

AFRICA

Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

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Living with Christ September 2022

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A "synodal Church" in the 21st Century; the role of the lay faithful in the light of the "synod of synodality".

On our cover : Little church christian in Africa, Uganda. Beautiful nature of Uganda in East-Africa with religious building catholic church

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Jesus' Discipleship by carrying one's cross

“If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24). Many people interpret “cross” as some burden they must carry in their lives: a strained relationship, a thankless job, a physical illness. They say with self-pitying pride: “That’s my cross I have to carry.” This interpretation is not what Jesus meant when He said, “Carry your cross and follow Me.” To carry one’s cross and follow Jesus means being willing to die for Jesus’ discipleship. This is called “dying to self.” It’s a call to absolute surrender.

Following Jesus is easy when life runs smoothly; our true commitment to Him is revealed during time of trials. Jesus assured us that trials will come to His followers (John 16:33). Indeed, discipleship demands sacrifice, and Jesus never hid that cost.

Every liturgical year, on the 14th of September, the Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The cross represents Christ’s victory over death.

Praying with the Church



The Pope's Prayer Intention

For the abolition of the death penalty : We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

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

The Sacrament of Confirmation

The sacrament of confirmation is one of the three sacraments of Christian initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation). In the Church, there was a time during which the three sacraments were administered at the time as they are considered to be the basis of the Christian life. Nowadays, they are generally received separately. Nevertheless, they can still be administered at the same time in some circumstances. Just as the apostles came out of hiding after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the confirmands receive the Holy Spirit so that they may overcome fear and proclaim the Good News of God's kingdom. The Christians who receive the sacrament of confirmation are marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit. Confirmation is one of the sacraments that cannot be repeated.

The sacrament of confirmation should take place during Mass. The ceremony of confirmation starts after the liturgy of the word. It includes the renewal of the

baptismal promises, followed by the laying of hands and the anointing with the holy Chrism on the forehead. The bishop anoints the forehead of the confirmand by tracing the cross with the thumb of his right hand. In case of a pandemic, the conference of bishops or the local bishop may propose an adaptation to prevent the spreading of the disease.

The minister of the sacrament of confirmation is the bishop. Under some circumstances, he can confer the faculty of administering the sacrament to one or many other priests. Some dioceses are so big that the bishop cannot go all over to administer the sacraments. The bishop may be sick while the date for administering the sacrament was already set. In such cases, he can delegate someone else.

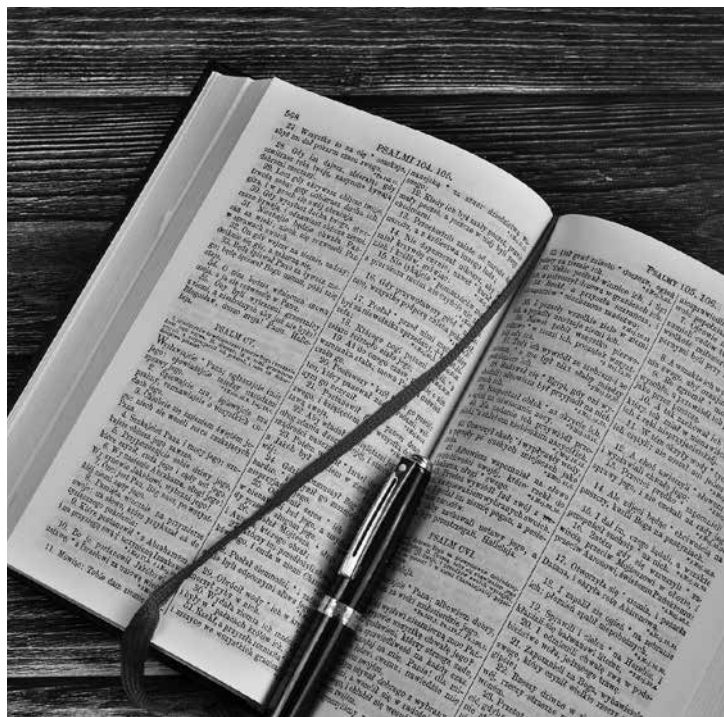
The matter of the sacrament of confirmation is the chrism oil and the laying of hands on the confirmand while the form is made up of the following words: «N., be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.» The sacrament of confirmation is administered to a person who has the age of reason.

Whoever receives the confirmation must express his/her intention of receiving the sacrament. He must receive enough instruction about the sacrament and should be in a state of grace. There is a connection between baptism and confirmation. The sacrament of confirmation is necessary for the fulfillment of the baptismal graces.

Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. Kombi,
Rome-Italy



Daily Morning and Evening Prayers





Psalms for a simple Prayer

In the mornings and in the evenings, we are particularly called to join the Church in praying with the Psalms:

- The **opening antiphon** introduces each Psalm to the mood of our prayer.

- The **Psalm or Canticle** can be said or sung, and is concluded by a doxology (*Glory be...*) presenting our prayer to the triune God:

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.*

- The **concluding prayer** concludes our Psalm, as the Church Tradition of psalm-reading invites us to.

We can freely arrange our prayer by introducing other elements: the Sign of the Cross, the Our Father, personal intentions, the *Benedictus* (in the morning) or the *Magnificat* (in the evening), a song to Mary...

But what pleases God most is not “what” we say but the simplicity of our contrite and loving heart!

Psalms compiled by Rev. Fr. Raphael Hessah



SUNDAY MORNING

Opening Antiphon: Glorious is the Lord on high, alleluia.

Psalm (92) 93

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;
the Lord has robed himself with might,
he has girded himself with power.

The world you made firm, not to be moved;
your throne has stood firm from of old.
From all eternity, O Lord, you are.

The waters have lifted up, O Lord,
the waters have lifted up their voice,
the waters have lifted up their thunder.

Greater than the roar of mighty waters
more glorious than the surgings of the sea,
the Lord is glorious on high.

Truly your decrees are to be trusted.
Holiness is fitting to your house,
O Lord, until the end of time. *Glory be...*

Concluding Prayer: Lord God, you have prepared for those who love you what no eye has seen, no ear has heard. Fill our hearts with your love, so that loving you above all and in all, we may attain your promises which the heart of man has not conceived. 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.

Opening Antiphon: All power is yours, Lord God, our mighty king,
alleluia.

Revelation 19:1-7

Alleluia.

Salvation, glory, and power to our God:

(Alleluia.)

his judgments are honest and true.

Alleluia (alleluia).

Alleluia.

Sing praise to our God, all you his servants,

(Alleluia.)

all who worship him reverently, great and small.

Alleluia (alleluia).

Alleluia.

The Lord our all-powerful God is King;

(Alleluia.)

Let us rejoice, sing praise, and give him glory.

Alleluia (alleluia).

Glory be...

Concluding Prayer: Almighty, ever-living God, we confidently call you Father as well as Lord. Renew your Spirit in our hearts, make us ever more your children, so that we may enter upon the inheritance you have promised us. We make our prayer 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.

MONDAY MORNING

Opening Antiphon: Come, let us climb the mountain of the Lord.

Isaiah 2:2-5

In days to come,
The mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest mountain
and raised above the hills.

All nations shall stream toward it;
many peoples shall come and say:
"Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
That he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in
his paths."

For from Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and impose terms on many peoples.
They shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
One nation shall not raise the sword against another,
nor shall they train for war again. *Glory be...*

Concluding Prayer: Lord God, king of heaven and earth, direct our minds and bodies throughout this day, and make us holy. Keep us faithful to your law in thought, word and deed. Be our helper now and always, free us from sin, and bring us to salvation in that kingdom where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Opening Antiphon: All our eyes are fixed intently on the Lord,
waiting for his merciful help.

Psalm (122) 123

To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens;
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords.

Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God
till he show us his mercy.

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain. *Glory be...*

Concluding Prayer: God our Father, at the close of day we come to you, the light that never fades. Shine in the darkness of our night and forgive our sins and failings. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



TUESDAY MORNING

Opening Antiphon: Lord, let the light of your face shine upon us.

Psalm (66) 67

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its fruit
for God, our God, has blessed us.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. *Glory be...*

Concluding Prayer: God our Father, hear our morning prayer and let the radiance of your love scatter the gloom of our hearts. The light of heaven's love has restored us to life; free us from the desires that belong to darkness. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Opening Antiphon: The Lord surrounds his people with his strength.

Psalm (124) 125

Those who put their trust in the Lord
are like Mount Zion, that cannot be shaken,
that stands for ever.

Jerusalem! The mountains surround her,
so the Lord surrounds his people
both now and for ever.

For the scepter of the wicked shall not rest
over the land of the just
for fear that the hands of the just
should turn to evil.

Do good, Lord, to those who are good,
to the upright of heart;
but the crooked and those who do evil,
drive them away!
On Israel, peace! *Glory be...*

Concluding Prayer: Lord, may our evening prayer rise up to you. and your blessing come down upon us. May your help and salvation be ours now and through all eternity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



WEDNESDAY MORNING

Opening Antiphon: Blessed is the upright man, who speaks the truth.

Isaiah 33:13-16

Hear, you who are far off,
what I have done;
you who are near,
acknowledge my might.

On Zion sinners are in dread,
trembling grips the impious:
“Who of us can live with the consuming fire?
who of us can live with the everlasting flames?”

He who practices virtue and speaks honestly,
who spurns what is gained by oppression,
Brushing his hands free of contact with a bribe,
stopping his ears lest he hear of bloodshed,
closing his eyes lest he look on evil-

He shall dwell on the heights,
his stronghold shall be the rocky fastness,
his food and drink in steady supply. *Glory be...*

Concluding Prayer: Lord as daylight fills the sky. Fill us with your holy light. May our lives mirror our love for you whose wisdom has brought us into being, and whose care guides us on our way. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Opening Antiphon: May the Lord build our house and guard our city.

Psalm (126) 127

If the Lord does not build the house,
in vain do its builders labor;
if the Lord does not watch over the city,
in vain does the watchman keep vigil.

In vain is your earlier rising,
your going later to rest,
you who toil for the bread you eat,
when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber.

Truly sons are a gift from the Lord,
a blessing, the fruit of the womb.
Indeed the sons of youth
are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

O the happiness of the man
who has filled his quiver with these arrows!
He will have no cause for shame
when he disputes with his foes in the gateways. *Glory be...*

Concluding Prayer: Merciful Lord, let the evening prayer of your Church come before you. May we do your work faithfully; free us from sin and make us secure in your love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



THURSDAY MORNING

Opening Antiphon: Glorious things are said of you, O city of God.

Psalm (86) 87

On the holy mountain is his city
cherished by the Lord.

The Lord prefers the gates of Zion
to all Jacob's dwellings.

Of you are told glorious things,
O city of God!

“Babylon and Egypt I will count
among those who know me;
Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia,
these will be her children
and Zion shall be called Mother
for all shall be her children.”

It is he, the Lord Most High,
who gives each his place.

In his register of peoples he writes:

These are her children, and while they dance they will
sing: In you all find their home. *Glory be...*

Concluding Prayer: All-powerful and ever-living God, shine with the light of your radiance on a people who live in the shadow of death. Let the dawn from on high break upon us; your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Opening Antiphon: The Father has given Christ all honor, power and kingship; all people will obey him.

Revelation 11:17-18; 12:10b-12a

We praise you, the Lord God Almighty,
Who is and who was.
You have assumed your great power,
You have begun your reign.

The nations have raged in anger,
But then came your day of wrath
And the moment to judge the dead:
The time to reward your servants the prophets
And the holy ones who revere you,
The great and the small alike.

Now have salvation and power come,
The reign of our God and the authority
Of his Anointed One,
For the accuser of our brothers is cast out,
Who night and day accused them before God. *Glory be...*

Concluding Prayer: Lord, we thank you for guiding us through the course of this day's work. In your compassion forgive the sins we have committed through human weakness. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



FRIDAY MORNING

Opening Antiphon: The Lord is God; we are his people, the flock he shepherds.

Psalm (99) 100

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

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

Go within his gates, giving thanks.
Enter his courts with songs of praise.
Give thanks to him and bless his name.

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

Concluding Prayer: Father all-powerful, let your radiance dawn in our lives, that we may walk in the light of your law with you as our leader. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, once God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Opening Antiphon: All nations will come and worship before you,
O Lord.

Revelation 15:3-4

Mighty and wonderful are your works,
Lord God Almighty!
Righteous and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!

Who would dare refuse you honor,
or the glory due your name, O Lord?

Since you alone are holy,
all nations shall come
and worship in your presence.
Your mighty deeds are clearly seen. *Glory be...*

Concluding Prayer: Father, in your loving plan Christ your Son became the price of our salvation. May we be united with him in his suffering so that we may experience the power of his resurrection in the kingdom Where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit One God, for ever and ever. Amen.



SATURDAY MORNING

Opening Antiphon: Lord, you are near us, and all your ways are true.

Psalm (118) | 19:145-152

I call with all my heart; Lord, hear me,
I will keep your statutes.
I call upon you, save me
and I will do your will.

I rise before dawn and cry for help,
I hope in your word.
My eyes watch through the night
to ponder your promise.

In your love hear my voice, O Lord;
give me life by your decrees.
Those who harm me unjustly draw near;
they are far from your law.

But you, O Lord, are close,
your commands are truth.
Long have I known that your will
is established for ever. *Glory be...*

Concluding Prayer: God our Father, fountain and source of our salvation, may we proclaim your glory every day of our lives, that we may sing your praise: for ever in heaven. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Opening Antiphon: From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the name of the Lord be praised.

