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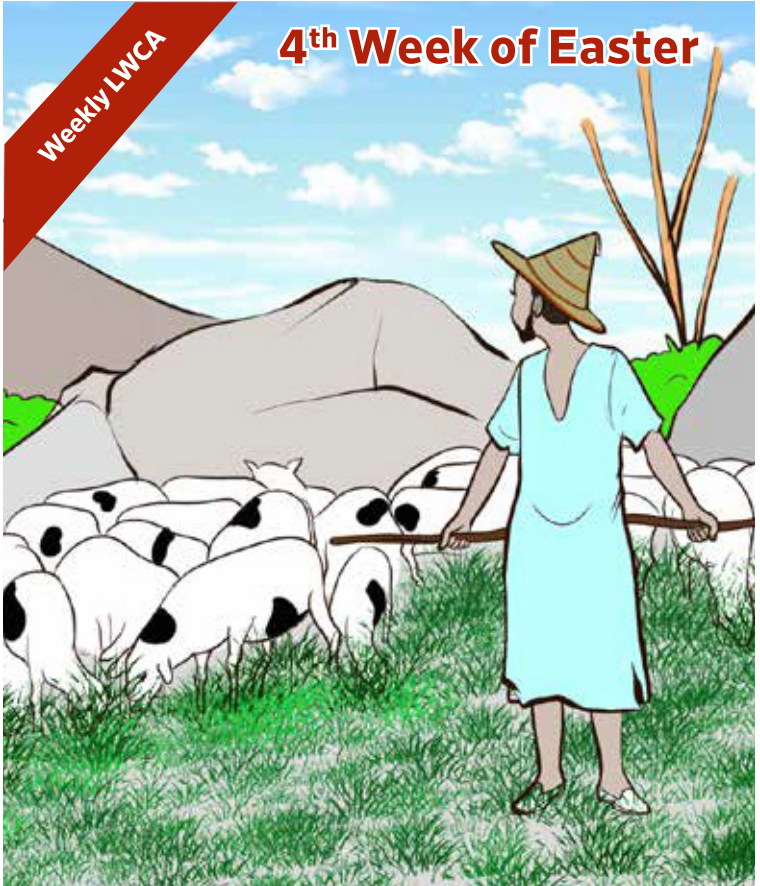
Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

4th Week of Easter

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Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: Lord, the good Shepherd.

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Editorial

May 2023



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

Saint Joseph and the Dignity of the Human Work

May starts by the Feast of Saint Joseph, the Worker. A worker produces and provides something. In 1955 Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph the Worker to increase the devotion to the saint who was the model of workers, providing for his wife Mary and foster son Jesus. It also reminds us about the dignity of work: a way that helps believers to sanctify themselves through their work, imitating St Joseph, who had to provide the daily needs of the Holy Family and whom, consequently, the Church holds up as “Patron of workers”.

If the Family of Nazareth is an example and model for human families, in the order of salvation and holiness, so too, by analogy, is Jesus’ work at the side of Joseph the carpenter. In our own day, the Church has emphasized this by instituting the liturgical memorial of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1. Saint Joseph brought human work closer to the mystery of the Redemption. May the dignity of the human work be recognized and respected by all.



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 April 30

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 14a. 36-41 / Psalm (22) 23: 1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6 (1) / 1 Peter 2: 20b-25 / John 10: 1-10



"I have come so that the sheep may have life, life in abundance."
(John 10:10)



Theme: The Good Shepherd.

Today is Good shepherd Sunday and World Day of Prayer for Vocations. In the first reading Peter gives witness to the risen Lord. For him Jesus who was crucified, God has made him both Lord and Christ. To people who ask him what they should do following this sad event, Peter invites them to repent and to get baptised in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. He urges them to get away from the crooked generation of unbelieving people. Moved by his testimony, people believed in the Risen Lord and converted to Christianity.

The message of Peter is relevant to us. We also live in the midst of a crooked generation where God is rejected. We are also called to change our attitude and believe in the Risen Christ. We are called to adhere more firmly to the gospel message, to demarcate ourselves from the unbelievers. There is only one attitude which is required from us: to get away from the crooked people of our society and convert to the good News. In this way we shall receive the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us in life.

All the readings use the image of the shepherd. Christ is the good shepherd who looks after his flock and keeps



Sunday April 30

them all in view. He protects his people from evil and keeps them safe. This protection is given to all those who believe in him, listen to and put his word into action in their lives. Jesus says he is the gate of the sheepfold or the gate to the lasting happiness and joy of heaven. He invites us enter through him the sure and safe gate. He wants us to hear his voice and to listen to him only. He invites avoid strangers who can lead us astray.

