

AFRICA

Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

5th week of Easter

bayard africque



AFRICA ● 7-13 May 2023 ● Digital n°32

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Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life

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Editorial

May 2023



Rev. Fr. Winfred Charles Tawiah
Accra- Ghana

The Joy of Easter

The Psalmist calls us to cry out to God with joy. This call is for us to be thankful to God for all that He has done for us, all that we have received from His hands. The joy of Easter should resound in every corner of the world, God's great deeds we must tell to our world.

Our work as gospel's ambassadors is solely to lead others to Christ, and not to ourselves. We must do this in all humility, so that we project the risen Lord and no one else. Therefore, we must truly be reflections of what we preach to our world. Our world today needs witnesses of faith and truth and not only teachers of it.

As joyful people, our lives will greatly influence what we tell others about Christ. Thus, we begin to live as sacramental people in the full glare of others, for the world needs to taste and see the goodness of the Lord at Easter and always. God does not need Angels to do this, He needs you and I.



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 7

5th Sunday of Easter

*Acts 6: 1-7 / Psalm 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19 (22) / 1 Peter 2: 4-9 /
John 14: 1-12.*



...The very stone which the builders rejected has become
the cornerstone," (1 Peter 2:7)



Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life

The words of Jesus in our Gospel passage today were spoken at a time Jesus was close to his betrayal and death. He needed to strengthen the faith of his disciples. Like these disciples, we all face challenges in life but then, no matter what may happen, let these words remain always at the back of your mind: *“Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me.”*

Whatever crisis God allows in our lives, it is because he wants to use it to bring about something good. In the first reading, we read about a crisis in the early Christian community regarding the distribution of food. Out of this crisis, came the ordination of the first deacons in the church. As St. Paul would say: “We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him...” (Romans 8:28).

“In my Father’s House, are many Rooms.” Jesus has already gone to prepare a place of rest and peace for us. We cannot live forever on earth. We are only pilgrims here. A better life awaits us in heaven, “what no eye has seen, nor ear heard,



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nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him.” (1st Corinthians 2:9).

“I am the Way, the truth and the Life.... I am in the Father and the Father is in me.” In other words, Jesus is the answer; Jesus is the solution; Jesus is the formula for solving all of life’s challenges and at the same time, Jesus is God. To put it simply, Jesus is all we need. In another passage Jesus would say: “cut off from me, you can do nothing.” (John 15:5). If our relationship with Jesus suffers, we are most to be pitied because Jesus himself is our life.

In our second reading today, St. Peter reminds us of our true identity as priests. We are priests because we are different, set apart; holy – we are living stones who offer spiritual sacrifices to God by the kind of life we live.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Entrance Antiphon (*Ps (97) 98:1-2*)

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

The Gloria is said.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the paschal mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (*Acts 6:1-7*)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In these days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we



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may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —————
(Psalm (32) 33:1-2.4-5.18-19)

Let your love be up-on us, Lord,
e-ven as we hope in you.



R. May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you,
O Lord.

or: Alleluia.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; /for praise is fitting for the upright. /Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp; /with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**

For the word of the Lord is faithful, /and all his works to be trusted. /The Lord loves justice and right, /and his merciful love fills the earth. **R.**

Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him, /who hope in his merciful love, /to rescue their souls from death, /to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Second Reading (1 Peter 2:4-9) —————

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Beloved: Come to the Lord, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and he who believes



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in him will not be put to shame.” To you therefore who believe, he is precious, but for those who do not believe, “The very stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone that will make men stumble, a rock that will make them fall”; for they stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Acclamation (*John 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 14:1-12*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In those days: 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. 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.” 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!



Sunday May 7

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

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

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

For peace, mercy, security and the end of natural catastrophes, let us pray to the Lord our God. R.

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.



Preface of Easter

Communion Antiphon (*Jn 15:15*)

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, 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.**



Monday May 8

5th week of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

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

Collect

May your right hand, O Lord, we pray, encompass your family with perpetual help, so that, defended from all wickedness by the Resurrection of your Only Begotten Son, we may make our way by means of your heavenly gifts. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ---

(Acts 14:5-18)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: When an attempt was made [at Iconium] by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to molest Paul and Barnabas and to stone them, they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country; and there they preached the gospel. Now at Lystra there was a man sitting, who could not use his feet; he was a cripple from birth,



who had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking; and Paul; looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and walked. And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, because he was the chief speaker, they called Hermes. And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the people. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments

and rushed out among the multitude, crying, "Men, why are you doing this? We also are men, of like nature with you, and bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways; yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good and gave you from heaven rains and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." With these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm—
(Psalm (113) 115:1-2.3-4.15-16)

R. Not to us, O Lord, but to your name give the glory.

or: Alleluia.

Not to us, O Lord, not to us, /but to your name give the glory, /for your merciful love and fidelity. /Why should the nations say: /“Where is their God?” **R.**

But our God is in the heavens; /he does whatever he wills. /Their idols are silver and gold, /the work of human hands. **R.**

May you be blest by the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. /The heavens, the heavens belong to the Lord, /but to the children

of men, he has given the earth. **R.**

Acclamation

(Jn 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 14:21-26)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” Judas (not Iscariot)

said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” Jesus answered him, “If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me does not keep my words; and the word which you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me. “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” 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 pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

How Did Paul and Barnabas Cure the Cripple?

