

Weekly LWCA

**3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter**

bayard afrique

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Living with Christ April 2023

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#### **Liturgical texts:**

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**On our cover:** Jesus the Way of Life

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# Editorial

April 2023



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

## Mission in Action

**B**efore he returned to his Father, Our Lord Jesus Christ said to his disciples: “Go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to all creation” (Mk 16:15).

With these words Jesus committed his disciples to a holy charge and duty, that was not to lapse with their death but would bind their successors until the end of the world. That holy charge is the mission of the Church.

Pope Francis’ words written and said during his Pontificate about the Church’s mission echoes this charge. It’s captured in his image of the Church as a “field hospital” and his insistence that we should be on the peripheries and of genuine service to those in need – physical, emotional and spiritual. He has thus, chosen to focus attention on this significant theme about the mission in action of the Church: Baptised and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World. May the risen Christ help us rediscover the missionary dimension of our faith.



# The Pope's Prayer Intention

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

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



## **The Introductory Rites**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Sunday April 23

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

*Acts 2: 14, 22-33 / Psalm (15) 16: 1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 (11a) /  
1 Peter 1: 17-21 / Luke 24:13-35*



“....I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”  
(John 10:10)





## *At the Breaking of the Bread*

**T**he Gospel passage of this Sunday is on the journey of the two disciples of Jesus to Emmaus. St. Luke gives us the name of one of the two disciples: *Cleophas*. Etymologically, the name *Cleophas* is a contraction of the Greek Word *Kleopatros* (from the Greek words: *Kaleo* and *Patros*), which means “called by the Father”. Very little is known about the other disciple. Not even his name has been mentioned. Various suggestions have been given. Some suggest that he was a woman disciple. Perhaps St. Luke has deliberately omitted the name so that we can identify ourselves with him or her.

The journey of the two disciples is typical of our own Christian journey. We too move from hopelessness and doubt into strong faith. Along the way we meet Jesus, our sure guide and our consolation who redirects our journey and consoles us.

Being a true philosopher, Jesus practices the Socratic midwifery. He lets the disciples open up and then he guides them to understand the truth of his Resurrection.



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We can also say that Jesus consoled the disciples by celebrating Mass for them. He took them into the Liturgy of the Word, from Moses and the Prophets, and the disciples said, “Were our hearts not burning while he was speaking to us on the way?” Then, they got into the second part of Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist: where he took bread and broke it in their midst. It is then that the disciples realized who he was.

They realized who he was at the breaking of the bread! And immediately, he disappeared from their midst. The story does not end there. Just as in every Mass, we are commissioned to go. So too, here the disciples immediately embarked on the apostolate... They had to go and share with the rest of the disciples the good news.

How many times does Jesus walk with us in our most difficult situations, yet we do not recognize him? Jesus is truly risen! He is truly alive. And the truth of this is in the Eucharistic Presence. Where He is truly present, Soul, Body and Divinity for us.

***Rev Fr Elvis Kobina Mensah, Accra-Ghana***



**Entrance Antiphon** (*Psalm (65) 66:1-2*)

**Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O Sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.**

**Collect**

May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection. Through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. .  
**Amen.**

**First Reading** (*Acts 2:14.22-33*)

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

[On the day of Pentecost,] Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and said, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give ear to my words. “Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know -this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up, having

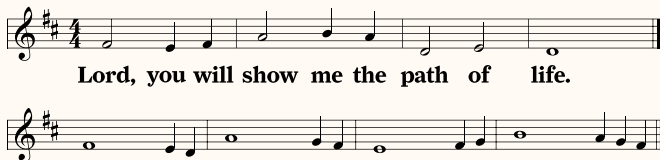


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loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, nor let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'" "Brethren, I may say to you confidently of the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and bear. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



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



***R.* Lord, you will show me the path of life.  
 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 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.*