Finally, today is Vocation Sunday, a day of prayer for vocations. We remember that by baptism we are all called to serve the Lord. While we pray for vocations to priesthood and religious life we also pray that we may all be strengthened to live out our vocation as Christians.

Rev. Fr. Jean-Marie Paluku Meso, Nairobi, Kenya



Entrance Antiphon

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you. **Amen.**

First Reading (Acts 2:14a.36-41)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

[On the day of Pentecost,] Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and said to the multitude, “Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many



Sunday April 30

other words and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —————
(Psalm (Ps (22) 23)



R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
or: Alleluia.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul. **R.**



He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name. Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of the death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me. Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. *R.*

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. *R.*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending. *R.*

Second Reading (1 Peter 2:20b-25) _____

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Beloved: If when you do right and suffer for it you take it patiently; you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin; no guile was found on his lips. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he trusted to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying



Sunday April 30

like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Acclamation (*John 10:14*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own, and my own know me. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*John 10:1-10*)

A reading from the Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber; but he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep. All who came



before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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 more fruitful apostolates and pastoral works and for personal experience with Christ, 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 the end of coronavirus pandemic. R.



Sunday April 30

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 Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep, and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Monday May 1

4th Week of Easter

Ferial

or **St Joseph the Worker**, *optional memorial*

Entrance Antiphon

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

Collect

O God, perfect light of the blessed, by whose gift we celebrate the paschal mysteries on earth, bring us, we pray, to rejoice in the full measure of your grace for ages unending. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————

(Acts 11:1-18)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: The apostles and the brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” But Peter began and explained to them in order: “I was in the city of Joppa

praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, something descending, like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came down to me. Looking at it closely I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.'"But I said, 'No, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' 'But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has cleansed you must not call common.' 'This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. At that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. And the Spirit told me to go with them,

making no distinction. These six brethren also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. And he told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?" When they heard this they

were silenced. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance unto life.” The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (41) 42:2-3; 43:3-4)

R. My soul is thirsting for you, the living God.
or: Alleluia.

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, /so my soul is yearning for you, my God. /My soul is thirsting for God, the living God; /when can I enter and appear before the face of God? *R.*

O send forth your light and your truth; /they will guide me on. /They will bring me

to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. *R.*

And I will come to the altar of God, to God, /my joy and gladness. /To you will I give thanks on the harp, /O God, my God. *R.*

Acclamation

(John 10:14)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own, and my own know me. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(John 10:11-18)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not

a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay

it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

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

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 20:19) **Jesus stood in the midst of his disciples and said to them: Peace be with you, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord, and grant, we pray that those you were pleased to renew

by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Jesus the Good Shepherd

Commentary

John 10: 11-18

Jesus reveals Himself as the Good Shepherd who knows his own flock. He says, "I am the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for His sheep." Jesus stresses that, in giving His life for His sheep, He does so of His own will. He teaches us that, the greatest love a person can show to his /her friend is to give his/her life fully. This calls for self-sacrifice, patience and understanding for others.

Rev. Sr. Mary Nzilani- Nairobi, Kenya



Tuesday May 2

4th Week of Easter

Memorial

St Athanasius, bishop and doctor

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Sir 15:5) **In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory, alleluia.**

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who raised up the Bishop Saint Athanasius as an outstanding champion of your Son's divinity, mercifully grant, that rejoicing in his teaching

and his protection, we may never cease to grow in knowledge and love of you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading _____ *(Acts 11:19-26)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: Those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia and

Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the Church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a

large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the Church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (86) 87:1-3.4-5.6-7)

**R. O praise the Lord, all
you nations.**

or: Alleluia.

Founded by him on
the holy mountain, /

the Lord loves the gates
of Sion, /more than all
the dwellings of Jacob. /
Of you are told glorious
things, / you, O city of
God! R

“Rahab and Babylon I
will count / among those
who know me; /of Tyre,
Philistia, Ethiopia, it is
told, / ‘there was this one
born.’ /But of Sion it shall
be said, / ‘Each one was
born in her.’”/He, the Most
High, established it. R

In his register of
peoples the Lord writes,
/“Here was this one born.”
/The singers cry out in
chorus, /“In you, all find
their home.” R

Acclamation

Alleluia. Alleluia. My
sheep hear my voice, says

the Lord; and I know
them, and they follow me.
Alleluia.

