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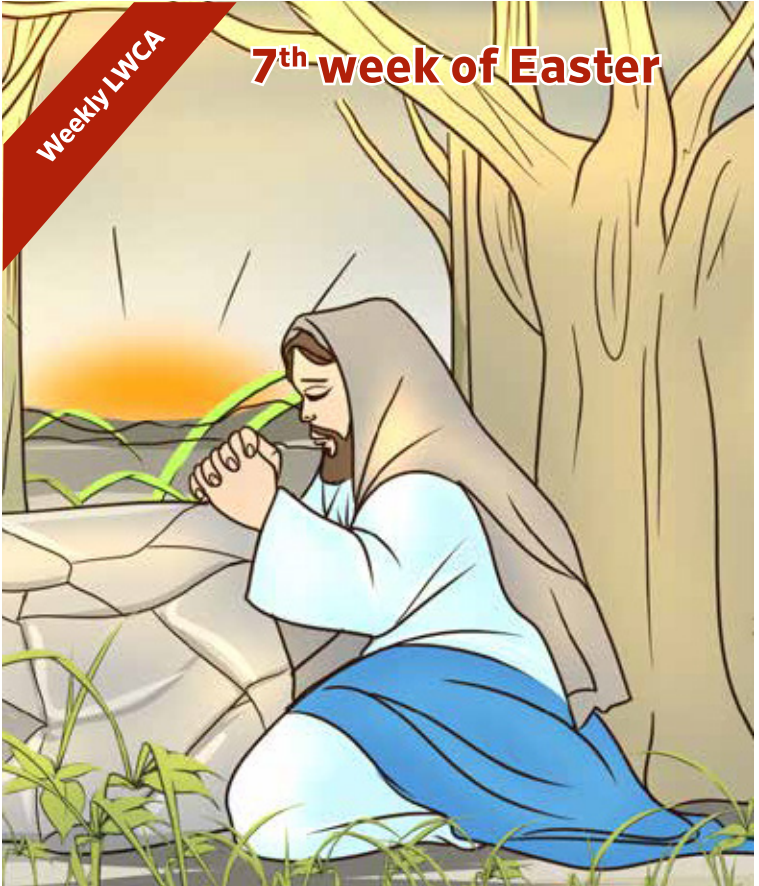
Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

7th week of Easter

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Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: Jesus in prayer.

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Editorial

May 2023



Rev. Fr. Walter C. Ihejirika, Nigeria

A Promise and a Mandate

We begin this week with the celebration of Ascension Sunday. Jesus Christ our Lord ascended into heaven after the successful completion of his earthly mission.

The readings present the last words of Christ on earth: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:1-11) “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Mt 28:16-20)

The last words of Jesus on earth were a promise and a mandate to be always present in the lives of his disciples and also to empower them through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Through *Living with Christ*, we experience his presence daily in our lives. and face each day with the power of the Holy Spirit.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

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

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

The Liturgy of the Word

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Sunday May 21

The Ascension of the Lord, Solemnity

*Acts 1: 1-11/ Ps (46) 47: 2-3. 6-7. 8-9 (6) / Ephesians 1: 17-23 /
Matthew 28: 16-20.*



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



Do Not Leave But Wait!

In the Catholic Church, waiting is a characteristic feature of the advent season but this virtue is not only important for the season of advent but also of Pentecost- Pentecost novena. A novena is a prayer in waiting and expectation. Jesus in the gospel tells his disciples to go out and make disciples, but before that happens he tells them not to leave but wait, why? It is obvious that when people are excited, they are in a hurry to share their excitement. I think of a very good football player that has been transferred to another club. Very often we see an attitude that says: “I can’t wait to prove myself”. It becomes disappointing when they are told to wait. Many reasons can account for this: either their documentations are not ready or the coach knowing how different the leagues are, would prefer he spends some few weeks watching and getting accustomed to this new environment. The wait is important even though everything may seem ready. God is like a coach. This is why after appearing to His disciples, knowing their excitement and deepest desire to work for Him, tells them not to rush off yet- Don’t leave, but wait.

I think of moments in prayer when sometimes after experiencing some consoling or even desolating moments



Sunday May 21

we are in a hurry to run off and get into the world to work for God. Today, he says don't leave yet, stay for a bit.

