

Weekly LWCA

8th week in Ordinary Time

bayard africain



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Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: Pentecost.

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Editorial

May 2023



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

The Birth of the Church

We commence this last week of May by the Pentecost Sunday, fifty days after Easter. This day marks the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ. Pentecost is a time of renewal and reflection on the power of the Holy Spirit and its role in the Christian faith.

On Pentecost, Jesus' official mission on earth ends and ours begins, encouraged, impelled and sustained by his Holy Spirit. We receive his same mission, entrusted by the Father to his Son. "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you" (Jn 20:21). We are filled with gratitude for such a great gift. We want the fire that burned in Christ's heart, and that he longed to see enkindled on earth, to burn in our hearts, too. We want the "tongues of fire" that appeared over the heads of the apostles, and that are present in our souls, to spread to the furthest corner of the world.



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 28

Pentecost, Solemnity

Day: Acts 2: 1-11/ Psalm 104: 1. 24. 29-30. 31. 34/ 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7. 12-13/ Sequence Veni Sancte Spiritus/ John 20: 19-23



.....And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. (Acts 2:2-3)



Come Holy Spirit!

The first reading (Acts 2:1-11) tells of the first ever Pentecost experience. It tells us that the Holy Spirit descended upon humanity. This is presented below:

- There was a gathering of the Apostles with some people. What does this suggest? Unity! The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of unity, a Spirit that binds, a Spirit of oneness. If this is the case, then we should be united. How united are we?
- These people came together for prayer. We can conclude that they also had their own novena. They prepared their hearts to receive the Holy Spirit.
- Pentecost Sunday is an invitation to a life of prayer. Go on your knees and pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to sanctify you, pray for the grace of favour, the grace of peace, pray for your wife, husband, child(ren), friends, etc.
- Each person received a gift of the Holy Spirit as there is no evidence of someone who never received any gift. Today, this same Holy Spirit will descend upon us as He did to the people of old.



Sunday May 28

- The descent of the Holy Spirit had a great impact on the disciples. Right after this experience, Peter would go out to preach and win over 3000 souls for Jesus. This is the birthday of the Church.

Pentecost Sunday is a call to bring the Word of God to the hearts of people, an invitation to a life of witnessing to Jesus, making the Lord known to humanity. This is a beautiful gift you can give to the Church as she celebrates the anniversary of her birth. If 12 men could do this, then we should do better.

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah, Accra-Ghana



Entrance Antiphon (*Wisdom 1:7*)

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

or:

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.

Collect

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (*Acts 2:1-11*)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to



Sunday May 28

them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of the Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —————
(Psalm (103) 104:1ab and 24ac.29bc-30.31 and 34)



**R. Lord, send forth your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
or: Alleluia.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul! /O Lord my God, how great you are. /How many are your works, O Lord! /The earth is full of your creatures. R.

You take away their breath, they die, /returning to the dust from which they came. /You send forth your spirit, and they are created, /and you renew the face of the earth. R.

May the glory of the Lord last forever! /May the Lord rejoice in his works! /May my thoughts be pleasing to him. /I will rejoice in the Lord. R.



Sunday May 28

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 12:3b-7.12-13) —

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

Brethren: No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body -Jews or Greeks, slaves or free- and all were made to drink of one Spirit. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Acclamation

Alleluia. Alleluia. Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful; and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia.

Gospel (John 20:19-23) —

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John



On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” 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 good witnesses of the word of God ; for fruitful apostolates and pastoral works let us pray to the Lord our God. **R.**



Sunday May 28

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

For charity, peace, mercy, and the end of pandemics, let us pray to the Lord our God. *R.*

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as promised by the Son, the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly the hidden mystery of this sacrifice and graciously lead us into all truth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon (*Acts 2:4.11*)

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her, may retain all its force, and that this spiritual food may gain her abundance of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Monday May 29

8th week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Our Lady, Mother of the Church

Entrance Antiphon

(Acts 1:14) **The disciples were persevering with one accord in prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus.**

Collect

O God, Father of mercies, whose Only Begotten Son, as he hung upon the Cross, chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother, to be our Mother also, grant, we pray, that with her loving help your Church may be more fruitful day by day and, exulting in the holiness of

her children, may draw to her embrace all the families of the peoples. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Genesis 3:9-15.20)*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