Psalm (112) 113

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the dung heap he raises the poor
to set them in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.
To the childless wife he gives a home
and gladdens her heart with children. *Glory be...*

Concluding Prayer: O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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.



Daily Readings





Thursday September 1

22nd Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (84) 85:3.5) **Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.**

Collect

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(1 Corinthians 3:18-23)

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

Brethren: Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." So let no one boast of men.

For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future, all are yours; and you are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (23) 24:1-2.3-4ab.5-6)

R. The Lord's is the earth
and its fullness.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all who dwell in it. It is He who set it on the seas; on the rivers he made it firm. *R.*

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The clean of hands and pure of heart, whose soul is not set on vain things. *R.*

Blessings from the Lord shall he receive, and right reward from the God who saves him. Such are the people who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *R.*

Acclamation
(Matthew 4:19)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of men.
Alleluia.

Gospel —
(Luke 5:1-11)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: While the people pressed upon Jesus to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word, I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking,

they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth, you will be catching men." And they had brought their boats to the land, they left everything and followed him.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

May this sacred offering, O Lord, confer on us always the blessing of salvation, that what it celebrates in mystery, it may accomplish in power. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (29) 30: 20) **How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.**

Or

(Matthew 5:9-10)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are those who suffer persecution for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Prayer after Communion

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table, we beseech you, Lord, that

being the food of charity, it may confirm our hearts and stir us to serve you in our

neighbour. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Wisdom of the World versus the Wisdom of the Creator

Commentary

1 Corinthians. 3:18-23

There are two ways we can fall into the trap of self-deception: listening to the word of God without putting it into practice and ignoring God completely. Jesus asked Simon Peter to put out his nets for a catch, and Peter responded: “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing!” From Peter’s experience, it becomes clear that there is a need for us to constantly examine ourselves. What kind of wisdom am I operating with right now? Is this decision I am about to take fuelled by worldly wisdom? Could it be the case that Jesus is telling me to throw my nets for a catch, and I am protesting vehemently against the move based on what I already know about fishing?

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Benin-City, Nigeria



Friday September 2

22nd Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (84) 85:3.5) **Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.**

Collect

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(1 Corinthians 4:1-5)

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

Brethren: This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. But with me, it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore, do not

pronounce judgement before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then every man will receive his commendation from God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽³⁶⁾ 37:3-4.5-6.27-28.39-40)

℟. From the Lord comes the salvation of the just.

Trust in the Lord and do good; then you will dwell in the land and safely pasture. Find your delight in the Lord, who grants your heart's desire. *℟.*

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will

act, and make your uprightness shine like the light, the justice of your cause like the noon-day sun. *℟.*

Then turn away from evil and do good, and you may abide forever; / for indeed, the Lord loves justice, and will never forsake his faithful. The unjust shall be wiped out forever, and the descendants of the wicked destroyed. *℟.*

But from the Lord comes the salvation of the just, their stronghold in time of distress. The Lord helps them and rescues them, rescues and saves them from the wicked: because they take refuge in him. *℟.*

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 ————— ***(Luke 5:33-39)***

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: The Pharisees and the scribes said to Jesus, “The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink.” And Jesus said to them, “Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.” He told them a parable also: “No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it upon an old garment; if he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And

no one puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new; for he says, “The old is good”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

May this sacred offering, O Lord, confer on us always the blessing of salvation, that what it celebrates in mystery, it may accomplish in power. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (29) 30:20) **How great is the goodness, Lord, that**

you keep for those who fear you.

Prayer after Communion

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table, we beseech

you, Lord, that being the food of charity, it may confirm our hearts, and stir us to serve you in our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Do not Pronounce Judgement before the Time.

Commentary

1 Corinthians. 4:1-5

St. Paul's words are part of his response to the division in the Corinthian Church. To those who were on the side of Paul, Paul was saying: "who are you to declare me a saint?" and to those who were against Paul, he was saying: "even though I am not aware of anything against myself, I am not thereby acquitted." I admire that in all of this, Paul made no single negative statement about Apollos. This is a lesson we must learn. Coming down to our Gospel passage, we see how Jesus and his disciples became victims of premature judgment by the scribes and the Pharisees. Even if Jesus and his disciples were fasting, they were not showing it. There is danger in passing judgment before the time; (before all the facts are exposed).

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Benin-City, Nigeria



Saturday September 3

22nd Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Gregory the Great, pope and doctor

Entrance Antiphon

Blessed Gregory, raised upon the throne of Peter, always sought the beauty of the Lord, and lived in the celebration of that love.

Collect

O God, who care for your people with gentleness and rule them in love, through the intercession of Pope Saint Gregory, endow, we pray, with a spirit of wisdom those to whom

you have given authority to govern, that the flourishing of a holy flock may become the eternal joy of the shepherds. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(1 Corinthians 4:6b-15)

A reading from the first Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brethren: May you learn by Apollos and me not to go beyond what is written,

that none of you may be puffed up in favour of one against another. For who sees anything different in you? What have you that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift? Already you are filled! Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you! For I think that God has exhibited us, apostles, as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are

held in honour, but we are in disrepute. To the present hour, we hunger and thirst, we are poorly clothed and buffeted and homeless, and we labour, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the dregs of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. Though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹⁴⁴⁾ 145:17-18.19-20.21)

R. The Lord is close to all who call him.

The Lord is just in all his ways, / and holy in all his deeds. The Lord is close to all who call him, who call on him in truth. R.

He fulfils the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and he saves them. The Lord keeps watch over all who love him; the wicked he will utterly destroy. R.

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

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 —
(Luke 6:1-5)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

On a sabbath, while Jesus was going through the grain fields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. But some of the Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath?” And Jesus answered, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with

him: how he entered the house of God, and took and ate the showbread, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?” And he said to them, “The Son of man is lord of the sabbath.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant our supplication, we pray, O Lord, that this sacrifice we present in celebration of Saint Gregory

may be for our good, since through its offering you have loosed the offences of all the world. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Luke 12:42) **This is the servant, faithful and wise, whom the Lord set over his household to give them their measure of wheat in due season.**

Prayer after Communion

Through Christ the teacher, O Lord, instruct those you feed with Christ,

the living Bread, that on the feast day of Saint Gregory they may learn your truth and express it in works of charity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Spirituality is not Religiosity

Commentary

1 Corinthians 4:6-15

God is not pleased with our external acts of worship as He is with our spiritual connection with Him. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that true worshippers would worship not on this mountain or on that mountain but in spirit and truth. (John 4:23-24). Hostility towards others is a sign of the absence of true inner spirituality. Just as Jesus' detractors were hostile to him, looking for faults at every instance, we could relapse into such hostility and forget the essence of our faith in God is love for our neighbour. Once we no longer love others, our worship of God becomes mere religiosity.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Benin-City, Nigeria

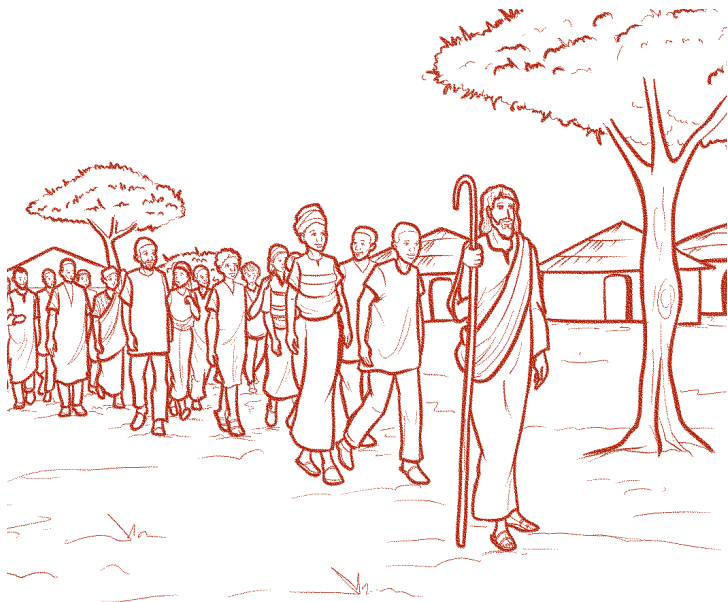


Sunday September 4

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 9:13-18b / Psalm (89) 90 / Philemon 9b-10.12-17 /

Luke 14:25-33



“Large crowds were traveling with Jesus...”



Who Can Divine the Will of God?

God is supreme in all things, especially in holiness and knowledge. As humans, we are limited in knowledge and holiness to the extent that we cannot know the intentions of God or advise him (Wisdom 9:13-18).

The closer we get to our Lord is to be his disciples. Being a disciple of the Lord comes with a condition. “If anyone comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:25-33).

Becoming a disciple of the Lord should be a conscious choice and must come with efforts to achieve communion with the Lord. This involves denying oneself of certain worldly material things that may hinder our discipleship with the Lord.

Being a disciple of the Lord also demands that we are brothers and sisters to one another. This brotherliness is



what Saint Paul called to be established between Onesimus and Philemon as servants of God (Philemon 9-10.12-17).

As disciples of the Lord, our decisions and actions must be characterized by mercy and forgiveness as Saint Paul demands of Philemon on behalf of Onesimus. We need to forgive one another as the Lord has forgiven us in Christ Jesus.

May the Lord help us to be his worthy disciples.

Rev. Fr. Francis Gave, Accra-Ghana.



Entrance Antiphon (*Cf. Psalm (117) 118*)

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Introductory Rites (*p. 187*)

Collect

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

First Reading (Wisdom 9:13-18b) —————

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

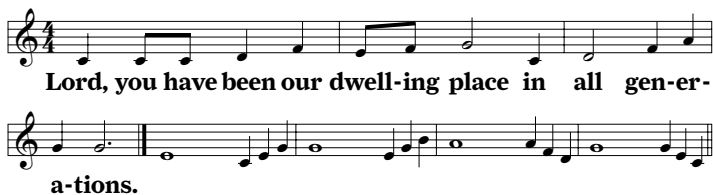
What man can learn the counsel of God? Or who can discern what the Lord wills? For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail, for a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthy tent burdens the thoughtful mind. We can hardly guess what is on earth, and what is at hand we find with labour; but who has traced out what is in the heavens? Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent your holy Spirit



from on high? And thus, the paths of those on earth were set right, and men were taught what pleases you.

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

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm (89) 90)



***R.* O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.**

You turn man back to dust,
and say, “Return, O children of men.”
To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday,
come and gone, or like a watch in the night. *R.*

You sweep them away like a dream,
like grass which is fresh in the morning.
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh;
by evening it withers and fades. *R.*



Then teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O Lord! How long?
Show pity to your servants. R.

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.
O give success to the work of our hands. R.

Second Reading (Philemon 9b-10.12-17)

A reading from the Letter to Philemon

Beloved: I, Paul, an ambassador and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus, I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become in my imprisonment. I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the Gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. Perhaps this is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both



in the flesh and in Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

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

Acclamation (*Psalm (118) 119:135*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Make your face shine forth on your servant, and teach me your decrees. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*Luke 14:25-33*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Great multitudes accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build, and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends an embassy and asks for terms of



peace. So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”

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

Profession of Faith (*p. 188*)

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

R. Lord, hear our prayer !

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

For wisdom and selflessness in those committed to public service, we pray to the Lord: **R.**

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

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

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that through this offering, we may do fitting



homage to your divine majesty and by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface (*Sundays in Ordinary Time, p. 192*)

Communion Antiphon (*Psalms* ⁽⁴¹⁾ *42: 2-3*)

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.

Or

(John 8:12) I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the one who follows me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.

Prayer after Communion

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal (*p. 208*)



Monday September 5

23rd Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (117) 118:137.124)

**You are just, O Lord, and
your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord
with your merciful love.**

Collect

O God, by whom we are
redeemed and receive
adoption, look graciously
upon your beloved sons
and daughters, that those
who believe in Christ may
receive true freedom and
an everlasting inheritance.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading

(1 Corinthians 5:1-8)

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

Brethren: It is actually
reported that there is
immorality among you, and
of a kind that is not found
even among pagans; for a
man is living with his father's
wife. And you are arrogant!
Ought you not rather to
mourn? Let him who has
done this be removed from
among you. For though
absent in body, I am present
in spirit, and as if present, I
have already pronounced

judgment in the name of the Lord Jesus on the man who has done such a thing. When you are assembled, and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens all the dough? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new dough, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 5:5-6.7.12)***

R. Lead me, Lord, in your justice.

You are no God who delights in evil; no sinner is your guest. The boastful shall not stand their ground / before your eyes. R.

All who do evil you despise; / all who lie you destroy. The deceitful and those who shed blood, the Lord detests. R.

All who take refuge in you shall be glad, and ever cry out their joy. You shelter them; in you, they rejoice, those who love your name. R.

Acclamation (John 10:27)

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

Gospel _____ ***(Luke 6:6-11)***

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It happened that, on a sabbath, when Jesus entered the synagogue and taught, a man was there whose right hand was withered. And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there. And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?" And he looked around on them all, and said to him, "Stretch out

your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored. But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (41) 42: 2-3) **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.

Prayer after Communion

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through

the food of your word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Good or Evil on the Sabbath Day?