Commentary

Acts 14:5-18 /
John 14:21-26

In today's first reading we see Paul and Barnabas fleeing for their lives but when they found themselves in Lystra, they noticed a cripple who could not use his feet from birth and seeing that this man had faith, Paul said to him: "Stand upright on your feet." Immediately, Paul and Barnabas were taken to be gods. Jesus gives us the secret in today's Gospel passage: "If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home in him." (John 14:23).

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Tuesday May 9

5th week of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

(Rv 19:5; 12:10) Sing praise to our God, all you who fear God, both small and great, for now salvation and strength have come, and the power of his Christ, alleluia.

Collect

O God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, grant your people constancy in faith and hope, that we may never doubt the promises of which we have learned from you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Acts 14:19-28)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: Jews came [to Lystra] from Antioch and Iconium; and having persuaded the people, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city; and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and

to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every Church, with prayer and fasting, they committed them to the Lord in whom they believed. Then they passed through Pisidia, and came to Pamphylia. And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia; and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had fulfilled. And when they arrived, they gathered the Church together and declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

And they remained no little time with the disciples. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹⁴⁴⁾ 145:10-11.12-13ab.21)

R. Your friends make known, O Lord, the glory of your reign.

or: Alleluia.

All your works shall thank you, O Lord, /and all your faithful ones bless you. /They shall speak of the glory of your reign, /and declare your mighty deeds. **R.**

They shall make known your might to the children of men, /and the glorious splendour of your reign. /Your kingdom is an everlasting

kingdom; /your rule endures for all generations. *R.*

Let my mouth speak the praise of the Lord; /let all flesh bless his holy name / forever, for ages unending. *R.*

Acclamation

(Lk 24:46,26)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ had to suffer and to rise from the dead, and so enter into his glory. **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____

(John 14:27-31a)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give it to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You

heard me say to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the 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

(Rm 6:8) **If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Christ, 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.**

Commentary

The Peace of Christ

**Acts 14:19-28 /
John 14:27-31**

Since the early days of Christianity, Christians have always faced hatred and persecution yet Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you..." Can we be at peace when we have to suffer all kinds of humiliations, attacks, betrayals even from our fellow Christian brothers and sisters? The peace of Christ is not one that prevents us from troubles, rather it is a peace that gives us the confidence to walk through the "valley of the shadow of death fearing no evil."

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Wednesday May 10

5th week of Easter

Ferial

*Or: St Damien Joseph de Veuster of Moloka'i, priest,
Optional memorial.*

Or: St John De Avila, Optional memorial.

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (70) 71:8.23) **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

O God, restorer and lover of innocence, direct the hearts of your servants towards yourself, that those you have set free from the darkness of unbelief may never stray

from the light of your truth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading _____ *(Acts 15:1-6)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: Some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you

cannot be saved.” And when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. So, being sent on their way by the Church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, reporting the conversion of the Gentiles, and they gave great joy to all the brethren. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the Church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up, and said, “It is necessary

to circumcise them, and to charge them to keep the law of Moses.” The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹²¹⁾ 122:1-2,3-4ab. 4cd-5)

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

or: Alleluia.

I rejoiced when they said to me, /“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”/And now our feet are standing /within your gates, O Jerusalem. R.

Jerusalem is built as a city /bonded as one together. /

It is there that the tribes go up, /the tribes of the Lord. *R.*

For Israel's witness it is /to praise the name of the Lord. /There were set the thrones for judgment, /the thrones of the house of David. *R.*

Acclamation

(Jn 15: 4a.5b)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord; he who abides in me bears much fruit. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ---

(John 15: 1-8)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the

vinedresser. Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already made clean by the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever

you will, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.” 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.**

**Every Branch that Bears
Fruit Must Be Pruned
Constantly.**

Commentary

Acts 15:1-6 / John 15:1-8

In the parables of the Lost Coin, the Lost Sheep, the Prodigal Son, more attention is placed on the lost (the strayed, the sinner). So, what happens to the good guy? Jesus answers in today's Gospel passage. The reward one gets is constant pruning. As Jesus says, "the branch that does bear fruit is pruned, that it may bear more fruit." Pruning is shaping. In other words, when God prunes us, He shapes us, that we may bear more fruits. Through pruning, we get to be better Christians.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Thursday May 11

5th Week of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

(Ex 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

O God, by whose grace, though sinners, we are made just and, though pitiable, made blessed, stand, we pray, by your works, stand by your gifts, that those justified by faith may not lack the courage of perseverance. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Acts 15:7-21)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: After there had been much debate, Peter rose and said to the apostles and the elders, “Brethren, you know that in the early days God made choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God who knows the heart bore witness to them, giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us; and

he made no distinction between us and them, but cleansed their hearts by faith. Now therefore why do you make trial of God by putting a yoke upon the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we shall be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.” And all the assembly kept silence; and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, “Brethren, listen to me. Symeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And with this

the words of the prophets agree, as it is written, ‘After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up, that the rest of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who has made these things known from of old’. Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, but should write to them to abstain from the pollutions of idols and from unchastity and from what is strangled and from blood. For from early generations Moses has had in every city those who preach him, for he is read every Sabbath in the

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

**Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (95) 96)**

R. Tell among all the peoples the wonders of the Lord.

or Alleluia.