Gospel _____ *(John 10:22-30)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

It was the feast of the
Dedication at Jerusalem;
it was winter, and Jesus
was walking in the temple,
in the portico of Solomon.
So the Jews gathered
round him and said to
him, “How long will you
keep us in suspense? If
you are Christ, tell us
plainly.” Jesus answered
them, “I told you, and you
do not believe. The works
that I do in my Father’s
name, they bear witness
to me; but you do not

believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one." The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Look, O Lord, upon the offerings we present to you in commemoration of Saint Athanasius, and may witnessing to your truth bring salvation to those who profess the same unblemished faith as him. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Preface of Easter

Communion Antiphon

(1 Cor 3:11) **No one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

Grant us, we pray, almighty God, that the true divinity of your Only Begotten Son, which we firmly profess

with Saint Athanasius, may through this Sacrament ever give us life and protection. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

I and the Father Are One

Commentary

John 10: 22-30

In our today's Gospel, Jesus is present to the Jews, and they do not recognize and believe in him. But Jesus tells us that His sheep know Him, and follow Him. Thus, He will not lose any of them as given by the Father. This reminds us of our call to go beyond outward signs into a deeper relationship with God who loves us without limit. The question is, do we believe in Jesus? The answer is in us as we live our Christian life.

Rev. Sr. Mary Nzilani - Nairobi, Kenya



Wednesday May 3

4th Week of Easter

Feast

Sts. Philip and James, apostles

Entrance Antiphon

These are the holy men whom the Lord chose in his own sheer love; and he gave them eternal glory, alleluia.

The Gloria is said.

Collect

O God, who gladden us each year with the feast day of the Apostles Philip and James, grant us, through their prayers, a share in the Passion and Resurrection

of your Only Begotten Son, so that we may merit to behold you for eternity. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading —————
(1 Corinthians 15:1-8)

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

I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received,

in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received; that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

R. Their sound goes forth through all the earth.

Or: Alleluia.

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

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

Acclamation

(John 14:6b, 9c)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord; Philip he who has seen me has seen the Father.

Alleluia.

Gospel

(John 14:6-14)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to Thomas, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied." Jesus said to him,

"Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves. "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if

you ask anything in my name, I will do it.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive O Lord the offerings we bring for the feast day of the Apostles Philip and James and bestow on us religion pure and undefiled. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Cf. Jn 14:8-9) **Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us. Whoever has seen me, Philip, has seen the Father also, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

Purify our minds, we pray, O Lord, by these holy gifts we have received, so that, contemplating you in your Son together with

the Apostles Philip and James we may be worthy to possess eternal life.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Jesus is the Way

Commentary

**1 Corinthians 15: 1-8/
John 14: 6-14**

Today we celebrate the feast of Saints Philip and James. St. Paul tells the Corinthians about the importance of proclaiming the Gospel. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us; "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life." This helps us to realize that, to proclaim the Gospel is to help one enter into the life-changing relationship with Jesus. We pray through the Saints of today, that we may desire to enter into communion with God and with each other.

Rev. Sr. Mary Nzilani- Nairobi, Kenya



Thursday May 4

4th week of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 68:8-9.20) O God, when you went forth before your people, marching with them and living among them, the earth trembled, heavens poured down rain, alleluia.

Collect

O God, who restore human nature to yet greater dignity than at its beginnings, look upon the amazing mystery of your loving kindness, and in those you have chosen to make new through the wonder of rebirth, may you preserve the gifts of your enduring grace and

blessing. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading

(Acts 13:13-25)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and his company set sail from Paphos, and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and return to Jerusalem; but they passed from Perga and came to Antioch of Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue

sent to them saying, “Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it.” So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: “Men of Israel, and you that fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. And for about forty years he bore with them in the wilderness. And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance, for about four hundred and fifty years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king; and

God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their 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.’” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (88) 89:2-3.21-22.25 and 27)

R. I will sing forever of
your mercies, O Lord.

or: Alleluia.

I will sing forever of your mercies, O Lord; /through all ages my mouth will proclaim your fidelity. /I have declared your mercy is established forever; /your fidelity stands firm as the heavens. **R.**

I have found my servant David, /and with my holy oil anointed him. /My hand shall always be with him, /and my arm shall make him strong. **R.**

My mercy and my faithfulness shall be with him; /by my name his might

shall be exalted. /He will call out to me, ‘You are my father, /my God, the rock of my salvation.’ **R.**

Acclamation
(Rev 1:5ac)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Jesus Christ, you are a faithful witness, the first-born of the dead; you have loved us and washed our sins in your blood. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(John 13:16-20)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

[When Jesus had washed the feet of his disciples, he said to them.] “Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If

you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. I am not speaking of you all; I know whom I have chosen; it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I tell you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives any one whom I send receives me; and he who receives me receives him who sent me." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

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

Prayer after Communion

Almighty ever-living God, who restore us to eternal

life in the Resurrection of Christ, increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Whom Shall I Send?