Commentary

Luke 6:6-11

We were created out of goodness for goodness. Thus, the commandments by God are not to enslave us but for freedom. An action done on the Sabbath, which is the day of rest, to save or preserve life cannot be termed as evil. It would be against God's law rather than protecting it to allow life to perish. It calls for conscious efforts to avoid evil from our midst. That is why St. Paul advised us to take every step to eliminate every evil practice from our midst so that it does not escalate to corrupt the whole community or society. May the Lord lead us in the way of justice to avoid evil and do good.

Rev. Fr. Francis Gave, Accra-Ghana



Tuesday September 6

23rd Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (117) 118:137.124)

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Collect

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(1 Corinthians 6:1-11)

A reading from first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brethren: If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this

life! Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers! The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters. Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers

nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

***℟. 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 mu-
sic 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. **Alle-
luia.**

Gospel —————
(*Luke 6:12-19*)

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

One of those days,
Jesus went out to a
mountainside to pray,
and spent the night
praying to God. When
morning came, he called
his disciples to him and
chose twelve of them,
whom he also designated
apostles: Simon (whom he
named Peter), his brother
Andrew, James, John,
Philip, Bartholomew,
Matthew, Thomas, James
son of Alphaeus, Simon
who was called the Zealot,
Judas son of James,
and Judas Iscariot, who
became a traitor.

He went down with them
and stood on a level

place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of

peace, graciously grant through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (41) 42: 2-3) **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.**

Prayer after Communion

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with

life through the food of your word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may

merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Maintain our Christian Identity

Commentary

Luke 6:12-19

In Christ Jesus, we are called to be apostles and to proclaim the Good News. Our identity as apostles is based on the foundation of the twelve men who were the first apostles of our Saviour Jesus Christ and accompanied him during his earthly ministry. Today, our calling impresses upon us to follow the foundation laid by our Saviour and his apostles in our contemporary world. We are also called in our various vocations to teach and attend to the various needs of our brothers and sisters.

Our calling invites us to be the light of our communities.

Rev. Fr. Francis Gave, Accra-Ghana



Wednesday September 7

23rd Week in Ordinary Time.

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (117) 118:137.124)

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Collect

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(1 Corinthians 7:25-31)

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

Brethren: Now concerning the unmarried, I have no command of the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. I think that in view of the impending distress it is well for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek marriage. But if you marry, you do not sin,

and if a girl marries, she does not sin. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. I mean, brethren, the appointed time has grown very short; from now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the form of this world is passing away.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽⁴⁴⁾ 45:11-12.14-
15.16-17)***

**R. Listen, O daughter; pray
heed and give ear.**

Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear: forget your own people and your father's house. He is your lord, pay homage to him. R.

The daughter of the king is clothed with splendour, her robes are threaded with gold. In fine clothing she is led to the king. R.

behind her are her maiden companions, brought to you. R.

They are escorted amid gladness and joy; they pass within the palace of the king. Sons will be yours to succeed your fathers;

you will make them rulers over all the earth. R.

Acclamation

(Luke 6:23ab)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Rejoice and leap for joy, says the Lord, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————

(Luke 6:20-26)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes on his disciples and said: “Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you that weep

now, for you shall laugh. “Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. “But woe to you that are rich, for you have received your consolation. “Woe to you that are full now, for you shall hunger. “Woe to you that laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. “Woe to you, when all men speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (41) 42: 2-3) **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.**

Prayer after Communion

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with

life through the food of your word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may

merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

State of Life

Commentary

Luke 6:20-26

Being in union with God and neighbours, our Lord Jesus has proposed to us the conditions that could grant us real happiness. These teachings of Jesus, known as the beatitudes or blessings, are commitments we make as the followers of Jesus. The rewards of such commitments are great. "Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven".

May the Lord help us to always serve him in whatever capacity we find ourselves.

Rev. Fr. Francis Gave, Accra-Ghana



Thursday September 8

23rd Week in Ordinary Time

Feast

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Entrance Antiphon

Let us celebrate with joy the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for from her arose the sun of justice, Christ our God.

peace to those for whom the birth of her Son was the dawning of salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Reading —————
(Micah 5:2-5a)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah

Collect

Impart to your servants, we pray, O Lord, the gift of heavenly grace, that the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary may bring deeper

Thus, says the Lord: You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler

in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour pains has brought forth; then the rest of his brethren shall return to the sons of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And this shall be peace.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (12) 13:5.6)***

℟. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord.

As for me, I trust in your merciful love. Let my heart rejoice in your salvation. *℟.*

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me. *℟.*

***Acclamation
(Psalm (198) 199:135)***

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are you, O holy Virgin Mary, and worthy of all praise, because from you arose the sun of justice, Christ our God. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(Matthew 1:1-16.18-23)

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

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the

father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David, the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time

of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. * Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed

to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be

called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us).

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

Prayer over the Offerings

May the humanity of your Only Begotten Son, come, O Lord, to our aid, and may he, who at his birth from the Blessed Virgin did not diminish but consecrated her integrity, by taking from us now our wicked

deeds, make our oblation acceptable to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21)

Behold, the Virgin will bear a son who will save his people from their sins.

Prayer after Communion

May your Church exult, O Lord, for you have renewed her with these sacred mysteries, as she

rejoices in the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which was the hope and

the daybreak of salvation for all the world. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Chosen by God

Commentary

Matthew 1:1-16.18-23

Today, we celebrate the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. Mary's Nativity marked the moment when the salvation of God began to come forth into the world.

God did not choose the rich and powerful to realize His work of salvation. He chose a mere ordinary woman from a poor family in Nazareth to be the Mother of the Saviour.

Mary's birthday shows us that God chose us sinners, unworthy as we may be, and called us to be His disciples just as He has chosen Mary to be the one to bear the Messiah.

May our Mother Mary continue to intercede for us.

Rev. Fr. Francis Gave, Accra-Ghana



Friday September 9

23rd Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

or **Saint Peter Claver, priest**

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (117) 118:137.124)

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Collect

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading —————
(1 Corinthians 9:16-19.22b-27)

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

Brethren: If I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if

I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my preaching I may make the gospel free of charge, not making full use of my right in the gospel. For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to get a crown

that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air; but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (83) 84:3-4-5-6-12)***

R. How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh cry out to the living God. **R.**

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow

a nest for herself in which she sets her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God. R

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, forever singing your praise. Blessed is the man whose strength is in you, whose heart is set on pilgrim ways. R

For the Lord God is a sun, a shield; the Lord will give us his favour and glory. He will not withhold any good to those who walk without blame. R

Acclamation *(John 17:17b)*

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

Gospel ————— *(Luke 6:39-42)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but every one when he is fully taught will be like his teacher. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and

then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye."

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

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind

and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (41) 42: 2-3) **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.**

Prayer after Communion

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of

your word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

I Made Myself all Things

Commentary

1 Corinthians 9:16-19

Letting others know about the Gospel is obligatory and not optional for us Christians. The reason is that we have received the message of the Gospel out of God's generosity. We are also therefore invited to let others know what we have received. "For freely we have received freely we must give." This is what Saint Paul meant when he asked, "do you know what my reward is? It is this, in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free and not insist on the rights which the Gospel gives me".

May the Lord help us in our sacrifice to preach the Gospel.

Rev. Fr. Francis Gave, Accra-Ghana



Saturday September 10

23rd Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (117) 118:137.124)

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Collect

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(1 Corinthians 10:14-22)

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

My beloved, shun the worship of idols. I speak as to sensible men; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, it is not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the practice of Israel; are not

those who eat the sacrifices partners in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
(Psalm (115) 116:12-13,17-18)
℣. A thanksgiving sacrifice
I made to you, O Lord.

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

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make; I will call on the name of the Lord. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil / before all his people. ℣

Acclamation (*John 14:23*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. If a man loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(Luke 6:43-49)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “No good tree bears



bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good man out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure produces evil; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep, and laid the foundation upon a rock; and when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house, and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But he who hears and does

not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation; against which the stream broke, and immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (41) 42: 2-3) **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.**

Prayer after Communion

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through

the food of your word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Built on the Rock

Commentary

Luke 6:43-49

Whatever is established on a good foundation is destined to last. As Christian, we establish ourselves on a solid foundation when we hear the Word of the Lord and put it into practice. When we put the Word of the Lord into practice, we become a tree that produces good fruits. The Word of the Lord, which we hear, becomes the store of goodness in our heart, out of which we draw our good deeds including being kind to our brothers and sisters.

May the Lord help us to stand for him in all things and produce good fruits.

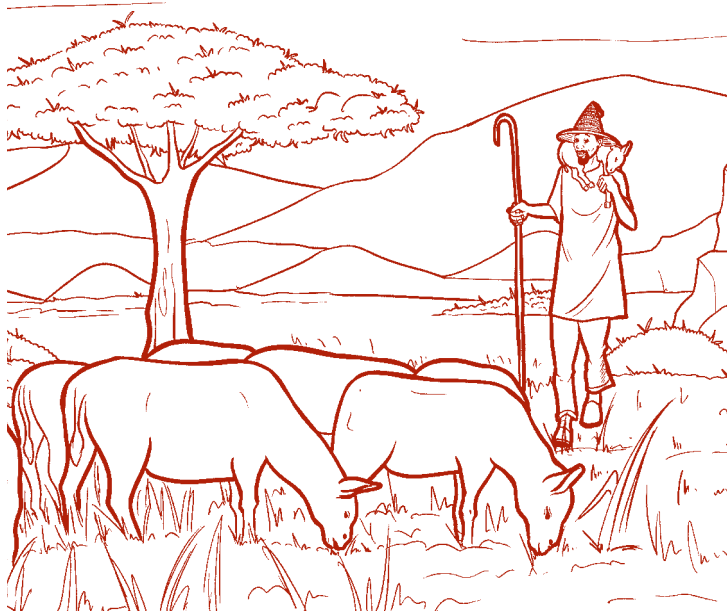
Rev. Fr. Francis Gave, Accra-Ghana



Sunday September 11

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14 / Psalm (50) 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19 /
1 Timothy 1:12-17 / Luke 15:1-32*



"He joyfully puts it on his shoulders..."



Sunday September 11

Lost and Found

In the first reading from the book of Exodus, Moses stands up to God, recalling all of God's great promises. The Psalm reminds us that once we are forgiven, we should hope for a new heart and a fresh start. In the second reading, Paul proves to us that it is never too late to repent and serve God. The Gospel of Luke continues to enlighten us the more when Jesus tells of the three parables about losing, finding, and rejoicing. The outcasts of society, the taxpayers, and the sinners come near Jesus, eager to hear what he has to say. In this Gospel, we understand that hearing is a sign of conversion. We see the Pharisees and scribes still suspicious of Jesus. They are complaining about him associating with sinners. Jesus tells them of the three parables about the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. They were lost, but there was great rejoicing when they were found. When we are lost because of sin, we are rendered paralyzed, immobile and spiritually dead. God is always merciful to us, and He finds us. As in the parable of the Prodigal Son, the father runs out to meet him. A sign that God always takes the initiative in saving us. We only respond "yes" to Him.



In this Gospel again, we see Jesus commending only one specific sheep, one particular coin, and one prodigal son. This is to highlight the point that in the eyes of God, each one is valuable. The individual person is of equal value to the whole. We see the shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine out in the field and looks for the one lost sheep. Today we talk of societies/communities that are run by the principle of “majority rules” where one person is of less value equated to a large number. Here, the value of the human person is reduced to mere numbers. So, you find that all around us - human beings are treated as numbers. We talk of a PIN number, accounts number, and telephone number among others. Thus, in a practical way, each person is treated as a commodity. These parables remind us that the blood of Jesus was shed on the cross for each and every one of us. God loves each one of us, not as a member of a big group, but as a unique, individual person, created in His image and likeness.

Rev. Sr. Mary Wambua Nzilani, Nairobi-Kenya



Entrance Antiphon (*Sirah 36:18*)

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Collect

Look upon us, O God, Creator and Ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

First Reading (*Exodus 32:7-11.13-14*)

A reading from the book of Exodus

In those days: The Lord said to Moses, “Go down; for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves, they have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them; they have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” And the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen these people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people; now, therefore, let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; but of you



I will make a great nation.” But Moses begged the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever.’” And the Lord repented of the evil which he thought to do to his people.

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

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 50) 51 —————



R. I will arise and go to my father.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your merciful love;
according to your great compassion,
blot out my transgressions.



Wash me completely from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin. R.

Create a pure heart for me, O God;
renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence;
take not your holy spirit from me. R.

O lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
My sacrifice to God, a broken spirit:
a broken and humbled heart,
O God, you will not spurn. R.

Second Reading (1 Timothy 1:12-17) —————

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved: I thank him who has given me strength for this, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful by appointing me to his service, though I formerly blasphemed and persecuted and insulted him; but I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ



Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners, but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

Acclamation (*2 Corinthians 5:19*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*Luke 15:1-32*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and



his neighbours, saying to them, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ‘Or what woman, having ten silver coins if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is a joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

*And he said, “there was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. “Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to



him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants." And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Behold, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with



me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.”

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

Profession of Faith (*p. 188*)

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

℟. **Lord, hear us!**

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

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. ℟.

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

For peace, mercy, security and the end of coronavirus pandemic, let us pray to the Lord our God. ℟.



Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these, your servants' offerings, that what each has offered to the honour of your name may serve the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Preface (*Sundays in Ordinary Time, p. 192*)

Communion Antiphon (*Psalms 35:36-8*)

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Or (1 Corinthians 10:16)

The chalice of blessing that we bless is a communion in the Blood of Christ; and the bread that we break is a sharing in the Body of the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal (*Optional, p. 208*)



Monday September 12

24th Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Sir 36:18) Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Collect

Look upon us, O God, Creator and Ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First reading ————— *(1 Corinthians 11:17-26.33)*

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

In the following directives, I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. So then, when you come together,

it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter! For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper

he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 40:7-8a.8b-9.10.17)***

℟. Proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

You delight not in sacrifice and offerings, but in an open ear. You do

not ask for holocaust and victim. Then I said, “see, I have come”. R.

In the scroll of the book, it stands written of me: “I delight to do your will, O my God; your instruction lies deep within me.” R.

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have no sealed; you know it, O Lord. R.

O let there be rejoicing and gladness for all who seek you. Let them ever say, “The Lord is great,” who long for your salvation. R.

Acclamation (*John 3:16*)
Alleluia. Alleluia. God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish

but have eternal life. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(Luke 7:1-10)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: After Jesus had ended all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. Now a centurion had a slave who was dear to him, who was sick and at the point of death. When he heard of Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his slave. And when they came to Jesus, they begged him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation, and he built us

our synagogue.” And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying to him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore, I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, he marveled at him, and turned and said to the multitude that followed him, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.”

And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave well. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these, your servants’ offerings, that what each has offered to the honour of your name may serve the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (35) 36:8) **How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.**

Prayer after Communion

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that

its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Faith of the Centurion

Commentary

Luke 7:1-10

In the Gospel, we see the elders of the Jews coming to Jesus in ardent prayers and interceding on behalf of the centurion, asking Jesus to cure him for he was good and did much as part of the people's welfare. We emphasize on the kind of intercessory prayer that the elders and the centurion had to Jesus. A prayer that reminds us that our prayer must not be self-centered, but bound up in love for our fellow people. It should conform and unite us to the prayer of Jesus, who intercedes for us all. Thus, a call to be like the centurion, willing to turn everything over to God.

Rev. Sr. Mary Wambua Nzilani, Nairobi-Kenya



Tuesday September 13

24th Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint John Chrysostom, bishop and doctor

Entrance Antiphon

(Daniel 12:3) **Those who are wise will shine brightly like the splendour of the firmament and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.**

Collect

O God, strength of those who hope in you, who willed that the Bishop Saint John Chrysostom should be illustrious by his wonderful eloquence and his experience of suffering, grant us, we pray, that, instructed by his teachings,

we may be strengthened through the example of his invincible patience. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(1 Corinthians 12:12-14.27-31a)

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

Brethren: 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 baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the Church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (99) 100:1-2.3-4.5)

***R. We are his people, the
sheep of his flock.***

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.*

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with songs of praise. Give thanks to him, and bless his name. *R.*

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

Acclamation (Luke 7:16)

Alleluia. Alleluia. A great prophet has risen among

us, and God has visited his people. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(Luke 7:11-17)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.”

And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!” And this report concerning him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

May the sacrifice which we gladly present in commemoration of Saint John Chrysostom be pleasing to you, O God, for taught by him, we, too, give ourselves entirely to you in praise. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(1 Corinthians 1:23-24) **We preach Christ crucified; Christ, the power of God, and the wisdom of God.**

Prayer after Communion

Grant, O merciful God,
that these mysteries

we have received as we commemorate Saint John Chrysostom, may confirm us in your love and enable us to be faithful in confessing your truth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Jesus Raises a Widow's Son

Commentary

Luke 7:11-17

As a continuation of yesterday's Gospel where Jesus healed the Centurion, today, He raises a young man of Nain by laying his hand saying, "Young man, I tell you to arise". This leads us to center our thoughts on the many miracles that Jesus performed, such as curing and healing the sick and turning water into wine. It leads us to ask a pertinent question: What are the lessons to be learned from Jesus? We have a call to lift up to the Lord all those who suffer and are in need of spiritual or material help. Ours is to trust in the Lord's power, who gives life and hope in the face of misfortune and despair.

Rev. Sr. Mary Wambua Nzilani, Nairobi-Kenya



Wednesday September 14

24th Week in Ordinary Time

Feast

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Entrance Antiphon

(Galatians 6:14) **We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.**

The Gloria in excelsis

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

Collect

O God, who willed that your Only Begotten Son should undergo the Cross to save the human race,

grant, we pray, that we who have known his mystery on earth may merit the grace of his redemption in heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading --- ***(Numbers 21:4b-9)***

A reading from the Book of Numbers

In those days: The people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and Moses, “Why have you brought us

up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many sons of Israel died. And the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and you; pray to the Lord, that he takes away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set up as a sign; and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent, and set it up as a sign; and if a serpent bit any man, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (77) 78:1-2.34-35.36-37.38)

R. Never forget the deeds of the Lord!

Give ear, my people, to my teaching; incline your ear to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable and utter hidden lessons of the past. *R.*

When he slew them, then they sought him, repented and earnestly sought God. They would remember that God was their rock, God the Most High, their Redeemer. *R.*

Yet they deceived him with their mouths; they lied

to him with their tongues. For their hearts were not steadfast towards him; they were not faithful to his covenant. *R.*

Yet he who is full of compassion forgave them their sin and spared them. So often he held back his anger, and did not stir up all his rage. *R.*

Second Reading —————
(Philippians 2:6-11)

**A reading from the Letter
of Saint Paul to the
Philippians**

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being

born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Acclamation

Alleluia. Alleluia. We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by the Cross you have redeemed the world. **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____ ***(John 3:13-17)***

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus, “No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world

might be saved through him.

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

The Creed is said.

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, O Lord, which on the altar of the Cross cancelled the offence of the whole world, cleanse us, we pray, of all our sins. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Preface: *(The victory of the glorious Cross p.194)*

Communion Antiphon

(John 12:32) **When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

Having been nourished by your holy banquet, we beseech you, Lord Jesus Christ, to bring those you have redeemed by the

wood of your life-giving Cross to the glory of the resurrection. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Holy Cross - the Source of Eternal Life

Commentary

John 3:13-17

The Church today celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which is a symbol of ultimate humiliation. The Cross is both essential and inseparable from our Christian identity. It is the means by which our Lord Jesus brought for us our salvation. Jesus, who was crucified on the Cross, is the centre of our faith. He accepted His death willingly and suffered for our sake due to His great love for us all. The question is, are we able to bear our crosses faithfully? Let us all not be ashamed to carry our crosses with ardor and dedication, for in it, we are freed from sin.

Rev. Sr. Mary Wambua Nzilani, Nairobi-Kenya



Thursday September 15

24th Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Our Lady of Sorrows

Entrance Antiphon

(Luke 2:34-35) **Simeon said to Mary: Behold, this child is destined for the ruin and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign of contradiction; and your own soul a sword will pierce.**

Collect

O God, who willed that when your Son was lifted high on the Cross, his Mother should stand close by and share his suffering, grant that your Church,

participating, with the Virgin Mary in the Passion of Christ, may merit a share in his Resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading —————
(Hebrews 5:7-9).

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to

the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 31:1-2ab.2cd-3.4-5.
14-15.19)***

***R. Save me, O Lord, in your
merciful love.***

In you, O Lord, I take refuge. Let me never be put to shame. In your justice, set me free; incline your

ear to me, and speedily rescue me. *R.*

Be a rock of refuge for me, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name. *R.*

Release me from the snare they have hidden, for you indeed are my refuge. Into your hands, I commend my spirit. You will redeem me, O Lord, O faithful God. *R.*

But as for me, I trust in you, O Lord; / I say, "You are my God. My lot is in your hands, deliver me from the hands of my enemies and those who pursue me." *R.*

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you, that you show to those who trust you in the sight of the children of men. *R.*

Acclamation

(Matthew 11:28)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed is the Blessed Virgin Mary; for, without dying, she merited the palm of martyrdom at the foot of the Lord's cross. **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____

(John 19:25b-27)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From

that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O merciful God, to the praise of your name the prayers and sacrificial offerings which we bring to you as we venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you graciously gave to us as a most devoted Mother when she stood by the Cross of Jesus. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(1 Peter 4:13) **Rejoice when you share in the sufferings of Christ, that you may also rejoice exultantly when his glory is revealed.**

Prayer after Communion

Having received the Sacrament of eternal redemption, we humbly ask, O Lord, that, honouring how the Blessed Virgin Mary suffered with

her Son, we may complete in ourselves for the Church's sake what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Pardon of the Sinful Woman

Commentary

Luke 7:36-50

Jesus, in today's gospel, encourages a sinful Gentile woman by saying, "Your sins are forgiven." This is because; she had a deep sorrow and contrition with her readiness to give up her way of life. This reminds us that the most powerful tool to resolve conflict in our lives is forgiveness, for it carries with it the power to heal many of the world's ills. Thus, we must learn to use it to bring peace to ourselves and to all, for when we forgive, we release all forms of fear, hate, anger, and guilt. So, as Jesus Christ did, we pray through the intercession of Our Lady of Sorrow for the grace to forgive others.

Rev. Sr. Mary Wambua Nzilani, Nairobi-Kenya



Friday September 16

24th Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saints Cornelius, pope, and Cyprian, bishop, martyrs

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalms 34:20-21) **Many are the trials of the just, but from them, all the Lord will rescue them. The Lord will keep guard over all their bones; not one of their bones shall be broken.**

Collect

O God, who gave Saints Cornelius and Cyprian to your people as diligent shepherds and valiant Martyrs, grant that, through their intercession, we may

be strengthened in faith and constancy and spend ourselves without reserve for the unity of the Church. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading ————— *(1 Corinthians 15:12-20)*

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

Brethren: If Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some



of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God because we testified of God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men

most to be pitied. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹⁶⁾ 17:1.6-7.8 and
15)***

***R. When I awake, I shall
be filled with the vision of
your presence, O Lord.***

O Lord, hear a cause that is just, pay heed to my cry. Turn your ear to my prayer: no deceit is on my lips. *R.*

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God. Turn your ear to me; hear my words. Display your merciful love. By your

right hand you deliver from their foes those who put their trust in you. R.

Guard me as the apple of your eye. Hide me in the shadow of your wings. As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; when I awake, I shall be filled with the vision of your presence. 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 —————
(Luke 8:1-3)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus went on through cities and villages, preaching and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, we pray, O Lord, the offerings of your people in honour of the passion of your holy Martyrs Saints Cornelius and Cyprian, and may the gifts that gave them courage under persecution make us, too, steadfast in

all trails. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (35) 36:8) **How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.**

Prayer after Communion

Through these mysteries which we have received, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, by the example of the

Martyrs Saints Cornelius and Cyprian, we may be strengthened with the fortitude of your Spirit to

bear witness to the truth of the Gospel. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Galilean Women Follow Jesus

Commentary

Luke 8:1-3

We all remember that the Jewish society was a male-dominated culture where a rabbi could not speak to a woman in public, not even his own wife. But Jesus, in today's gospel, allows women to be part of His missionary group that provides the services He needed for the work of his life. In relating with women, Jesus broke through the cultural taboo of his time, which regarded women as second class, and restored their dignity as children of God. We ask ourselves; do we treat others as objects, means to our ends, losing the sense of who they are for Christ? May Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian intercede for us so as to respect others as we interact in our ministry.

Rev. Sr. Mary Wambua Nzilani, Nairobi-Kenya



Saturday September 17

24th Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

or **Saint Robert Bellarmine, bishop and doctor**

Entrance Antiphon

(Sirach 36:18) Give peace,
O Lord, to those who
wait for you, that your
prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your
servant, and of your
people Israel.

Collect

Look upon us, O God,
Creator and Ruler of all
things, and, that we may
feel the working of your
mercy, grant that we may
serve you with all our

heart. Through Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————

(1 Corinthians 15:35-37.42-49)

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

Brethren: Someone will ask,
“How are the dead raised?
With what kind of body do
they come?” You foolish
man! What you sow does
not come to life unless it
dies. And what you sow is

not the body which is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. So, is it with the resurrection of the dead? What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body; thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual which is first but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust;

and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽⁵⁵⁾ 56:10.11-12.13-14)***

***R. I will walk in the
presence of God, in the
light of the living.***

Then my foes will turn back on the day when I call to you. This I know, that God is on my side. *R.*

In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord whose word I praise, in God I trust; I

shall not fear. What can man do to me? *R*

I am bound by the vows I have made you. O God, I will offer you praise, for you have rescued my soul from death; you kept my feet from stumbling, that I may walk in the presence of God, in the light of the living. *R*

Acclamation (*Luke 8:15*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(*Luke 8:4-15*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: When a great crowd came together, and

people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you, it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others, they are in parables, so that seeing they may not

see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in the

good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these, your servants’ offerings, that what each has offered to the honour of your name may serve the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (35) 36:8) **How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.**

Prayer after Communion

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies so

that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Nurturing Life

Commentary

Luke 8:4-15

The Gospel reminds us as hearers of the Word of God that we have the seed of faith planted in different soils, but how it grows varies. Hearers who do not care about God, those who lack spiritual depth, respond with emotional enthusiasm but when it wears off their mind wanders to something else; those who listen and reflect on the Word of God carefully but are too busy with other commitments and those who are ready to receive the Word of God, allows it to take root, grow and can produce good fruit. These people are always prepared to hear what God wants to teach us through his word. How good are we at listening to the word of God?