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

***Second Reading (1 Peter 1:17-21)***

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

Beloved: If you invoke as Father him who judges each one impartially according to his deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was made manifest at the end of times for your sake. Through him you have confidence in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Acclamation (Luke 24:35)***

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; make our hearts born with love when you speak to us.  
**Alleluia.**



***Gospel (Luke 24:13-35)***

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

That very day [the first day of the week], two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognising him. And he said to them, “What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said



**Sunday April 23**

that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see.” And he said to them, “O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is towards evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to say with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; and he vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the Eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, “the Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**





## **Prayer of the Faithful**

*The following intentions are suggestions only.*

**R. Lord hear our prayer !.**

For the Pope, bishops, priests, deacons and catechists,  
we pray to the Lord. R.

For our traditional and political leaders in Africa and in  
the rest of the world, let us cry out to the Lord. R.

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

For a better governance in Africa and in the world,  
especially in this time of political and social crisis, let  
us pray to the Lord. R.

For children, old people, the sick and the victims of  
terrorism ; for violence, poverty and lack of unity  
especially in Africa, let us pray to the Lord. R.



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## Prayer over the Offerings

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

## Communion Antiphon (*Lk 24:35*)

**The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.**

## Prayer after Communion

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord, and grant, we pray that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



# Monday April 24

3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter

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## **Ferial**

*Or: St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest, Martyr, optional memorial*

## **Entrance Antiphon**

The good shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep, and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

## **Collect**

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, putting off our old self with all its ways, we may live as Christ did, for through the healing paschal remedies, you have conformed us to his nature. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.. **Amen.**

## **Reading** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Acts 6:8-15)**

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

In those days: Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with

Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated me, who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him, and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, “This man never cease to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us.” And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an

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

***Responsorial Psalm——***  
***(Psalm (118) 119:23-24.26-27.29.30)***

**R. Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord.  
or: Alleluia.**

Though princes sit plotting against me, your servant ponders your statutes. See, your decrees are my delight; your statutes are my counsellors. R.

I declared my ways and you answered me; teach me your statutes. Make me grasp the way of your precepts, and I will ponder your wonders. R.

Keep me from the way of falsehood; grant me mercy

by your law. I have chosen the way of faithfulness; your decrees I have upheld. R

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

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

**Gospel** —————  
*(John 6:22-29)*

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

[After five thousand men had eaten their fill, the disciples of Jesus saw him walking on the sea.] On the next day the people who remained on the other side of the sea saw that there are been only one boat there, and that Jesus had

not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. However, boats from Tiberias came near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the people saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come there?” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man

will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal.” Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings,

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

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Jn 14:27)* **Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you, says the Lord, alleluia.**

**Prayer after Communion**

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

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

**Motivation To Follow  
Jesus****Commentary****John 6: 22-29**

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the crowd: "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves." The motivation to follow Jesus was because they had in abundance and they wanted more. However, Jesus asked the people who were following him -and us by extension- to work for the food that endures and not the food that perishes. Food that perishes refers to worldly riches. Jesus invites us to moderate our worldly desires.

***Rev Fr Elvis Kobina Mensah, Accra-Ghana***



# Tuesday April 25

3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter

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## **Feast**

St Mark, evangelist

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Mark 16:15)* **Go into all the world, and proclaim the Gospel to every creature, alleluia.**

### **Collect**

O God, who raised up Saint Mark, your Evangelist, and endowed him with the grace to preach the Gospel, grant, we pray, that we may so profit from his teaching, as to follow faithfully in the footsteps of Christ. Who lives and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Reading**

***(1 Peter 5:5b-14)***

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

Beloved: Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility towards one another, for “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may



exalt you. Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you. Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you. Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you. To him be the dominion for ever and ever. By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you,

exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God; stand fast in it. She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings; and so does my son Mark. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you that are in Christ.