Commentary

John 13: 16-20

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us: "a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him". He is calling us to be humble as God's ministers advising us to remain forever valid. Jesus says; "So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'" We pray God instill in us the virtue of humility and service to minister His people with love.

Rev. Sr. Mary Nzilani- Nairobi, Kenya



Friday May 5

4th week of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

(Rv 5:9-10) You have redeemed us, Lord, by your Blood, from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us into a kingdom, priests for our God, alleluia.

Collect

O God, author of our freedom and of our salvation, listen to the voice of our pleading, and grant that those you have redeemed by the shedding of your Son's Blood, may have life through you, and under your protection, rejoice for ever unharmed.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading

(Acts 13:26-33)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: [When Paul came to Antioch of Pisidia, he said in the synagogue,] “Brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you that fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognise

him nor understand the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning him. Though they could charge him with nothing deserving death, yet they asked Pilate to have him killed. And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead; and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus; as also it is written

in the second psalm, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 2:6-7.8-9.10-12a)***

R. You are my son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

or: Alleluia.

“It is I who have appointed my king /on Sion, my holy mountain.” /I will announce the decree of the Lord: /The Lord said to me, “You are my Son. /It is I who have begotten you this day.” R

“Ask of me and I will give you /the nations as

your inheritance, / and the ends of the earth as your possession. /With a rod of iron you will rule them; / like a potter's jar you will shatter them." R.

"So now, O kings, understand; /take warning, rulers of the earth. /Serve the Lord with fear; /exult with trembling, pay him your homage." R.

Acclamation

(Jn 14:6)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, but by me. **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____ *(John 14:1-6)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are

going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept in compassion, Lord, we pray, the offerings of your family, that under your protective care they may never lose what they have received, but attain

the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Rom 4:25) **Christ our Lord was handed over for our transgressions, and was raised again for our justification, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

Keep safe, O Lord, we pray, those whom you have saved by your kindness, that, redeemed by the Passion

of your Son, they may rejoice in his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Comfort for Troubled Hearts

Commentary

John 14: 1-6

Jesus tells His disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." By these words, he did not promise them the going away of their troubles, but that, He would be with them in the midst of them as their stabilizing force and strength. So often our hearts are filled with all types of troubles. Jesus is trying to assure us that, He is with us and we are secure in Him. Thus, a call to have faith and enter in to communion with Him for He never leaves us.

Rev. Sr. Mary Nzilani- Nairobi, Kenya



Saturday May 6

4th Week of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

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

Collect

O God, who in the celebration of Easter graciously give to the world the healing of heavenly remedies; show benevolence to your Church, that our present observance may benefit us for eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Acts 13:44-52)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with jealousy, and contradicted what was spoken by Paul, and reviled him. And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it from you, and

judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, ‘I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.’” And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the God; and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord spread throughout all the region. But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, and stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and went to Iconium.

And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (97) 98:1.2-3ab
.3cd-4)***

**R. All the ends of the
earth have seen the
salvation of our God.**

or: Alleluia.

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 song, /and sing
out your praise. R

Acclamation

(Jn 8:31b-32)

Alleluia. Alleluia. If you
continue in my word, you
are truly my disciples, and
you will know the truth,
says the Lord. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ---

(John 14:7-14)

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

At that time: Jesus said to
his disciples, “If you had
known me, you would have
known my Father also;
henceforth you know him

and have seen him.” Philip
said to him, “Lord, show us
the Father, and we shall be
satisfied.” Jesus said to him,
“Have I been with you so
long, and yet you do not
know me, Philip? He who
has seen me has seen the
Father; how can you say,
‘show us the Father’? Do
you not believe that I am in
the Father and the Father
is in me? The words that I
say to you I do not speak
on my own authority; but
the Father who dwells in
me does his works. Believe
me that I am in the Father
and the Father is in me; or
else believe me for the sake
of the works themselves.
“Truly, truly, I say to you,
he who believes in me will
also do the works that I
do; and greater works than
these will he do, because I

go to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in my name, I will do it.” 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

(Jn 17:24) **Father, I wish that where I am, those you gave me may also be with me, that they may see the glory that you gave me, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery, humbly imploring, O Lord, that, what your

Son commanded us to do
in memory of him may
bring us growth in charity.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Whoever Has Seen Me Has Seen the Father

Commentary

John 14: 7-14

In the Gospel today, the disciples tell Jesus, “Master, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” The disciples have been following Jesus for a while and still do not recognize the Father within Christ. Often, we are afraid to ask God for what we desire due to fear. The Gospel tells us that we do not need to be afraid. Thus, a need to humble in seeing what we need and turn to God for He is present and meets us where we are.

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Growing up Daily with the Good News