Rev. Sr. Mary Wambua Nzilani, Nairobi-Kenya



Sunday September 18

25th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Amos 8: 4-7 / Psalm (112) 113: 1-2.4-6.7-8 / Timothy 2:1-8 /

Luke 16:1-13



"You cannot serve both God and money" Matthew 6:24



Making Adequate Preparation for Eternal Life

Our Gospel presents us with the story of a manager who was going to be dismissed for being wasteful with his master's property. The manager, faced with this difficult reality, knew he had to think and act fast. He decided to reduce the dues of his master's debtors and, by so doing, was able to create for himself a secure future. Jesus' positive assessment of the steward's behaviour raises a fundamental question: was Jesus extolling the steward for his dishonesty? Certainly not. Jesus, who is the Truth himself (John. 14:6), will not condone untruthfulness. So then, what is the basis of Jesus' praise of the steward? The answer is found in the Gospel: "The Master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness." To be astute is to be shrewd, adroit, and clever. It is the ability to analyse situations and use such realities for one's good. In the face of his problematic situation, the steward ensured that his actions were such that they would make him find favour with the debtor of his masters. This was in view of preparing for himself a happy future: "I have decided what to do so that people may receive me into their houses when I am put out



of the stewardship.” This is the point. This is why Jesus praised him. He was praised for his far-sightedness, for making adequate plans for his future.

Is this not what is expected of us, Christians? As people who believe in life after death, our mentality must be such that it leads us to use our present reality, every aspect of our lives, to prepare for our future, for our eternal salvation. If the steward in the Gospel could make such conscious efforts to secure his material wellbeing in the future, how much more efforts should Christians make in working towards the salvation of their souls? Just as the steward made friends with his master's debtors so that they could welcome him into their homes in the future, we are encouraged to make friends with the poor and needy in our midst and be generous to them so that in the future, at the end of our lives, they can welcome us into heaven. “Let us not forget: the dwelling place that awaits us is paradise. Here we are passing through. We are made for heaven, for eternal life, to live forever.” (Pope Francis).

Rev. Fr. Michael Banjo, Abuja-Nigeria



Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.

Collect

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (Amos 8: 4-7)

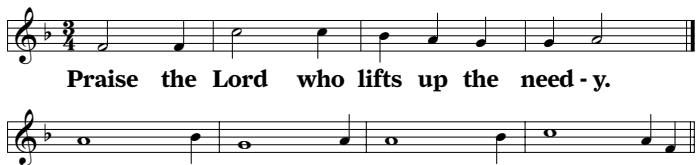
A reading from the book of the Prophet Amos

Hear this, you who trample upon the needy, and bring poor of the land to an end, saying, “When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great, and deal deceitfully with false balances that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and sell the refuse of the wheat?” The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: “Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.”

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



Responsorial Psalm (Psalm ⁽¹¹²⁾ 113: 1-2.4-6.7-8)



**R. Praise the Lord, who raises the poor from the dust.
or: Alleluia**

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blest
both now and forevermore! R.

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who dwells on high,
who lowers himself to look down
upon heaven and earth? R.

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the ash heap he raises the poor,



to set them in the company of princes,
yes with the princes of his people. R.

Second Reading (1 Timothy 2:1-8) —————

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved: First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. This is good and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all testimony, to which was given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling?

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



Gospel Acclamation (*2 Corinthians 8:9*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Though Jesus Christ was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*Luke 16:1-13*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “There was a rich man who had a steward, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.’ And the steward said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that people may receive me into their houses when I am put out of the stewardship.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ “He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ “And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ “Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ “He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat,’ “He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ “The master



commended the dishonest steward for his prudence; for the sons of this world are wiser in their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails, they may receive you into the eternal habitations. He who is faithful in very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

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

Profession of Faith (p. 188)

Preparation of the Gifts (p.191)

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.

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 coronavirus pandemic, let us pray to the Lord our God. R.

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive with favour, O Lord we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Preface (*Sundays in Ordinary Time, p. 192*)



Communion Antiphon (*Psalm (117) 118:45*)

**You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept.
May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.**

or:

(John 10:14)

**I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep,
and mine know me.**

Prayer after Communion

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this sacrament; that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and at the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal (*Optional, p. 206*)



Monday September 19

25th Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in my distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.

Collect

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— (Proverbs 3:27-34)

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

My son, do not withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, “Come back tomorrow and I’ll give it to you”—when you already have it with you. Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you. Do not accuse anyone for no reason, when they have done you no harm. Do not envy the violent or choose

any of their ways. For the LORD detests the perverse but takes the upright into his confidence. The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous. He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 15:2-3a.3bc-4ab.5)***

**R. Who shall dwell on your
holy mountain, O Lord?**

Whoever walks without fault; who does what is just, and speaks the truth from his heart. Who does not slander with his tongue. R.

Who does no wrong to a neighbour, who cast no

slur on a friend, who looks with scorn on the wicked, but honours those who fear the Lord. R.

Who lends no money at interest, and accepts no bribes against the innocent. Such a one shall never be shaken. R.

Acclamation

(Matthew 5:16)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are those who hear the word of God, and keep it. **Alleluia.**

***Gospel —
(Luke 8:16-18)***

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

At that time: Jesus said to the crowds, "No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on

a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have, will be taken from them.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive with favour, O Lord we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (117) 118:4-5) **You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept. May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.**

Prayer after Communion

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this Sacrament, that we may come to possess

your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Be a Bearer of Light

Commentary

Luke 8:16-18

In the tradition of the Church (though no longer obligatory), the altar was positioned to face the East, and the priest, along with the entire congregation, faced the same direction. The reason is apparent: The East is said to be where the sun rises. From there, darkness is dispelled from the world. This depicts Christians as being illuminated by Christ, the light of the world, and having been illuminated. We are expected to take this light (Jesus) with us everywhere, dispelling every form of darkness.

Rev. Fr. Michael Banjo, Abuja-Nigeria



Tuesday September 20

25th Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

or Saints Andrew Kim Taegon, priest and Companions, martyrs

Entrance Antiphon

The blood of the holy Martyrs was poured out for Christ upon the earth; therefore, they have gained everlasting rewards.

Collect

O God, who have been pleased to increase your adopted children in all the world, and who made the blood of the Martyrs Saint Andrew Kim Tae-gon and his companions a most fruitful seed of Christians, grant that we may be defended by their

help and profit always from their example. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading --- ***(Proverbs 21:1-6.10-13)***

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart. To do righteousness and

justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin. The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to want. The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapour and a snare of death. The soul of the wicked desires evil; his neighbour finds no mercy in his eyes. When a scoffer is punished, the simple becomes wise; when a wise man is instructed, he gains knowledge. The righteous observes the house of the wicked; the wicked are cast down to ruin. He who closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself cry out and not be heard.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹¹⁸⁾ 119:1.27.30.
34.35.44)

R. Guide me, Lord, in the path of your commands.

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! *R.*

Make me grasp the way of your precepts, and I will ponder your wonders. *R.*

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

Grant me insight that I may keep your law, and observe it wholeheartedly. *R.*

Guide me in the path of your commands; for in them is my delight. *R.*

I shall always keep your law, forever and ever. R.

Acclamation (*Luke 11:28*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are those who hear the word of God, and keep it. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(*Luke 8:19-21*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: His mother and his brethren came to Jesus, but they could not reach him for the crowd. And he was told, “Your mother and your brethren are standing outside, desiring to see you” But he said to them “My mother and my brethren are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, almighty God, on the offerings of your people and, through the intercession of the blessed Martyrs, grant that we ourselves may become a sacrifice acceptable to you for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(*Matthew 10:32*) **Everyone who acknowledges me before others, I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father, says the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

Nourished with the food of the valiant as we celebrate the blessed Martyrs, we humbly ask you, O Lord,

that, clinging faithfully to Christ, we may labour in the Church for the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Belonging to the Spiritual Family of Jesus

Commentary

Luke 8:19-21

The word ‘family’ is commonly understood from the point of view of biological ties – those who are united by blood or adoption. For us Christians, there is yet another: the spiritual family to which Jesus belongs, and membership is open to all who are willing to hear the word of God and practice it. Do you read the word of God daily? Like Mary, does the word of God reflect in your ordinary activities? This is pivotal in fulfilling our role of building the kingdom of God. As Pope Francis maintains, “if we are to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, our lives must bear witness to what we preach.”

Rev. Fr. Michael Banjo, Abuja-Nigeria



Wednesday September 21

25th Week in Ordinary Time

Feast

Saint Matthew, apostle and evangelist

Entrance Antiphon

(Matthew 28:19-20) **Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, says the Lord.**

The Gloria is said.

Collect

O God, who with untold mercy were pleased to choose as an Apostle Saint Matthew, the tax collector, grant that, sustained by his example and intercession, we may merit to hold firm

in following you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Ephesians 4:1-7.11-13)*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brethren: I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the

unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (18) 19:2-3.4-5)***

***R. Their sound goes forth
through all the earth.***

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as the Lord; the glorious band of apostles

sings your praise, O Lord!
Alleluia.

Gospel —————
(Matthew 9:9-13)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: As Jesus passed on, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician,

but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

As we celebrate a new memory of Saint Matthew, we bring you sacrifices and prayers, O Lord, humbly imploring you to look kindly on your Church, whose faith you have nourished by the preaching of the Apostles. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

***(Matthew 9:13)* I did not come to call the just but sinners, says the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

Sharing in that saving joy, O Lord, with which Saint Matthew welcomed the Saviour as a guest in his home, we pray: grant that we may always be

renewed by the food we receive from Christ, who came to call not the just, but sinners to salvation. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Christ Came for Sinners

Commentary

Matthew 9:9-13

Have we ever thought of the fact that the Church exists because of sin? Christ would not have come into the world if humans were not sinners (cf. Luke 5:32). Jesus' ministry of calling sinners to repentance finds expression in the life of Matthew, the tax collector, a story that underlines the truth that Jesus never gives up on us in the face of our sinfulness. Rather, he makes himself more available to us when we are weak. The decision is ours to respond to his invitation to leave our sins and embrace a new life.

Rev. Fr. Michael Banjo, Abuja-Nigeria.



Thursday September 22

25th Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

or St Maurice and Companions, martyrs

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in my distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.

Collect

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— **(Ecclesiastes 1:2-11)**

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains for ever. The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. The wind blows to the south, and goes

round to the north; round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again. All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already, in the ages before us. There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to happen among those who come after.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (89) 90:3-4.5-6.12-13.14 and 17)***

**R. O Lord, you have
been our refuge, from
generation to generation.**

You turn man back to dust, and say, "Return, O children of men." To your eyes, a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, or like a watch in the night. R.

You sweep them away like a dream, like grass which is fresh in the morning. In the morning, it sprouts and is fresh; by evening it withers and fades. R.

Then teach us to number our days, that we may gain wisdom of heart. Turn back, O Lord! How long? Show pity to your servants. R.

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us; give success to the work of our hands. O give success to the work of our hands. R.

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 —————
(*Luke 9:7-9*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by Jesus, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been

raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the old prophets had risen. Herod said, "John, I beheaded; but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he sought to see him.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive with favour, O Lord we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(*Psalm (117) 118:4-5*) **You have laid down your precepts to be carefully**



kept. May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Prayer after Communion

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this

Sacrament, that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Call to Focus on God

Commentary

Ecclesiastes 1:2-11

Our First reading conveys a fundamental truth: lasting happiness cannot be derived from things that do not last. Temporal things are vanities, a word derived from the Latin *vanitas*, which means emptiness and vain. Hence, “a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possession.” (Luke 12:15). The only source of lasting happiness is that which in itself endures – God. This is why St. Augustine maintains: “O God, you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”

Rev. Fr. Michael Banjo, Abuja-Nigeria



Friday September 23

25th Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, priest

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in my distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who, by a singular grace, gave the Priest Saint Pius a share in the Cross of your Son and by means of his ministry, renewed the wonders of your mercy, grant that, through his

intercession, we may be united constantly to the sufferings of Christ, and so brought happily to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— **(Ecclesiastes 3:1-11)**

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

For everything, there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time

to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain has the worker from his toil? I have seen the business that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful

in its time; also he has put eternity into man's mind, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹⁴³⁾ 144:1a and
2abc.3-4)***

R. Blest be the Lord, my rock!

Blest be the Lord, my rock. He is my merciful love, my fortress; he is my stronghold, my saviour, my shield in whom I take refuge. *R.*

Lord, what is man that you regard him, the son of man that you keep him in mind, man who is merely a breath, whose days are like a passing shadow? *R.*

Acclamation (*Mark 10:45*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The Son of man came not to serve, but to give his life as a ransom for many. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(*Luke 9:18-22*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Now it happened that as Jesus was praying alone, the disciples were with him; and he asked them, “Who do the people say that I am?” And they answered, “John the Baptist; but others say, Elijah; and others, that one of the old prophets has risen.” And he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.” But he charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, “The Son

of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive with favour, O Lord we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(*Psalm (117) 118:4-5*) **You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept. May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this Sacrament, that we may come to possess

your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

“Who do You Say I am?”**Commentary****Luke 9:18-22**

Jesus poses the same question he asked his disciples: “But you, who do you say I am?” Building on what we have learned and keep learning about Jesus, each Christian should be able to, flowing from his/her personal experience, offer a response to this question. All of us have been called to evangelise. There is a saying that “being a Christian is not about knowing a set of propositions; it is about knowing Christ and acting on his behalf in the world.” As a deer longs for a flowing stream, so must we, each day, yearn to know Christ better.