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

***Responsorial Psalm——***  
***(Psalm (88) 89:2-3.6-7.16-17)***

***R. I will sing for ever of  
your mercies, O Lord.  
or: Alleluia.***

I will sing for ever of your mercies, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your fidelity. I have declared your mercy is established for ever; your

fidelity stands firm as the heavens. R.

The heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your fidelity in the assembly of your holy ones. For who in the skies can compare with the Lord, or who is like the Lord among the heavenly powers? R.

How blessed the people who know your praise, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice their joyful acclaim. R.

**Acclamation**  
(1 Corinthians 1:23a-24b)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** We preach Christ crucified; the power of God and the wisdom of God. **Alleluia**

**Gospel** —————  
(Mark 16:15-20)

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

At that time: [Appearing to the Eleven,] Jesus said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them,

was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

As we venerate the glory of Saint Mark, we offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of praise and humbly beseech

you, that your Church may always persevere in the preaching of the Gospel. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

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

### **Prayer after Communion**

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that what we have received from your holy altar may sanctify us and

make us strong in the faith of the Gospel which Saint Mark proclaimed. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## To Be Witnesses of Jesus

## Commentary

**Mark 16: 15-20**

Today, we are celebrating the Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist. He witnessed Jesus by proclaiming the gospel, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons, ...". He made Jesus known to humanity. We are called to be witnesses of Christ through our words and deeds and to offer freely our life for the cause of the Gospel.

***Rev Fr Elvis Kobina Mensah, Accra-Ghana***



# Wednesday April 26

3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter

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## Entrance Antiphon

My mouth is filled with your praise, that I may sing aloud; my lips shall shout for joy, when I sing to you, alleluia.

## Collect

Be present to your family, O Lord, we pray, and graciously ensure those you have endowed with the grace of faith an eternal share in the Resurrection of your only begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Reading

*(Acts 8:1b-8)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On that day a great persecution arose against the Church in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the region of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen, and made great lamentation over him. But Saul laid waste the Church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed

them to prison. Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to a city of Samaria, and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the multitudes with one accord gave heed to what was said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs which he did. For unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying with a loud voice; and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

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

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

“Before you all the earth  
shall bow down, shall sing  
to you, sing to your name!”  
Come and see the works of  
God: awesome his deeds  
among the children of  
men. **R.**

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

**Acclamation** (*John 6:40*)  
**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Every  
one who believes in the Son  
has eternal life; and I will



raise him up at the last day, says the Lord. **Alleluia.**

### ***Gospel*** ————— ***(John 6: 35-40)***

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

At that time: Jesus said to the crowds, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing

of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### **Prayer over the Offerings**

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

#### **Communion Antiphon**

**The Lord has risen and shone his light upon us, whom he has redeemed by his Blood, alleluia.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Hear, O Lord, our prayers, that this most holy exchange, by which you have redeemed us, may bring

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

**Witnessing Faith  
Through Persecutions****Commentary****Acts 8: 1b-8**

Jesus' followers went through persecutions. Through the martyrdom of Stephen, a kind of "war" had been declared on them. They were greatly tortured. As a result, many of the disciples ran into neighbouring towns. As they did, they spread the gospel in new nations.

Sometimes, you may experience difficult situations in your life and wonder "why me? Where is God?" Let us know that the seeming silence of God in the light of our affliction does not portray the impotence of God. God is always with us.

***Rev Fr Elvis Kobina Mensah, Accra-Ghana***





# Thursday April 27

3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter

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## Entrance Antiphon

*(Exodus 15:1-2)* **Let us sing to the Lord for he has gloriously triumphed. The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation, alleluia.**

## Collect

Almighty ever-living God, let us feel your compassion more readily during these days when, by your gift, we have known it more fully, so that those you have freed from the darkness of error, may cling more firmly to the teachings of your truth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading

***(Acts 8:26-40)***

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

In those days: An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert road. And he rose and went. And behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a minister of Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning; seated in his chariot, he was reading the

prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” and he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture which he was reading was this: “As a sheep let to the slaughter or a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe this generation? For his life is taken up from the earth.” And the eunuch said to Philip, “Please, about whom does the prophet say this, about

himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news of Jesus. And as they went along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptised?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptised him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught up Philip; and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus, and passing on he preached the gospel to all the town till he came to Caesarea. The

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

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm (65) 66)***

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

O peoples, bless our God; let the voice of his praise resound, of the God who gave life to our souls and kept our feet from stumbling. **R.**

Come and hear, all who fear God; I will tell what he did for my soul. To him I cried aloud, with exaltation ready on my tongue. **R.**

Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer, nor withhold from me his merciful love. **R.**

**Acclamation** (*John 6:51*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** I am the living bread which came down from heaven, says the Lord; if any one eats of this bread, he will live forever. **Alleluia.**

***Gospel —  
(John 6:44-51)***

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

At that time: Jesus said to the crowds, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Every one who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not

that any one has seen the Father except him who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from the heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

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

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(2 Corinthians 5:15)* **Christ died for all, that those who live may live no longer for themselves, but for him, who died for them and is risen, 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.**

**Baptized and Sent  
to Evangelise****Commentary****Acts 8: 26-40**

Today's first reading presents us with an interaction between Philip and an unnamed Ethiopian eunuch. Philip helped him to understand the Word of God. His intervention made it possible for the eunuch to comprehend the Word of God. Philip did this out of love, humility and patience guided by the Spirit of the risen Lord. He baptized the eunuch and through the grace of that baptism he was able to go and evangelise his people when he got back home (Ethiopia). Indeed, we are baptized and sent to evangelise others!

***Rev Fr Elvis Kobina Mensah, Accra-Ghana***



# Friday April 28

3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter

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## *Ferial*

*Or: St Peter Chanel, priest, religious, martyr, optional memorial*

*Or: St Louis Mary de Montfort, priest, optional memorial*

## **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Revelation 5:12)* **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour, alleluia.**

## **Collect**

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we who have come to know the grace of the Lord's Resurrection, may through the love of the Spirit, ourselves rise to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Reading**

***(Acts 9:1-20)***

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

In those days: Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he

journeyed he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed about him. And he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" and he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting; but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were travelling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul arose from the ground; and when his eyes were opened, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus. And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias.

The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for a man of Tarsus named Saul; for behold, he is praying, and he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and the kings and the sons of

Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptised, and took food and was strengthened. For several days he was with the disciples at Damascus. And in the synagogues immediately he proclaimed Jesus, saying, “He is the Son of God.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm 116) 117)***

**R. Go into the world, and  
preach the Gospel.  
or Alleluia.**

O praise the Lord, all  
you nations; acclaim him,  
all you peoples! R.

For his merciful love has  
prevailed over us; and the  
Lord’s faithfulness endures  
forever. R.

***Acclamation (John 6:56)***

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** He who  
eats my flesh and drinks my  
blood abides in me, and I in  
him, says the Lord. **Alleluia.**



***Gospel*** —————  
***(John 6:52-59)***

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

At that time: The Jews disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live

because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever.” This he said in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

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

**Communion Antiphon**

**The Crucified is risen from the dead and has redeemed us, 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.**

**Transformation Through  
an Encounter with Jesus****Commentary****Acts 9:1-20**

In today's first reading, Paul's first encounter with the Lord led him to conversion. He did not need another encounter with Jesus. How many times have you encountered the Lord? What is the result of your encounter? Having encountered the Lord, are you better than before? Paul's conversion reminds us that nobody encounters the risen Lord and remains the same. An encounter with Jesus, transforms. Today, as the risen Lord converts Paul, allow Him to do the same for you.