[After Adam had eaten of the tree,] the Lord God



called to him and asked him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you put here with me— she gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate it.” The Lord God then asked the woman, “Why did you do such a thing?” The woman answered, “The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it.” Then the LORD God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures; On your belly shall you

crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel.” The man called his wife Eve, because she became the mother of all the living. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm (86) 87:1-2, 3 and 5,
6-7)***

**R. Glorious things are told
of you, O city of God.**

His foundation upon the holy mountains the Lord loves: The gates of Zion, more than any dwelling of Jacob. R.



O city of God. Glorious things are said of you, O city of God! And of Zion they shall say: "One and all were born in her; And he who has established her is the Most High Lord." R

O city of God. They shall note, when the peoples are enrolled: "This man was born there." And all shall sing, in their festive dance: "My home is within you." R

Acclamation

Alleluia. Alleluia. O happy Virgin, you gave birth to the Lord; O blessed mother of the Church, you warm our hearts with the Spirit of your Son Jesus Christ. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ————— (John 19: 25-34)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge

soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit. Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately Blood and water flowed

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive our offerings, O Lord, and transform them into the mystery of salvation, so that by its power we may be set aflame with the charity of the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, and with her may be united more closely to the work of redemption. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, and to proclaim your greatness

with due praise, as we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Receiving your Word in her Immaculate Heart, she was found worthy to conceive him in her virgin's womb and, giving birth to the Creator, she nurtured the beginnings of the Church. Standing beside the Cross, she received the testament of divine love and took to herself as sons and daughters all those who by the Death of Christ are born to heavenly life. As the Apostles awaited the Spirit you had promised, she joined her supplication to the prayers of the disciples and so became the pattern of the Church at prayer. Raised to the glory of heaven, she accompanies your pilgrim Church with a mother's love and watches

in kindness over the Church's homeward steps, until the Lord's Day shall come in glorious splendor. And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim: Holy...

Communion Antiphon

A wedding was held in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; then Jesus performed the first of his signs and manifested his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Prayer after Communion

Having received the pledge of redemption and of life, we humbly pray, O Lord, that, with the Blessed Virgin's motherly help, your Church may teach all

nations by proclaiming the Gospel and, through the grace of the outpouring of the Spirit, fill the whole earth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Mother of the Church, Pray for Your Children

Commentary

John 19: 25-34

In the early part of 2018, Pope Francis decreed that the first Monday immediately after Pentecost Sunday be dedicated to celebrating the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church.

Mary is the Mother of the Church on account of Jesus who is the Head of the Church.

As Mother of the Church, Mary intercedes on our behalf. She prays for the Church and presents our requests to Jesus. As a mother would attend to the needs of her child(ren), so does Mary relate to the Church.

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah, Accra-Ghana



Tuesday May 30

8th week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps (16) 17:19-20) **The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.**

Collect

Grant us, O Lord, We pray, that the course of our world may be directed by your peaceful rule and that your Church may rejoice, untroubled in her devotion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Sirach 35:1-12)*

A reading from the Book of Sirach

He who keeps the law makes many offerings; he who heeds the commandments sacrifices a peace offering. He who returns a kindness offers the flour, and he who gives alms sacrifices a thank offering. To keep from wickedness is pleasing to the Lord, and to forsake unrighteousness is atonement. Do not appear before the Lord empty-handed, for all these things are to be done because of

the commandment. The offering of a righteous man anoints the altar, and its pleasing odour rises before the Most High. The sacrifice of a righteous man is acceptable, and the memory of it will not be forgotten. Glorify the Lord generously, and do not stint the first fruits of your hands. With every gift show a cheerful face, and dedicate your tithe with gladness. Give to the Most High as he has given and as generously as your hand has found. For the Lord is the one who repays, and he will repay you sevenfold. Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it; and do not trust to an unrighteous sacrifice; for the Lord is the judge, and with him

is no partiality. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (49) 50)***

R. To one whose way is blameless; I will show the salvation of God.

“Gather my holy ones to me, /who made covenant with me by sacrifice.” / The heavens proclaim his justice, /for he, God, is the judge. R.