And why shouldn't you leave? why the wait? Because without God, our goodwill would just remain goodwill and we would never be able to put thoughts and words to action. There are moments when we really feel like doing something good and creating something and at that point, we are in a hurry to quickly start. There is a need to seek empowerment, otherwise we would run out of steam when we start. It is important especially in prayer, after you have said all you need to say to God, to wait and not to leave so that he can also communicate to you. Let this season of Pentecost Novena be a moment of empowerment.

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Tema-Ghana



Entrance Antiphon (*Acts 1:11*)

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

The Gloria is said.

Collect

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (*Acts 1:1-11*)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but



Sunday May 21

to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me, for John baptised with water, but before many days you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.” And when he said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —————
(Psalm (46) 47:2-3.6-7.8-9)



God has gone up with a shout, the
 Lord with the sound of a trum - pet.

R. God has gone up with shouts of joy.
 The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
or: Alleluia.

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

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

God is king of all the earth. / Sing praise with all your skill. / God reigns over the nations. / God sits upon his holy throne. **R.**



Sunday May 21

Second Reading (Ephesians 1:17-23) —————

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brethren: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might which he accomplished in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come; and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Acclamation (Matthew 28:19a.20b)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, to the close of the age. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel (Matthew 28:16-20)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age. 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.

℟. **Lord, hear us!**

For our Church in its mission to further the reign of God in the world, we pray to the Lord: ℟.

For charity and selflessness in our communities and societies, we pray to the Lord: ℟.



Sunday May 21

For strength and comfort for all who are suffering physically, spiritually or emotionally, we pray to the Lord: R.

For our parish community, challenged to see the face of Christ in everyone, we pray to the Lord: R.

Prayer over the Offerings

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Communion Antiphon (*Mt 28:30*)

Behold, I am with you always, even until the end of the age, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Monday May 22

7th week of Easter

Ferial

Or: St Rita of Cascia, religious, Optional memorial

Entrance Antiphon

(Acts 1:8) **You will receive the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon you, and you will be my witnesses, even to the ends of the earth, alleluia.**

Collect

May the power of the Holy Spirit come to us, we pray, O Lord, that we may keep your will faithfully in mind and express it in a devout way of life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Acts 19:1-8)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” and they said, “No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said, “Into what then



Monday May 22

were you baptised?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” And Paul said, “John baptised with baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm—
(Psalm (67) 68:2-3,4-5 ac.6-7ab)

**R. You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God.
or: Alleluia.**

Let God arise; let his foes be scattered. / Let those who hate him flee from his face. / As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; / like wax that melts before the fire, / so the wicked shall perish at the presence of God. R.

But the just shall rejoice at the presence of God; / they shall exult with glad rejoicing. / O sing to God; make music to his name. / The Lord is his name. R.

Father of orphans, defender of widows: / such is God in his holy place. / God gives the desolate a



home to dwell in; /he leads the prisoners forth into prosperity. 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 16:29-33)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: The disciples said to Jesus, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly, not in any figure! Now we know that you know all things, and need none to question you; by this we believe that

you came from God.” Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, every man to his home, and will leave me alone; yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus.**

Prayer over the Offerings

May this unblemished sacrifice purify us, O Lord, and impart to our minds the force of grace from on high. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 14:18;16:22) **I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come to you again, and your heart will rejoice, 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.**

Commentary

The Holy Spirit

Acts 19:1-8

We have never heard of the Holy Spirit. This is a statement that is true today. Many believers do not understand who the Holy Spirit is. We may have experienced Him but because we are not familiar with him, we do not recognize him. Everyone baptised has the Holy Spirit. This Spirit, operative in the Son, is what makes him conquer the world when everyone had abandoned him, and it is through the same Spirit that we would conquer the world (cf. Rom 8:37).

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Tema-Ghana



Tuesday May 23

7th week of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Rv 1:17-18) **I am the first and the last, I was dead and am now alive. Behold, I am alive for ever and ever, alleluia.**

Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty and merciful God, that the Holy Spirit, coming near and dwelling graciously within us, may make of us a perfect temple of his glory. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Acts 20:17-27)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: From Miletus Paul went to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the Church. And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you all the time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which befell me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything

that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance to God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, bound in the Spirit, not knowing what shall befall me there; except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may accomplish my course and ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that all you among whom I have gone about preaching the

kingdom will see my face no more. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (67) 68:10-11, 20-21)***

**R. You kingdoms of the
earth, sing to God.**

or: Alleluia.