Rev. Fr. Michael Banjo, Abuja-Nigeria



Saturday September 24

25th Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in my distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.

Collect

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— (*Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8*)

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things, God will bring you into judgement. Remove vexation from your mind, and put away pain from your body; for youth and the dawn of life are vanity. Remember also your Creator in the

days of your youth, before the evil days come, and the years draw nigh, when you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”; before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain; in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut; when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the voice of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low; they are

afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along and desire fails; because man goes to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets; before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (89) 90:3-4.5-6.12-
13.14 and 17)***

**R. O Lord, you have been our
refuge, from generation to
generation.**

You turn man back to dust, and say, “Return, O children of men.” To your eyes, a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, or like a watch in the night. R.

You sweep them away like a dream, like grass which is fresh in the morning. In the morning, it sprouts and is fresh; by evening it withers and fades. R.

Then teach us to number our days, that we may gain wisdom of heart. Turn back, O Lord! How long? Show pity to your servants. R.

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us; give success to the work of our hands. O give success to the work of our hands. R.

***Acclamation
(2 Timothy 1:10)***

Alleluia. Alleluia. Our Saviour Jesus Christ abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. **Alleluia.**

***Gospel —
(Luke 9:43b-45)***

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

At that time: While all were marvelling at everything Jesus did, he said to his

disciples, “Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men.” But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, that they should not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive with favour, O Lord we pray, the offerings

of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (117) 118:4-5) **You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept. May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.**

Prayer after Communion

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew

with this Sacrament, that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**“Remember your
Creator in the Days
of your Youth”**

Commentary

Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8

The first reading exhorts young people to walk in the path of God and not to be carried away by secular ideologies that give very little or no thought to the reality of the life after. In a world where a great number of youths are increasingly entrenching themselves in sexual immorality, drug abuse, cultism, and the cult of material things, the words of Saint Pope John Paul II remain golden: “Young people, do not be afraid to be holy!” Fly high, be among those whose goals are worthy of sons and daughters of God. Glorify God in your lives!”

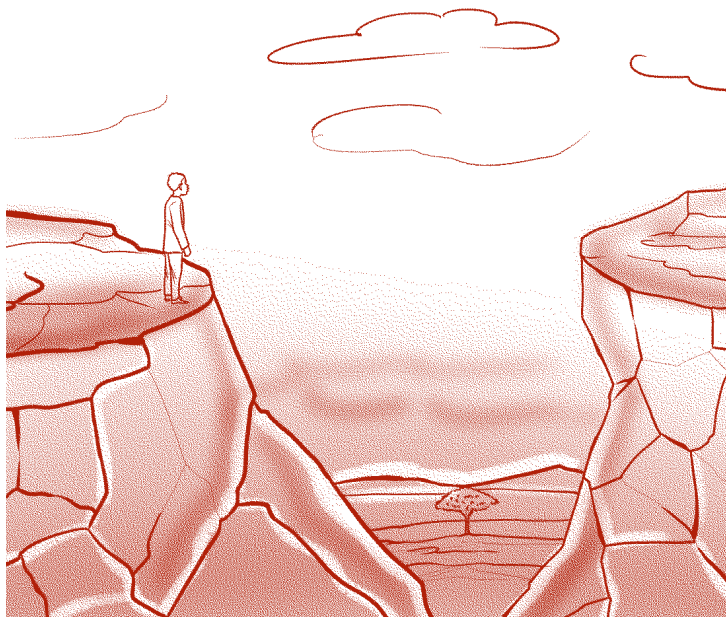
Rev. Fr. Michael Banjo, Abuja-Nigeria



Sunday September 25

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Amos 6:1a.4-7 / Psalm (145) 146: 6c-7; 8-9a.9bc-10 /
1 Timothy 6:11-16 / Luke 16:19-31*



“Between you and us, a great chasm has been fixed.”



Let Us Help The Poor

Today's Gospel presents us with one of the parables of Jesus. The two main characters in the passage are Lazarus and a rich man.

Lazarus' condition is described in these words: full of sores, wanting to be fed from the rich man's table and dogs licking his sores. Practically, we can deduce that Lazarus was alive but dead.

Did Lazarus have a wife, child(ren), or relation? What did these people do to help Lazarus? Did Lazarus have no relation or friend, hence, no assistance? Did people not see Lazarus seated at the gate of the rich man? What did they also do to help Lazarus?

There are a number of "Lazaruses" in the world: Churches, schools, homes, families, societies, etc. What is our attitude towards these people? Have we turned a blind eye to their predicament? Do we support them?

For some of these people, it is not about our food, money, or clothing, but love & care. If we fail to help these people,



God Himself will fight for them and help them, as the name Lazarus means God is my help.

Today, what can you do to help a certain “Lazarus” in the world?

Based on the condition of Lazarus, I entreat people whose relations are out there begging on the streets to please do the needful. It is not too pleasant a spectacle seeing these people. We seem to abandon them in pain yet celebrate them when they die. Let us show people love while they are alive instead of waiting to celebrate their departure as if it was their real life.

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah - Accra-Ghana



Sunday September 25

Entrance Antiphon

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgment, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name, and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Collect

O God, who manifests your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us, and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. Through our Lord... **Amen.**

First Reading (Amos 6:1a.4-7) —————

A reading from the book of the Prophet Amos

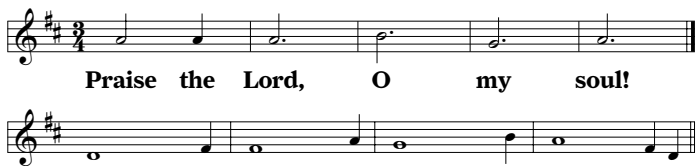
Thus says the Lord Almighty: “Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria. Woe to those who lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the midst of the stall; who sing idle songs to the sound of harp, and like David invent for themselves instruments of music; who drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the



finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore, they shall now be the first of those to go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves shall pass away.

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

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm (145) 146: 6c-7; 8-9a.9bc-10)



R. My soul, give praise to the Lord!

or: Alleluia

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity forever,
who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord who sets prisoners free. **R.**



Sunday September 25

It is the Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,
the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord who protects the stranger. R.

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign forever,
the God of Sion from age to age. R.

Second Reading (1 Timothy 6:11-16) —————

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

O Man of God, aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ; and this will be made manifest at the proper time by the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of Kings and Lord of lords, who



alone has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has ever seen or can see. To him be honour and eternal dominion. **Amen.**

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

Gospel Acclamation (*2 Corinthians 8:9*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Though Jesus Christ was rich, yet for your sake, he became poor so that by his poverty you might become rich. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*Luke 16:19-31*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said to the Pharisees, “There was a rich man, who clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table; moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.’ “But Abraham said,



‘Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between you and us, a great chasm has been fixed so that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, “Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ “He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

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

Profession of Faith (p. 188)

Preparation of the Gifts (p.191)

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

R. Lord, hear us!



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

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

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

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O merciful God, that this our offering may find acceptance with you and that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface (*Sundays in Ordinary Time, p. 192*)



Communion Antiphon (*Psalm (118) 119:49-50*)

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

or:

(John 3:16)

By this, we come to know the love of God: that Christ laid down his life for us; so, we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

Prayer after Communion

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be co-heirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his Death. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal (*Optional, p. 206*)



Monday September 26

26th Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

or **Saint Cosmas and Damian, martyrs**

Entrance Antiphon

(*Daniel* 3:31.29.30.43.42)

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgment, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name, and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— **(Job 1: 6-22)**

A reading from the Book of Job.

Collect

O God, who manifests your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us,

There was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. The Lord said to Satan, “From where have

you come?” Satan answered the Lord, “From going back and forth on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” Then Satan answered the Lord, “Does Job fear God for nothing? Have you not put a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.” And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power;

only upon himself do not put forth your hand.” So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord. Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother’s house; and there came a messenger to Job, and said, “The oxen were ploughing and the donkeys feeding beside them; and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them, and slew the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burnt up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was

yet speaking there came another, and said, “The Chaldeans formed three companies, and made a raid upon the camels and took them, and slew the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother’s house; and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” Then Job arose, and tore his robe, and shaved his head and fell upon the ground, and worshipped. And he said “Naked I came

from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (16) 17:1.2-3.6-7)***

R Lord, turn your ear to me; hear my words.

O Lord, hear a cause that is just, pay heed to my cry. Turn your ear to my prayer. No deceit is on my lips. R

From you may my justice come forth. Your eyes discern what is upright. Search my heart and visit me by night. Test me by

fire, and you will find no wrong in me. R.

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God. Turn your ear to me; hear my words. Display your merciful love. By your right hand you deliver from their foes those who put their trust in you. R.

Acclamation

(Mark 10:45)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ————— *(Luke 9:46-50)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: An argument arose among the disciples

as to which of them was the greatest. But when Jesus perceived the thought of their hearts, he took a child and put him by his side, and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me; for he who is least among you all is the one who is great.” John answered, “Master, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him, because he does not follow with us.” But Jesus said to him, “Do not forbid him; for he that is not against you is for you.”

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



Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O merciful God,
that this our offering may
find acceptance with you
and that through it the
wellspring of all blessing
may be laid open before
us.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Psalm (118) 119:49-50)

**Remember your word to
your servant, O Lord, by
which you have given me
hope. This is my comfort
when I am brought low.**

Prayer after Communion

May this heavenly mystery,
O Lord, restore us in mind

and body, that we may be co-heirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we

proclaim his Death. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Called to Serve

Commentary

Luke 9:46-50

In today's gospel, the disciples of Jesus are preoccupied with who the greatest is. Instead of discussing how to make it into heaven, they are rather thinking of irrelevant matters. This clearly shows that the disciples were still not getting it despite being with Jesus for about three years. For Jesus, greatness is all about service, and this is expressed in three ways in children: humility, dependence and trust.

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah - Accra-Ghana



Tuesday September 27

26th Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Vincent de Paul, priest

Entrance Antiphon

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me and sent me to preach the good news to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted.

Collect

O God, who for the relief of the poor and the formation of the clergy endowed the Priest Saint Vincent de Paul with apostolic virtues, grant, we pray, that afire with that same spirit, we may love what he loved and put into practice what

he taught. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(Job 3:1-3.11-17.20-23)

A reading from the Book of Job.

After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. He said: “May the day of my birth perish, and the night that said, ‘A boy is conceived!’. “Why did I not perish at birth, and die as I came from the womb? “. Why were there

knees to receive me and breasts that I might be nursed? For now, I would be lying down in peace; I would be asleep and at rest with kings and rulers of the earth, who built for themselves places now lying in ruins, with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver. Or why was I not hidden away in the ground like a stillborn child, like an infant who never saw the light of day? There the wicked ceases from turmoil, and there the weary are at rest. “Why is light given to those in misery, and life to the bitter of soul, to those who long for death that does not come, who search for it more than for hidden treasure, who are filled with glad-

ness and rejoice when they reach the grave? Why is life given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in?

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽⁸⁷⁾ 88:2-3.4-5a.5b-6.7-8)

R. Let my prayer come into your presence, O lord.

O Lord and God of my salvation, I cry before you day and night. Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry. *R.*

For my soul is filled with evils; My life is on the brink of the grave. I am reckoned as one in the tomb. *R.*

I am like a warrior without strength, Like one roaming among the dead, Like the slain lying in their graves, Like those you remember no more, Cut off, as they are, from your hand. R.

You have laid me in the depths of the pit, In regions that are dark and deep. Your anger weighs down upon me; I am drowned beneath your waves. R.

Acclamation

(Mark 9:51-56)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ————— *(Luke 9:51-56)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

“Do not stop him,” Jesus said, “for whoever is not against you is for you.” As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” But Jesus turned and rebuked them. Then he

and his disciples went to another village.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who enabled Saint Vincent to imitate what he celebrated in the divine mysteries, grant that by the power of this sacrifice we, too, may be transformed into an oblation acceptable to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (106) 107:8-9) **Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he has satisfied the thirsty soul, and the hungry he has filled with good things.**

Prayer after Communion

Renewed by this heavenly Sacrament, O Lord, we implore, that just as we are prompted by Saint Vincent's example to

imitate your Son in his preaching of the Gospel to the poor, so, too, we may

be sustained by his prayers. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let Jesus Enter Into Your Heart

Commentary

Luke 9:51-65

Jesus sends messengers to prepare for His arrival. And these people do as instructed. Today, the Lord is sending you. Will you go? Sadly, the Samaritans wouldn't permit Jesus to pass through Samaria to Jerusalem. Why this reaction? Would Jesus cause chaos in Samaria? Did Jesus hate the Samaritans? The fact is, the Samaritans didn't allow Jesus to pass through their town. Today, you have an opportunity like St. Vincent de Paul to allow Jesus to enter into your heart. Let us allow Jesus now and always say yes to the Lord. Drive not Jesus from your life.