O sing a new song to the Lord; /sing to the Lord, all the earth. /O sing to the Lord; bless his name. **R.**

Proclaim his salvation day by day. /Tell among the nations his glory, /and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

Say to the nations, “The Lord is king.” /The world he made firm in its

place; /he will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

Acclamation

(Jn 10:27)

Alleluia. Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; and I know them, and they follow me. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel —————
(John 15:9-11)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “As he Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s



commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”
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 worthy way of life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(2 Cor 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.**

**Obeying God's
Commandments****Commentary****Acts 15:7-21 / John 15:9-11**

Today's first reading is the conclusion of the debate that sparked off among the Apostles on the issue of circumcision. In the letter addressed to the Gentile community, the Apostles stated in clear terms the kind of circumcision they ought to do: "to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood." (Acts 15:20). True circumcision is abstaining from idol worship and from fornication. Circumcise your heart by obeying God's commandments.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Friday May 12

5th week of Easter

Ferial

Or: Sts Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs (Optional memorial)

Or: St. Pancras, martyr (optional memorial)

Entrance Antiphon

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

Collect

Grant us, Lord, we pray that being rightly conformed to the paschal mysteries, what we celebrate in joy may protect and save us with perpetual power. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading _____

(Acts 15: 22-31)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: It seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole Church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren, with the following letter: “The

brethren, both the apostles and the elders, to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greeting. Since we have heard that some persons from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, it has seemed good to us in assembly to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. For it has

seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from unchastity. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.” So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch; and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. And when they read it, they rejoiced at the exhortation. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (56) 57:8-9.10-12)

R. I will praise you Lord,
among the peoples.

or: Alleluia.

My heart is ready, O God;
/ my heart is ready. / I will
sing, I will sing your praise.
/Awake, my soul! / Awake,
lyre and harp! / I will awake
the dawn. **R.**

I will praise you, Lord,
among the peoples, / among
the nations sing psalms
to you, / for your mercy
reaches to the heavens, / and
your truth to the skies. / Be
exalted, O God, above the
heavens; / may your glory
shine on all the earth! **R.**

Acclamation
(Jn 15:15b)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I have
called you friends, says the
Lord, for all that I have
heard from my Father I
have made known to you.
Alleluia.

Gospel —
(John 15: 12-17)

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

At that time: Jesus said
to his disciples, “This is
my commandment, that
you love one another as
I have loved you. Greater
love has no man than this,
that a man lay down his
life for his friends. You are
my friends if you do what
I command you. No longer
do I call you servants, for

the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. This I command you, to love one another.” 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.

Friendship with God

Commentary

Acts 15:22-31 /
John 15:12-17

It will be a contradiction if we say we are friends of God yet we do the things He hates. We must be willing to let go of our old ways; our desire for worldly pleasures, our worship of false gods whether directly or indirectly. Friendship with God comes at a cost but there is also a prize for it. There must be a cross to carry and a new life to embrace. In his love for us, Jesus went all the way to sacrifice his very life for us. "Greater love has no man than this; that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Saturday May 13

5th week of Easter

Ferial

Or: Our Lady of Fatima (Optional memorial)

Entrance Antiphon

(Col 2:12) **You have been buried with Christ in baptism, through which you also rose again by faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead, alleluia.**

Collect

Almighty eternal God, who through the regenerating power of Baptism have been pleased to confer on us heavenly life, grant, we pray, that those you render capable of immortality by

justifying them, may by your guidance attain the fullness of glory. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Acts 16: 1-10)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: Paul came to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the Son of a Jewish woman who was a believer; but his father was a Greek.

He was well spoken of by the brethren at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews that were in those places, for they knew that his father was a Greek. As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions which had been reached by the apostles and elders who were at Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily. And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into

Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (99) 100:1-2.3.5)

R. Cry out with joy to the
Lord, all the earth.

or: **Alleluia.**

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

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

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

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 15:18-21)

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

At that time: Jesus said to
his disciples, “If the world
hates you, know that it has
hated me before it hated
you. If you were of the
world, the world would
love its own; but because
you are not of the world,
but I chose you out of the
world, therefore the world
hates you. Remember the

word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But all this they will do to you on my account, because they do not know him who sent 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

(Jn 17:20-21) **Father, I pray for them, that they may be one in us, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me, says the Lord, 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.**

Love your Enemies**Commentary**

**Acts 16:1-10 /
John 15:18-21**

It takes a heart to love or to hate. Indeed, there is a thin line between love and hate. Our natural human tendency is to hate those who hate us; wish for their death or misfortunes. But then, as born-again Christians, we are to transcend our natural human tendencies. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:43-45).

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Digital

ISSN: 2424-7464; **Contact:** Living With Christ

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