“Listen, my people, I will speak; /Israel, I will testify against you, /for I am God, your God. /I do not rebuke for your sacrifices; /your offerings are always before me.” R.

Give your praise as a sacrifice to God, /and



fulfil your vows to the Most High. /A sacrifice of praise gives me honour, / and to one whose way is blameless, /I will show the salvation of God. R.

Acclamation

(Matthew 11:25)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

(Mark 10:28-31)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: Peter began to say to Jesus, “Behold, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you,

there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who provide gifts to be offered to your name and count our oblations as signs of our desire to serve you with devotion, we ask of your mercy, that what you grant as the source

of merit, may also help us
to attain merit's reward.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Cf Ps (11) 12:6) I will
sing to the Lord who has
been bountiful with me,
sing psalms to the name
of the Lord Most High.

or

(Mt. 28:20) **Behold, I am
with you all days, until
the end of ages, says the
Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by your saving
gifts, we beseech your



mercy, Lord, that by this same Sacrament with which you feed us in the present age, you may make

us partakers of life eternal. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Follow Jesus Always

Commentary

Mark 10:28-31

“We have given up everything and followed you.” This is a statement of Peter to Jesus in today’s Gospel. Two points emerge: Peter gave up something. He parted with something. He detached himself from something. Today, what should we let go for our own good? Again, Peter followed Jesus. He was with the Lord from the beginning to the end. He went nowhere. This is the message: we are called to imitate Peter, to give up something and to always follow Jesus.

Rev.Fr. Elvis Mensah, Accra-Ghana



Wednesday May 31

8th week in Ordinary Time

Feast

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf Psalm 66:16) **Come and hear, all who fear God; I will tell what he did for my soul (E.T. alleluia).**

The Gloria in excelsis *(Glory to God in the highest)* **is said.**

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who while the Blessed Virgin Mary was carrying your Son in her womb, inspired her to visit

Elizabeth; grant us, we pray, that, faithful to the promptings of the Spirit, we may magnify your greatness with the Virgin Mary at all times. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(Zephaniah 3:14-18a)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter of Sion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all



your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has cast out your enemies. The King of Israel the Lord us in your midst you shall fear evil no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Do not fear, O Sion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Isaiah 12:2-3.4bcde.5-6
(R. 6b)***

**R. Great in your midst is
the Holy One of Israel.**

“Behold, God is my salvation; /I will trust, and will not be afraid; /for the Lord God is my strength and my song, /and he has become my salvation.” /With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. R.

Give thanks to the Lord /call upon his name /make known his deeds among the nations, /proclaim that his name is exalted.” R.

“Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; /let this be known in all the earth. /Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Sion, /

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.” R

Acclamation

(Lk 1:45)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are you O Virgin Mary who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to you from the Lord. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————

(Luke 1:39-56)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the child leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was

filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women; and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this, granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is



on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever.” And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

May our offering of this saving sacrifice

be acceptable to your majesty, O Lord, as you were pleased to accept the charity of the most Blessed Mother of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Lk 1:48-49) **All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name (E.T. alleluia).**

Prayer after Communion

May your Church proclaim your greatness, O God, for you have done great things for your faithful, and, as Saint John the Baptist leapt with joy when he first sensed the hidden presence of Christ, so may your

Church rejoice to receive and reigns for ever and
in this Sacrament the same ever. **Amen.**
ever-living Lord. Who lives

Commentary

May God Visit Us Today

Luke 1:39-56

The visit of Mary to Elizabeth is an indication of a bond of friendship. It shows how close these cousins were. Today, we need to check up on people, to move out, to build a bond of friendship, a bond of real love, a bond of togetherness and a bond of unity.

Finally, Mary didn't just visit Elizabeth, she rendered quality service to her. She served with love, joy, quality and excellence. Today, we are encouraged to imitate this act of service.