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah - Accra-Ghana



Wednesday September 28

26th Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

or **Saint Wenceslaus, martyr**

or **Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, martyrs**

Entrance Antiphon

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgment, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name, and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Collect

O God, who manifests your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace

abundantly upon us, and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— **(Job 9:1-12.14-16)**

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered his friends: “Truly I know that it is so: But how can a man be just before God? If one wished



to contend with him, one could not answer him once in a thousand times. He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength – who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded?– he who removes mountains, and they know it not, when he overturns them in his anger; who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; who commands the sun, and it does not rise, who seals up the stars, who alone stretched out the heavens, and tramped the waves of the sea; who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south;

who does great things beyond understanding and marvellous things without number. Behold, he passes by me, and I see him not; he moves on, but I do not perceive him. Behold, he snatches away; who can hinder him? Who will say to him, ‘What are you doing?’ “How then can I answer him, choosing my words with him? Though I am innocent, I cannot answer him; I must appeal for mercy to my accuser. If I summoned him and he answered me, I would not believe that he was listening to my voice.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Palm (87) 88:10bc-11.12-
13.14-15)***

R. Let my prayer come into
your presence, O Lord.

I call to you, Lord, all
day long; to you I stretch
out my hands. Will you
work your wonders for the
dead? Will the shades rise
up to praise you? R.

Will your mercy be
told in the grave, or your
faithfulness in the place of
perdition?

Will your wonders be
known in the dark, your
justice in the land of
oblivion? R.

But I, O Lord, cry out to
you; in the morning my
prayer comes before you.
Why do you reject me, O

Lord? Why do you hide
your face from me? R.

Acclamation
(Philippians 3:8-9a)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I count
everything as refuse, in or-
der that I may gain Christ
and be found in him. **Alle-
luia.**

Gospel —————
(Luke 9:57-62)

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

At that time: As Jesus and
his disciples were going
along the road, a man said
to him, “I will follow you
wherever you go.” And
Jesus said to him, “Foxes
have holes, and birds of the
air have nests; but the Son
of the man has nowhere to
lay his head.” To another,



he said, “Follow me”. But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” But he said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O merciful God, that this our offering may find acceptance with you and that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (118) 119:49-50)

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

Prayer after Communion

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may

be co-heirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his Death. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Enough of the Excuses

Commentary

Luke 9:57-62

In today's Gospel, three unnamed potential disciples of Jesus decline the invitation to follow Him. They gave excuses. They were not ready to follow Jesus, so they turned down this invitation. Today, the Lord is inviting you to Himself. He is mentioning your name. He is calling you to discipleship. As the Lord is calling you, so is the Devil. To say yes to Jesus is to say no to the Devil; to say no to Jesus is to say yes to the Devil. You cannot say yes to both Jesus and the Devil at the same time. I choose to follow Jesus for the rest of my life. What about you?

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah - Accra-Ghana



Thursday September 29

26th Week in Ordinary Time

Feast

Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (102) 103:20) **Bless the Lord, all you his angels, mighty in power, fulfilling his word, and heeding his voice.**

The Gloria is said.

Collect

O God, who dispose in marvelous order ministries both angelic and human, graciously grant, that our life on earth may be defended by those who watch over us as they minister perpetually

to you in heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— **(Daniel 7:9-10.13-14)**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

As I looked, thrones were placed and one that was ancient of days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, its wheels were burning fire. A stream

of fire issued and came forth from before him; a thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgement, and the books were opened. I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹³⁷⁾ 138:1-2a.
2bcd-3.4-5)***

R. In the presence of the
angels I praise you, O Lord.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart; you have heard the words of my mouth. In the presence of the angels, I praise you. I bow down towards your holy temple. **R.**

I give thanks to your name for your merciful love and your faithfulness. You have exalted your name and your promise over all. On the day I called, you answered me; you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**

All earth's kings shall thank you, O Lord, when they hear the words of

your mouth. They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, “How great is the glory of the Lord!” R

Acclamation

(Psalm 103:21)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, his ministers that do his will.
Alleluia.

Gospel —————

(John 1:47-51)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called

you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

We offer you a sacrifice of praise, O Lord, humbly entreating, that as these gifts are borne by the

ministry of Angels into the presence of your majesty, so you may receive them favourably and make them profitable for our salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface: *(God glorified through the Angels p. 198)*

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (137) 138:1) **I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart; in the presence of the angels, I will sing your praise.**

Prayer after Communion

Having been nourished upon heavenly Bread, we beseech you humbly, O



Lord, that, drawing from it new strength, under the faithful protection of your Angels, we may advance

boldly along the way of salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Feast of the Archangels

Commentary

Daniel 7:9-10 // Revelation 12:7-12

The first reading describes a battle between the forces of God and the army of Satan in heaven. God defeats the Devil. In Archangel Michael, God is our victory. In the annunciation (Luke 1:26-38), Archangel Gabriel was sent to Mary. In Archangel Gabriel, God is sending you to proclaim His Word to the world. In Archangel Raphael, God heals us. This is expressed in the healing of Tobit (Tobit 11:1-15) and the expelling of demons (Tobit 6:15-17; 8:1-3). In Archangel Raphael, may God deliver us from danger; may He heal and forgive us.

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah - Accra-Ghana



Friday September 30

26th Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Jerome, priest and doctor of the Church

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm 1:2-3) **Blessed indeed is the man who ponders the law of the Lord day and night: he will yield his fruit in due season.**

Collect

O God, who gave the Priest Saint Jerome a living and tender love for Sacred Scripture, grant that your people may be ever more fruitfully nourished by your Word and find in it the fount of life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Job 38:1.12-21; 40:3-5)

A reading from the Book of Job

The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: “Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth and the wicked be shaken out of it? It is changed like clay under the seal, and it is dyed like a garment.

From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. Have you entered into the spring of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this. “Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home? You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great!” Then Job answered the Lord: “Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand

on my mouth. I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹³⁸⁾ 139:1-3.7-8.9-10.13-14ab)***

R. Lead me, Lord, in the way everlasting.

O Lord, you search me and you know me. You yourself know my resting and my rising; you discern my thoughts from afar. You mark when I walk or lie down; you know all my ways through and through. R.

O where can I go from your spirit, or where can I flee from your face? If I climb the heavens, you are there. If I lie in the grave, you are there. *R.*

If I take the wings of the dawn or dwell at the sea's furthest end, even there your hand would lead me; your right hand would hold me fast. *R.*

For it was you who formed my inmost being, knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank you who wonderfully made me; how wonderful are your works. *R.*

Acclamation

(Psalm (94) 95:7d and 8a)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Today, harden not your hearts, but listen to the voice of the Lord. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ————— *(Luke 10:13-16)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said, "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. "Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."



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

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O Lord, that having meditated on your Word, following the example of Saint Jerome, we may more eagerly draw near to offer your majesty the sacrifice of salvation. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Jeremiah 15:16) **Lord God, your words were found and I consumed them; your word became the joy and the happiness of my heart.**

Prayer after Communion

May these holy gifts we have received, O Lord, as we rejoice in celebrating Saint Jerome, stir up the hearts of your faithful so that, attentive to

sacred teachings, they may understand the path they are to follow and, by following it, obtain life everlasting. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Called to Repentance

Commentary

Luke 10:13-16

Many were the works of Jesus: healing, raising of the dead, etc. Sadly, none of these works converted the people of Chorazin and Bethsaida. They heard the Word, but hardened their hearts. They refused to believe in Jesus. They failed to repent. Twice in the Gospel, Jesus uses the word “woe” which in Greek is οὐαί (ouai), and it means “horror, terrible,” etc.

Today, what will this same Jesus say to you? Will it be words of woe or blessing? Like St. Jerome, may the Lord bless us as we make Him known to humanity.

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah - Accra-Ghana

Introductory Rites

The rites before the First Reading all have the same purpose: They are meant to help us join our prayer with that of the Church, and to prepare us to hear the Word of God and celebrate the Eucharist.

Entrance Chant

(or Entrance Antiphon

► *The appropriate day*)

Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

- 1** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- 2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3** The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. (*Pause*)

1 I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

through my fault,
through my fault,
through my most
grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed
Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels
and Saints,
and you, my brothers
and sisters,
to pray for me to the
Lord our God.

May almighty God
have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to
everlasting life. **Amen.**
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
or Kyrie, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
or Christe, eleison.
Christe, eleison.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
or Kyrie, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.
2 Have mercy on us, O
Lord. **For we have
sinned against you.**
Show us, O Lord, your
mercy. **And grant
us your salvation.**
May almighty God
have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to
everlasting life. **Amen.**
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
or Kyrie, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
or Christe, eleison.
Christe, eleison.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
or Kyrie, eleison.
Kyrie, eleison.

3 You were sent to heal
the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Order of the Mass

or Kyrie, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

You came to call sinners:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

or Christe, eleison.

Christe, eleison.

You are seated
at the right hand
of the Father to
intercede for us:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

or Kyrie, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison. May
almighty God have mercy
on us, forgive us our
sins, and bring us to
everlasting life. **Amen.**

Glory to God

**Glory to God in
the highest,
and on earth peace to
people of good will.**

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,**

**we give you thanks for
your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**Son of the Father,
you take away the
sins of the world,
have mercy on us;**

**you take away the
sins of the world,
receive our prayer;**

**you are seated at
the right hand
of the Father,
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are
the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the**

**Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God
the Father. Amen.**

Collect (▶ *The appropriate day*)

Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Word is a dialogue between God and the community: The Father has a message for each of us. That is why we respond, “Thanks be to God” and “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.” The Psalm is God’s Word and our response combined. The homily is another word from God, as the priest or deacon opens up the meaning of what we have heard. We respond to God’s Word with the only worthy offering we have — faith, and in that faith we know that God will hear our prayers for the Church, the whole world our own community and for those in need. All of this draws us nearer to God in Christ in the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Readings

(▶ *The appropriate day*)

Homily

Profession of Faith

1 Nicene Creed

*All bow at the
words in italics.*

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven
and earth,
of all things visible
and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord
Jesus Christ, the**

The Order of the Mass

**Only Begotten
Son of God,
born of the Father
before all ages.
God from God, Light
from Light,
true God from
true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial
with the Father;
through him all
things were made.
For us men and for
our salvation
he came down
from heaven,
*and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of
the Virgin Mary,
and became man.*
For our sake he was
crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death
and was buried,**

**and rose again on
the third day
in accordance with
the Scriptures.
He ascended
into heaven
and is seated at
the right hand
of the Father.
He will come
again in glory
to judge the living
and the dead
and his kingdom
will have no end.
I believe in the Holy
Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds
from the Father
and the Son,
who with the Father
and the Son is
adored and glorified,**

The Order of the Mass

**who has spoken
through the
prophets.**

**I believe in one,
holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.**

**I confess one
Baptism for the
forgiveness of sins
and I look forward
to the resurrection
of the dead and the
life of the world
to come. Amen.**

2 Apostles' Creed

*All bow at the
words in italics.*

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and
earth, and in Jesus
Christ, his only
Son, our Lord,
*who was conceived by
the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,***

**suffered under
Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died
and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he
rose again from the
dead; he ascended
into heaven, and is
seated at the right
hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will
come to judge the
living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy
Spirit, the holy
catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of
the body, and life
everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Faithful
(▶ *The appropriate day*)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

The readings, prayers and homily of the Liturgy of the Word prepare us to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist; the Liturgy of the Eucharist is the reason why we celebrate the Liturgy of the Word. Both are essential.

Offertory Chant *(Optional)*

Preparation of the Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

*The priest or deacon
says quietly:*

By the mystery of this
water and wine may

we come to share in the
divinity of Christ who
humbled himself to
share in our humanity.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Order of the Mass

The priest says quietly:

With humble spirit and
contrite heart may we
be accepted by you,
O Lord, and may our
sacrifice in your sight
this day be pleasing
to you, Lord God.

Wash me, O Lord, from
my iniquity and cleanse
me from my sin.

Pray, brothers and
sisters, that my sacrifice
and yours may be
acceptable to God, the
almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept
the sacrifice at your
hands for the praise and
glory of his name, for
our good and the good
of all his holy Church.**

**Prayer over the
Offerings**

(▶ *The appropriate day*)

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up
to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to
the Lord our God. **It
is right and just.**

*The Priest selects an
appropriate Preface,
which concludes with
the Holy, Holy.*

Preface V of Sundays in Ordinary Time

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.

For you laid the
foundations of the world



and have arranged the changing of times and seasons; you formed man in your own image and set humanity over the whole world in all its wonder, to rule in your name over all you have made and for ever praise you in your mighty works, through Christ our Lord.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Preface VI of Sundays in Ordinary Time

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.

For in you we live and move and have our being,

and while in this body we not only experience the daily effects of your care, but even now possess the pledge of life eternal.

For, having received the first fruits of the Spirit, through whom you raised up Jesus from the dead, we hope for an everlasting share in the Paschal Mystery.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Preface VII of Sundays in Ordinary Time

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.

For you so loved the world that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer, to live like us in all things but sin, so that you might love in us what you loved in your Son, by whose obedience we have been restored to those gifts of yours that, by sinning, we had lost in disobedience.

And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints, we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation we acclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Preface VIII of Sundays in Ordinary Time

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.

For, when your children were scattered afar by sin, through the Blood of your Son and the power of the Spirit, you gathered them again to yourself, that a people, formed as one by the unity of the Trinity, made the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit, might, to the praise of your manifold wisdom, be manifest as the Church.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels, we praise you, and with joy we proclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Preface of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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.

For you placed the salvation of the human race on the wood of the Cross, so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth and the evil one, who conquered on a tree, might likewise on a tree be conquered, through Christ our Lord.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you. Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together with exultation. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise, as we acclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Preface I of the Passion of the Lord

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.

