1-3.13-14.15 CR. 14a)***

***R. I thank you who  
wonderfully made me.***

O Lord, you search me and you know me. You yourself know my resting and my rising; you discern my thoughts from afar. You mark when I walk or lie down; you know all my ways through and through. *R.*

For it was you who formed my inmost being,

knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank you who wonderfully made me; how wonderful are your works, which my soul knows well! R.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being fashioned in secret and moulded in the depths of the earth. R.

## **Second Reading** ————— **(Acts 13:22-26)**

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

In those days: Paul said, "God raised up David to be our fathers' king; of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David, the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do

all my will.' Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised. Before his coming John had preached a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.' "Brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you that fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation." The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Acclamation** (Luke 1:76)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.  
**Alleluia.**

***Gospel*** —————  
***(Luke 1:57-66.80)***

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

Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbours and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said, “Not so; he shall be called John.” And they said to her, “None of your kindred is called by this name.” And they made signs

to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all marvelled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbours. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him. And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

We place these offerings on your altar, O Lord, to celebrate with fitting honour the nativity of him, who both foretold the coming of the world's Saviour and pointed him out when he came. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Preface: The mission of the Precursor.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. In his Precursor, Saint John the Baptist, we praise your great glory, for you consecrated him for a singular honour among those born of women.

His birth brought great rejoicing; even in the womb he leapt for joy at the coming of human salvation. He alone of all the prophets pointed out the Lamb of redemption. And to make holy the flowing waters he baptised the very author of Baptism and was privileged to bear him supreme witness by the shedding of his blood. And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Lk 1:78)* **Through the tender mercy of our God, the Dawn from on high will visit us.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Hear in your compassion our prayers, O Lord, that we have been brought from things of the past to new mysteries, so,

with former ways left behind, we may be made new in holiness of mind. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Called from Birth**

### **Commentary**

Are we purposed or we are because of chance? For a believer, every person is a thought from God right from conception and that is why we celebrate the birth of certain figures in Scriptures. This is not to say that they are special, and we are not but to remind us that our conception is God's will. We matter; more than just being the choice of our parents or a mistake from "unwanted" pregnancy", we are chosen and planned for. Therefore, "I praise you, for I am wonderfully made."

***Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Tema-Ghana***



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