Rev. Fr Elvis Mensah, Tema-Ghana



Thursday June 1

8th Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Justin, martyr

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 118) 119:85.46) **The wicked have told me lies, but not so is your law: I spoke of your decrees before kings, and was not confounded.**

Collect

O God, who through the folly of the Cross wondrously taught Saint Justin the Martyr the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ, grant us, through his intercession, that, having rejected deception and error, we may become steadfast in

the faith. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Sirach 42:15-25)*

A reading from the Book of Sirach

I will now call to mind the works of the Lord, and will declare what I have seen. By the words of the Lord his works are done, and in his will, justice is carried out. The sun looks down on everything with its light, and the work of the Lord is full of his glory. The

Lord has not enabled his holy ones to recount all his marvellous works, which the Lord the Almighty has established that the universe may stand firm in his glory. He searches out the abyss, and the hearts of men, and considers their crafty devices. For the Most High knows all that may be known, and he looks into the signs of the age. He declares what has been and what is to be, and he reveals the tracks of hidden things. No thought escapes him, and not one word is hidden from him. He has ordained the splendours of his wisdom, and he is from everlasting and to everlasting. Nothing can be added or taken away, and he needs no one to be his counsellor. How greatly

to be desired are all his works, and how sparkling they are to see! All these things live and remain for ever for every need, and are all obedient. All things are twofold, one opposite the other, and he has made nothing incomplete. One confirms the good things of the other, and who can have enough of beholding his glory? The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 33:2-3.4-5.6-7.8-9
(R. 6a)

***R. By the word of the Lord
the heavens were made.***

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp; with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. O sing him a song

that is new; play skilfully, with shouts of joy. 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

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, by the breath of his mouth all their host. As in a flask, he collects the waves of the ocean; he stores up the depths of the sea. R

Let all the earth fear the Lord, all who live in the world revere him. He spoke, and it came to be. He commanded; it stood in place. R

Acclamation

(John 8:12)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I am the light of the world, says the

Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia.

Gospel ————— *(Mark 10:46-52)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great multitude, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And

they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; rise, he is calling you.” And throwing off his cloak he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Master, let me receive my sight.” And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, we pray, O Lord, that we may celebrate worthily these mysteries, which Saint Justin strenuously defended. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(1 Cor 2:2) **I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.**

Prayer after Communion

Refreshed by heavenly food, we humbly implore you, O Lord, that, attentive to the

teaching of Saint Justin the Martyr, we may abide at all times in thanksgiving for

the gifts we have received. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Don't Listen to them

Commentary

Sometimes, you shouldn't listen to people. If you listen to the advice of people and you fail, the same people will make a mockery of you; if you don't listen to the advice of the people and you make it, the same people will praise you.

This is expressed in the life of Bartimaeus in today's Gospel (Mark 10:46-52). If he had listened to the crowd, he would have been reduced to silence in which case his matter would not have reached Jesus. He pressed on till he was heard.

Rev. Fr. Elvis MENSAH, Ghana -Accra



Friday June 2

8th Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: Sts Marcellinus and Peter, martyrs (Optional memorial)

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm 17:19-20) **The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.**

Collect

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that the course of our world may be directed by your peaceful rule and that your Church may rejoice, untroubled in her devotion Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Sirach 44:1-9-13)

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers in their generations. There are some who have no memorial, who have perished as though they had not lived; they have become as though they had not been born, and so have their children after them. But these were men of mercy, whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten;

their prosperity will remain with their descendants, and their inheritance to their children's children. Their descendants stand by the covenants; their children also, for their sake. Their posterity will continue for ever, and their glory will not be blotted out. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 149:1b-2.3-4.5-6a
and 9b (R. 4a)***

***R. The Lord takes delight
in his people.***

Or: Alleluia.

Sing a new song to the Lord, his praise in the

assembly of the faithful. Let Israel rejoice in its Maker; let Zion's children exult in their king. **R.**

Let them praise his name with dancing, and make music with timbrel and harp. For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the poor with salvation. **R.**

Let the faithful exult in glory, and rejoice as they take their rest. Let the praise of God be in their mouths. This is an honour for all his faithful. **R.**

Acclamation (John 15:16)
Alleluia. Alleluia. I chose you from the world that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, says the Lord. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(Mark 11:11-25)