***Rev Fr Elvis Kobina Mensah, Accra-Ghana***



# Saturday April 29

3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter

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## **Memorial**

**St Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor,**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

**Here is a wise virgin, from among the number of the prudent, who went forth with lighted lamp to meet Christ, alleluia.**

### **Collect**

O God, who set Saint Catherine of Siena on fire with divine love in her contemplation of the Lord's Passion and her service of your Church; grant, through her intercession, that your people, participating in the mystery of Christ, may ever exult in the revelation

of his glory. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Reading** ————— **(Acts 9:31-42)**

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

In those days: The Church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was built up; and walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit it was multiplied. Now as Peter went here and

there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a discipline named Tabitha, which means Dorcas or Gazelle. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him,

“Please come to us without delay.” So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing coats and garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, rise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** —  
(Psalm <sup>(115)</sup> 116:12-  
13.14-15.16-17)

**R.** How can I repay the  
Lord for all his goodness  
to me?

**or: Alleluia**

How can I repay the  
Lord for all his goodness to  
me? The cup of salvation I  
will raise; I will call on the  
name of the Lord. **R.**

My vows to the Lord  
I will fulfil before all his  
people. How precious in  
the eyes of the Lord is the  
death of his faithful. **R.**

Your servant, Lord, your  
servant am I, The son  
of your handmaid; you  
have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice  
I make; I will call on the  
name of the Lord. **R.**

**Acclamation** (*John*  
6:63c, 68c)

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

**Gospel** —  
(*John 6:60-69*)

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

At that time: Many of  
the disciples of Jesus said,  
“This is a hard saying; who  
can listen to it?” But Jesus,  
knowing in himself that his  
disciples murmured at it,  
said to them, “Do you take  
offence at this? Then what  
if you were to see the Son  
of man ascending where he  
was before? It is the spirit  
that gives life, the flesh is

of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you that did not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who those were that did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer walked with him. Jesus said to the Twelve, “Will you also go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept, O Lord, the saving sacrifice we offer in commemoration of Saint Catherine, so that instructed by her teaching, we may give ever more fervent thanks to you, the one true God. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

**If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin, alleluia.**

### Prayer after Communion

May the heavenly table at which we have been fed, O Lord, confer eternal life

upon us, as even in this world it nourished the life of Saint Catherine. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Jesus Restores Health to the Sick

## Commentary

Acts 9:31-42

*"Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." Tabitha, rise!*

Our first reading presents us the healing of Aeneas who had been paralysed for eight years and the coming back to life of Tabitha who was dead. Through Peter, Jesus performs miracles. Let us pray for the sick. We implore God to heal them, to restore them to good healthy life and grant them comfort. May saint Catherine of Siena whose memorial we celebrate today intercede for our physical and spiritual healing.

**Rev Fr Elvis Kobina Mensah, Accra-Ghana**



**Publisher:** Pierre LANGLOIS  
**Publishing & Development Manager**  
**Editor in Chief:** Rev. Fr. François NZANZU a.a.  
**Assistant:** Rev. Fr. Jean-Claude DIWEDIGA a.a.  
**Editorial Secretary:** Virginia KABUGU  
**Graphic designer:** Naomi SAWADOGO

**Ghana Coordinator:** Rev. Fr. Dennis OPOKU;  
**Associate Publishers:** Fr. Walter Ihejirika, Regional Coordinator, LWC Nigeria,  
Other **Contributors:** Rev. Fr. Elvis MENSAH  
Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. KOMBI.

### **Digital**

**ISSN:** 2424-7464 ; **Contact:** Living With Christ  
Rue E104, Lot 1076 Ilot 116 - Cocody Riviera 3 Abidjan , Côte d'Ivoire  
Address: P.O. BOX 08 BP 2469 Abidjan 08 -  
Phone number : (+225) 25 22 02 11 11 -  
E-mail: [info@livingwithchrist-africa.com](mailto:info@livingwithchrist-africa.com)







WhatsApp : **+225 05 94 79 75 68 / +254727074304**



Website : **[https:// www.livingwithchrist.africa](https://www.livingwithchrist.africa)**



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