You poured down, O God, a generous rain; / when your people languished, you restored their inheritance. /It was there that your flock began to dwell. /In your goodness,

O God, you provided for the poor. *R.*

Day after day, may the Lord be blest. /He bears our burdens; God is our saviour. /This God of ours is a God who saves. /The Lord our Lord provides an escape from death. *R.*

Acclamation

(John 14:16)

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

Gospel _____

(John 17:1-11a)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said: "Father, the hour has

come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made. "I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from

you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful with the sacrificial offerings, that through these acts of devotedness we may pass over to the glory of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 14:26) **The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of all I have told you, says the Lord, 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.**

The Prompting of The Holy Spirit**Commentary****Acts 20:17-27**

Paul tells the elders of the church of Ephesus how the Holy Spirit has directed his ministry, giving him warnings of challenges that lies ahead and now compelling him to go to Jerusalem. How does the Holy Spirit prompt and compel? This is one way the Holy Spirit works and prompts. It may be different for everyone but if we pay attention, we will see the Spirit of God always directing us.

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Tema-Ghana



Wednesday May 24

7th week of Easter

Ferial

Or: Our Lady, help of Christians, memorial

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (46) 47:2) All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy, alleluia.

Collect

Grant graciously to your Church, O merciful God, that, gathered by the Holy Spirit, she may be devoted to you with all her heart and united in purity of intent. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading _____

(Acts 20:28-38)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: Paul said to the elders of the Church of Ephesus, “Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you guardians, to feed the Church of the Lord which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves

will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to

those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And they all wept and embraced Paul and kissed him, sorrowing most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they should see his face no more. And they brought him to the ship. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (67) 68:33-35a.35b
and 36b)***

R. You kingdoms of the
earth, sing to God.

or: Alleluia.

Summon forth your
might, O God; /your might,
O God, which you have
shown for us. /From your
temple high in Jerusalem,
/kings will come to you
bringing their tribute. R.

You kingdoms of the
earth, sing to God, praise
the Lord /who rides on
the heavens, the ancient
heavens. /Behold, he
thunders his voice, his
mighty voice. /Come,
acknowledge the power of
God. R.

His glory is on Israel; /his
might is in the skies. /Blest
be God! R.

Acclamation

(John 17:17b.a)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Your
word, O Lord, is truth;
sanctify us in the truth.
Alleluia.

Gospel —————

(John 17:1-11a)

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

At that time: [Jesus lifted
up his eyes to heaven and
prayed, saying,] “Holy
Father, keep them in your
name, which you have given
me, that they may be one,
even as we are one. While
I was with them, I kept
them in your name, which

you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world; even as I am not of the world. I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be consecrated in

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the sacrifices instituted by your commands, and through the sacred mysteries, which we celebrate as our dutiful service, graciously complete the sanctifying work by which you have willed to redeem us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 15:26-27) **When the Paraclete comes, whom I will send you, the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me, and you also will bear**

witness, says the Lord, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

May our partaking of this divine Sacrament, O Lord, constantly increase your

grace within us, and by cleansing us with its power, make us always ready to receive so great a gift. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Spirit of Truth

Commentary

Acts 20:28-38

The Church believes that the Holy Spirit assist the magisterium in preserving and transmitting the truths of faith. Hence doctrines that are taught by the church are also inspired and guarded by the same spirit. This is the concern of Paul, that when he is gone, there will be false teaching from within and without. The only way to guard against such teachings is to hold on to the traditions we have received from the inspiration of the Spirit. An important element of unity is unity in faith and truth.