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

Jesus entered Jerusalem [amid acclamations from the crowd,] and went into the temple; and when he had looked round at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it. And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered

the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons; and he would not allow any one to carry anything through the temple. And he taught, and said to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and sought a way to destroy him; for they feared him, because all the multitude was astonished at his teaching. And when evening came they went out of the city. As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered

away to its roots. And Peter remembered and said to him, “Master, look! The fig tree which you cursed has withered.” And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will. And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against any one; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who provide gifts to be offered to your name and count our oblations as signs of our desire to serve you with devotion, we ask of your mercy, that what you grant as the source of merit, may also help us to attain merit's reward. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm 12:6) **I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.**

Or: (Mt 28:20)

Behold, I am with you all days, until the end of the ages, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by your saving gifts, we beseech your mercy, Lord, that by this same Sacrament with

which you feed us in the present age, you may make us partakers of life eternal. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Don't Be Silent, Act

Commentary

In today's Gospel (Mark 11:11-16), Jesus undertakes an action in the Temple. He doesn't keep quiet, but speaks out. People saw these abuses, but decided to remain mute. Jesus saw, and spoke.

Like Jesus, you need not keep quiet, but speak to elements of illegality in society, Church, etc. If you remain mute, this indiscipline would envelope you.

Rev. Fr. Elvis MENSAH, Ghana -Accra



Saturday June 3

8th Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

St Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs

Entrance Antiphon

(Wis 3:6-7.9) **As gold in the furnace, the Lord put his chosen to the test; as sacrificial offerings, he took them to himself; and in due time they will be honoured, and grace and peace will be with the elect of God.**

The Gloria in excelsis is said

Collect

O God, who have made the blood of Martyrs the seed of Christians, mercifully grant that the field which

is your Church, watered by the blood shed by Saints Charles Lwanga and his companions, may be fertile and always yield you an abundant harvest. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Sirach 51:12c-20b)*

A reading from the Book of Sirach

I will give thanks to you and praise you, and I will bless the name of the Lord. While I was still young, before I

went on my travels, I sought wisdom openly in my prayer. Before the temple I asked for her, and I will search for her to the last. From blossom to ripening grape my heart delighted in her; my foot entered upon the straight path; from my youth I followed her steps. I inclined my ear a little and received her, and I found for myself much instruction. I made progress therein; to him who gives me wisdom I will give glory. For I resolved to live according to wisdom, and I was zealous for the good; and I shall never be put to shame. My soul grappled with wisdom, and in my conduct I was strict; I spread out my hands to the heavens, and lamented my ignorance of her. I directed

my soul to her, and through purification I found her. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹⁸⁾ 19:19:8.9.10.11
(R. 9ab)***

**R. The precepts of the
Lord are right; they
gladden the heart.**

The law of the Lord is perfect; it revives the soul. The decrees of the Lord are steadfast; they give wisdom to the simple. R.

The precepts of the Lord are right; they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear; it gives light to the eyes. R.

The fear of the Lord is pure, abiding forever. The

judgements of the Lord are true; they are, all of them, just. R

They are more to be desired than gold, than quantities of gold. And sweeter are they than honey, than honey flowing from the comb. R

Acclamation

(Colossians 3:1 6a. 17c)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
Alleluia.

Gospel —————

(Mark 11:27-33)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: Jesus and the disciples came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, and they said to him, “By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?” Jesus said to them, “I will ask you a question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Was the baptism of John from heaven or from men? Answer me.” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But shall we say, ‘From men?’” — they were afraid of the people, for all

held that John was a real prophet. So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

We offer you sacrifice, O Lord, humbly praying that, as you granted the blessed Martyrs grace to die rather than sin, so you may bring

us to minister at your altar in dedication to you alone. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (115) 116:15) **How precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.**

Prayer after Communion

We have received this divine Sacrament, O Lord, as we celebrate the victory of your holy Martyrs;

may what helped them to endure torment, we pray, make us, in the face of trials, steadfast in faith

and in charity. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Africa: Witness to Jesus

Commentary

Today, we celebrate the martyrs of Uganda. These were courageous Africans who witnessed to the faith. Till date, they are celebrated, their names are mentioned.

Today's celebration reminds us of Africa's contributions in advancing Christianity. These martyrs died painfully. They were laid on mats, bound, placed on a pyre and burnt alive; others were beheaded.

Sadly, people continue to be persecuted on grounds of religion. Today's celebration is a call to end religious persecution.

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