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Tema-Ghana



Thursday May 25

7th Week of Easter

Ferial

or: **St Venerable Bede, priest and doctor, Optional memorial**

or: **St Gregory VII, priest, Optional memorial**

or: **St Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, virgin, Optional memorial**

Entrance Antiphon

(Heb 4:16) **With boldness let us approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace as a timely help, alleluia.**

Collect

May your Spirit, O Lord, we pray, imbue us powerfully with spiritual gifts, that he may give us a mind pleasing to you, and graciously conform us to your will. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Acts 22:30; 23:6-11)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: Desiring to know the real reason why the Jews accused Paul, the tribune unbound him, and commanded the chief priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set him before them. But when Paul perceived that one part were

Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, ‘Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead I am on trial.’ And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit; but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. Then a great clamour arose; and some of the scribes of the Pharisees’ party stood up and contended, “We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?” And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn in pieces by them, commanded the

soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them and bring him into the barracks. The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified about me at Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also at Rome.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (15) 16:1-2a and
5.7-8.9-10.11)***

**R. Preserve me, O God, for
in you I take refuge.**

or: Alleluia.

Preserve me, O God,
for in you I take refuge. /I
say to the Lord, “You are
my Lord.” /O Lord, it is
you who are my portion

and cup; /you yourself
who secure my lot. *R.*

I will bless the Lord
who gives me counsel, /
who even at night directs
my heart. /I keep the Lord
before me always; /with
him at my right hand, I
shall not be moved. *R.*

And so, my heart
rejoices, my soul is glad;
/even my flesh shall rest
in hope. /For you will not
abandon my soul to hell,/
nor let your holy one see
corruption. *R.*

You will show me the
path of life, /the fullness
of joy in presence, /at
your right hand, bliss
forever. *R.*

Acclamation

(John 17:21)

Alleluia. Alleluia. May
they all be one; even as
you, Father, are in me, and
I in you, so that the world
may believe that you have
sent me, says the Lord.
Alleluia.

Gospel _____

(John 17:20-26)

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

At that time: [Jesus lifted
up his eyes to heaven and
prayed, saying,] “I do not
pray for these only, but also
for those who believe in me
through their word, that
they may all be one; even as
you, Father, are in me, and I
in you, that they also may be
in us, so that the world may

believe that you have sent me. The glory which you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to behold my glory which you have given me in your love for me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world has not known you, but I have known you; and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will make it known, that the love with which you have loved me

may be in them, and I in them.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus.**

Prayer over the Offerings

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

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 16:7) **I tell you the truth, it is for your good that I go; for if I do not go away, the Paraclete will not come to you, says the Lord, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

May the mysteries we have received, O Lord, we pray, enlighten us by the

instruction they bring and restore us through our participation in them, that we may merit the gifts of the Spirit. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God's Love

Commentary

John 17:20-26

In the Gospel Jesus prays for us that we may have a share in the intimacy between the Father and himself. Conspicuously missing in this whole equation is the Holy Spirit. Drawing inspiration from St. Augustine who explains what scripture says: God is love. We can say that the Father is the Lover, the Son is the Beloved and the Holy Spirit is the Love between the Father and the Son. Hence for us to be in the Son and in the Father, it is through fellowship with the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 8:15).

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Tema-Ghana



Friday May 26

7th week of Easter

Memorial

St Philip Neri, priest

Entrance Antiphon

(Rom 5:5; cf. 8-11) **The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us. (E.T. alleluia)**

Collect

O God, who never cease to bestow the glory of holiness on the faithful servants you raise up for yourself, graciously grant, that the Holy Spirit may kindle in us that fire with which he wonderfully filled the heart of Saint

Philip Neri. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Acts 25:13b-21)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to welcome Festus. And as they stayed there many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a man left prisoner by Felix, and when I was at

Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews gave information about him, asking for sentence against him. I answered them that it was not the custom of the Romans to give up any one before the accused met the accusers face to face, and had opportunity to make his defence concerning the charge laid against him. When therefore they came together here, I made no delay, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man brought in. When the accusers stood up, they brought no charge

in his case of such evils as I supposed; but they had certain points of dispute with him about their own superstition and about one Jesus, who was dead, but whom Paul asserted to be alive. Being at a loss how to investigate these questions, I asked whether he wished to go to Jerusalem and be tried there regarding them. But when Paul had appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of the emperor, I commanded him to be held until I could send him to Caesar.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (102) 103:1-2.11-12.19-20ab)

R. The Lord has fixed his throne in heaven.

or: Alleluia.

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.**

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

The Lord has fixed his throne in heaven, /and his kingdom is ruling over all. /Bless the Lord, all you his

angels, /mighty in power, fulfilling his word. **R.**

Acclamation

(John 14:26)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The Holy Spirit will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(John 21:15-19)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When [Jesus had revealed himself to his disciples and] they had finished breakfast, he said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love

you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you fastened your own belt and walked where you would; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will fasten your belt for you and carry you where you

do not wish to go.” (This he said to show by what death he was to glorify God.) and after this he said to him, “Follow me.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus.**

Prayer over the Offerings

As we offer you the sacrifice of praise, O Lord, we ask that, by the example of Saint Philip, we may always give ourselves cheerfully for the glory of your name and the service of our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 16:13) **When the Spirit of truth comes, he will teach you all truth, says the Lord, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, that in imitation of Saint Philip we may

always long for that food by which we truly live. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Responsibility Comes With Growth

Commentary

John 21:15-19

An author once explained the significance of a cincture using this biblical passage linking it to the religious vow of obedience. The truth is that a Christian at maturity does not seek to please himself but his Lord and in doing so he becomes ready to inconvenience himself for the will of our Lord to be done. There is an emphasis on responsibility here. Every Christian at a point in his growth must move a notion of what God should do for him to a responsibility of what he ought to do for God.

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Tema-Ghana



Saturday May 27

7th week of Easter

Ferial

Or: St Augustine of Canterbury, bishop, optional memorial

Entrance Antiphon

(Act 1:14) The disciples were persevering with one mind in prayer with the women, and Mary the Mother of Jesus, and his brothers, alleluia.

Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we who have celebrated the paschal festivities may by your gift hold fast to them in the way that we live our lives. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Acts 28:16-20,30-31)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier that guarded him. After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews; and when they had gathered, he said to them, “Brethren, though I had done nothing against the people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered prisoner from

Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar –though I had no charge to bring against my nation. For this reason therefore I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.” And he lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ quite openly and unhindered. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (10) 11:4.5 and 7)**

R. The upright shall
behold your face, O Lord.
or: Alleluia.

The Lord is in his holy temple; /the throne of the Lord is in heaven. /His eyes behold the world; /his gaze probes the children of men. **R.**

The Lord inspects the just and the wicked; /the lover of violence he hates. /For the Lord is just and loves deeds of justice; /the upright shall behold his face. **R.**

Acclamation (John 16:7.13)

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

guide you into all the truth.
Alleluia.

Gospel _____
(John 21:20-25)

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

At that time: Peter turned and saw following them the disciple whom Jesus loved, who had lain close to his breast at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?” Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!” The saying spread abroad among the brethren that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, “If it is my will

that he remain until I come, what is that to you?” This is the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus.**

Prayer over the Offerings

May the Holy Spirit coming near, we pray, O Lord, prepare our minds for the divine Sacrament, since the Spirit himself is the remission of all sins. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 16:14) **The Holy Spirit will glorify me, for he will take from what is mine and declare it to you, says the Lord, alleluia.**

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.**

The Holy Spirit Our Witness

Commentary

John 21:20-25

In the Gospel reading the writer mentions that there are many things that Jesus taught and did that are not recorded. So how do we know these things? The Holy Spirit is the one who witnesses to us in times like that. Times are changing so how can we apply the unchanging truths of Christ to the changing world? It is the Holy Spirit that guides the church to ensure that the eternal words of Christ are applied in every age and any circumstance.

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Tema-Ghana



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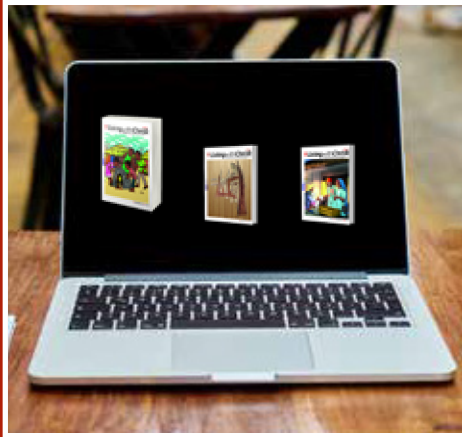
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Growing up Daily with the Good News