For through the saving Passion of your Son the whole world has received a heart to confess the infinite power of your majesty, since by the wondrous power of the Cross your judgment on the world is now revealed and the authority of Christ crucified.

And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints, we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation we acclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Preface I of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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 praise, bless, and glorify your name (on the feast day / on the Nativity / in veneration) of the Blessed ever-Virgin Mary.

For by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit she conceived your Only Begotten Son, and without losing the glory of virginity, brought forth into the world the eternal Light, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore and Powers tremble

before you. Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together with exultation. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise, as we acclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Preface of Holy Pastors

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, through Christ our Lord.

For, as on the festival of Saint N. you bid your Church rejoice, so, too, you strengthen her by the example of his holy life, teach her by his words of preaching, and keep her safe in answer to his prayers.



And so, with the company of Angels and Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Preface I of Holy Martyrs

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.

For the blood of your blessed Martyr N., poured out like Christ's to glorify your name, shows forth your marvellous works, by which in our weakness you perfect your power and on the feeble bestow strength to bear you witness, through Christ our Lord.

And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Preface I of Apostles

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.

For you, eternal Shepherd, do not desert your flock, but through the blessed Apostles watch over it and protect it always, so that it may be governed by those you have appointed shepherds to lead it in the name of your Son.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with

Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts
and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your
glory, as without end we
acclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Preface of Angels

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 praise you
without end in your
Archangels and Angels.

For the honour we
pay the angelic creatures
in whom you delight
redounds to your own
surpassing glory, and by
their great dignity and
splendour you show how
infinitely great you are, to

be exalted above all things,
through Christ our Lord.

Through him the
multitude of Angels
extols your majesty, and
we are united with them
in exultant adoration, as
with one voice of praise
we acclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Common Preface I

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,
through Christ our Lord.

In him you have
been pleased to renew
all things, giving us all
a share in his fullness.
For though he was in the
form of God, he emptied
himself and by the blood
of his Cross brought peace



to all creation. Therefore he has been exalted above all things, and to all who obey him, has become the source of eternal salvation.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Common Preface II

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.

For in goodness you created man and, when he was justly condemned, in mercy you redeemed him, through Christ our Lord.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you. Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together with exultation.

May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise, as we acclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Common Preface III

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.

For just as through your beloved Son you created the human race, so also through him

with great goodness
you formed it anew.

And so, it is right
that all your creatures
serve you, all the
redeemed praise you,
and all your Saints with
one heart bless you.

Therefore, we, too, extol
you with all the Angels,
as in joyful celebration
we acclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Preface of Eucharistic Prayer II

It is truly right and
just, our duty and our
salvation, always and
everywhere to give you
thanks, Father most holy,
through your beloved
Son, Jesus Christ, your
Word through whom you
made all things, whom
you sent as our Saviour
and Redeemer, incarnate

by the Holy Spirit and
born of the Virgin.

Fulfilling your will and
gaining for you a holy
people, he stretched out
his hands as he endured
his Passion, so as to break
the bonds of death and
manifest the resurrection.

And so, with the
Angels and all the Saints
we declare your glory,
as with one voice we
acclaim: **Holy, Holy**

Preface of Eucharistic Prayer IV

It is truly right to give
you thanks, truly just
to give you glory, Father
most holy, for you are
the one God living and
true, existing before all
ages and abiding for
all eternity, dwelling in
unapproachable light;

yet you, who alone are good, the source of life, have made all that is, so that you might fill your creatures with blessings and bring joy to many of them by the glory of your light.

And so, in your presence are countless hosts of Angels, who serve you day and night and, gazing upon the glory of your face, glorify you without ceasing.

With them we, too, confess your name in exultation, giving voice to every creature under heaven, as we acclaim:

Holy, Holy
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are
full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who
comes in the name
of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

*The Eucharistic
Prayer continues:*

Eucharistic Prayer II

You are indeed Holy,
O Lord, the fount of all holiness. Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving

thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you,
and eat of it,
for this is my Body,
which will be given
up for you.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you,
and drink from it,
for this is the chalice of
my Blood, the Blood
of the new and
eternal covenant,
which will be poured out
for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in memory of me.
The mystery of faith.

**1 We proclaim your
Death, O Lord,
and profess your**

**Resurrection until you
come again.**

**2 When we eat this
Bread and drink this
Cup, we proclaim your
Death, O Lord, until
you come again.**

**3 Save us, Saviour
of the world, for
by your Cross and
Resurrection you have
set us free.**

Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we



may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop and all the clergy. Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face. Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin

Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be co-heirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

(▶ *Communion Rite,*)

Communion Rite

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all

distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.



*During the “Lamb of God,”
the priest says quietly:*

May this mingling of
the Body and Blood of
our Lord Jesus Christ
bring eternal life to
us who receive it.

**Lamb of God, you take
away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you
take away the sins
of the world, have
mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take
away the sins of the
world, grant us peace.**

The priest says quietly:

- 1** Lord Jesus Christ, Son
of the living God, who,
by the will of the Father
and the work of the
Holy Spirit, through
your Death gave life to
the world, free me by
this, your most holy

Body and Blood, from
all my sins and from
every evil; keep me
always faithful to your
commandments, and
never let me be parted
from you.

- 2** May the receiving of
your Body and Blood,
Lord Jesus Christ, not
bring me to judgment
and condemnation,
but through your loving
mercy be for me protection
in mind and body and a
healing remedy.

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes
away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to
the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter
under my roof, but only
say the word and my
soul shall be healed.**

The Order of the Mass

The priest says quietly:
May the Body (Blood)
of Christ keep me
safe for eternal life.

Communion Chant (or Communion Antiphon)

▶ *The appropriate day*

*After Communion, the
priest says quietly:*

What has passed our
lips as food, O Lord,
may we possess in
purity of heart, that
what has been given to
us in time may be our
healing for eternity.

Prayer after Communion

(▶ *The appropriate day*)

Concluding Rites

Announcements (Optional)

Blessing

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
May almighty God
bless you, the Father,
and the Son, and the
Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Dismissal

- 1** Go forth, the Mass is ended.
- 2** Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.
- 3** Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
- 4** Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.



Living with Christ

Saint of the month



Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael
September 29

Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels *September 29*

Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are three of the seven archangels who stand before God and are venerated in both Jewish and Christian traditions. While once dedicated solely to Michael (Michaelmas), this date now commemorates all three.

Michael ('Who is like the Lord?'), considered the special protector of Israel (Dan 12.1) and of the Church, is known as the 'captain of the heavenly host' (Rev 12.7-9).

Gabriel ('God is mighty') foretold the coming of the Messiah to the prophet Daniel (Dan 9). Luke records the appearances of this 'angel of the Lord' to Zechariah and to Mary of Nazareth (Luke 1).

Raphael ('God heals') identifies himself as one of the angels who bring prayers before God (Tobit 12). He is associated with the healing pool in Jerusalem (John 5).

Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable.

This African proverb underscores the importance of unity and cooperation in our societies as necessary for meaningful human life. This proverb is used to show the importance of working together so as to accomplish task or objective which cannot be done by one person. Others would say, *‘one finger cannot kill lice.’*

The world needs unity today more than ever. There is no success, peace, harmony.... without unity. The proverb is used specially to warn people who like division or doing things alone. In the Bible the psalmist emphasizes on the aspect of unity when he writes in Psalms 133:1 *“how good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.”*

A “synodal Church” in the 21st Century; the role of the lay faithful in the light of the “synod of synodality”.

Introduction:

The theme of the Synod, “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission,” suggests that everyone that makes up the church is involved in this walk of togetherness. Pope Francis, in his reflection on the Synod, points out that unlike all other synods held in the past, this particular Synod starts with and involves all the faithful at local churches across the world. The Synod promises to listen to all, especially to the laypeople, and has allocated a period of time in that respect.

According to Christopher Ruddy, who takes a lot of inspiration from Tilliard, synodality cannot be limited to administration or governance but structured life in communion and catholicity. At the heart of the topic of synodality is the vision of a church that can be termed as communion. This, for Tilliard, is at the heart of the spirit of Vatican II. Pope Francis would prefer the image of “people of God,” which also has the nuance of communion.

A “clerical” laity

One of the challenges facing the church and its missionary mandate is clericalism. A disease that Vatican II sought to cure but still lingers years after the council. It has been said that some laity are more clerical than clerics. The reason for this is debatable and may not be the scope of this paper. Vatican II envisioned a pilgrim church that has its basis in baptism so that the mission of the church would encapsulate all. Yet, to date, the mission of the church is left in the hands of clerics by the laity, even in instances where they are being encouraged and motivated. To capture this in a parable form: Here you have a child who has grown so dependent on the parents that when it is time for the child to create his or her own family because he has reached a mature stage, he or she still remains dependent on the parents for fear of taking responsibility.

A prophetic process

The synod process itself is prophetic and speaks to us: to build the body of Christ, it must be all involving; we must build with patience over a period of time, and most importantly, we must listen to all and together listen to God. This particular Synod spans over three years, with

questionnaires sent to all in parishes, deaneries, dioceses, nations, and eventually the universal church. To listen to everyone may be time-consuming, but it enriches the church in its quest to make everyone participate in its life and mission. This process should be emulated in the parishes as the pastor of souls must always seek to listen to the people and, together with them, listen to God.

Conclusion:

The Synod's quest to listen and take the risk of involving the laity in the life and mission of the church is laudable and must be applauded. In this way, the laity will be encouraged to participate fully in building up the church and fulfill the Pope's call to "enable everyone to participate in an essential ecclesial duty." Hopefully, this commitment by the laity will be a motivation to work together with the clergy in unity to build a Synodal Church.

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu,
Tema-Ghana



Announcement

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SEPTEMBER 2022 (Year C)

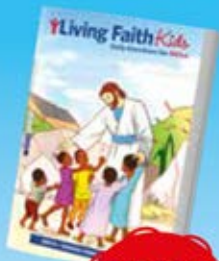
Thur	1	■ Ferial	1 Cor 3:18-23/ Ps (23) 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/ Lk 5:1-11
Fri	2	■ Ferial	1 Cor 4:1-5/ Ps (36) 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40/ Lk 5:33-39
Sat	3	□ Memorial Saint Gregory the Great, pope and doctor	1 Cor 4:6b-15/ Ps (144) 145:17-18, 19-20, 21/ Lk 6:1-5
Sun	4	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wis 9:13-18b/ Ps (89) 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/ Phlm 9-10, 12-17/ Lk 14:25-33
Mon	5	■ Ferial	1 Cor 5:1-8/ Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/ Lk 6:6-11
Tue	6	■ Ferial	1 Cor 6:1-11/ Ps (148) 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/ Lk 6:12-19
Wed	7	■ Ferial	1 Cor 7:25-31/ Ps (44) 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17/ Lk 6:20-26
Thur	8	□ Feast The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Mt 5:2-5a/ Ps (12) 135:5-6/ Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
Fri	9	■ Ferial or Saint Peter Claver, priest	1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/ Ps (83) 84:3-4, 5-6, 12/ Lk 6:39-42
Sat	10	■ Ferial	1 Cor 10:14-22/ Ps (115) 116:12-13, 17-18/ Lk 6:43-49
Sun	11	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/ Ps (58) 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19/ 1 Tm 1:12-17/ Lk 15:1-32
Mon	12	■ Ferial	1 Cor 11:17-26, 33/ Ps (38) 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/ Lk 7:1-10
Tue	13	□ Memorial Saint John Chrysostom, bishop and doctor	1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/ Ps (89) 100:1-2, 3, 4, 5/ Lk 7:11-17
Wed	14	■ Feast The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Nm 21:4b-9/ Ps (77) 78:1-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/ Phil 2:6-11/ Jn 3:13-17
Thur	15	□ Memorial Our Lady of Sorrows	1 Cor 15:1-11/ Ps (117) 118:1-2, 15c-17, 28/ Lk 7:36-50
Fri	16	■ Memorial Saints Cornelius, pope, and Cyprian, bishop, martyrs	1 Cor 15:12-20/ Ps (118) 17:1, 6-7, 8 and 15/ Lk 8:1-3
Sat	17	■ Ferial or □ Saint Robert Bellarmine, bishop and doctor	1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/ Ps (55) 56:10c-12, 13-14/ Lk 8:4-15
Sun	18	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Am 8:4-7/ Ps (112) 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8/ 1 Tm 2:1-8/ Lk 16:1-13
Mon	19	■ Ferial	Prv 3:27-34/ Ps (14) 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5/ Lk 8:16-18
Tue	20	■ Memorial Saints Andrew Kim Taegon, priest and Companions, martyrs	Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/ Ps (118) 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44/ Lk 8:19-21
Wed	21	■ Feast Saint Matthew, apostle and evangelist	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/ Ps (118) 119:2-3, 4-5/ Mt 9:9-13
Thur	22	■ Ferial or ■ Saint Maurice and Companions, martyrs	Ecd 1:2-11/ Ps (89) 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17b/ Lk 9:7-9
Fri	23	□ Memorial Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, priest	Ecd 3:1-11/ Ps (143) 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4/ Lk 9:18-22
Sat	24	■ Ferial	Ecd 11:9, 12, 8/ Ps (89) 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17/ Lk 9:43b-45
Sun	25	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Am 6:1a, 4-7/ Ps (145) 146:6, 7-8, 9a, 9b-10/ 1 Tm 6:11-16/ Lk 16:19-31
Mon	26	■ Ferial or ■ Saints Cosmas and Damian, martyrs	Jb 1:6-22/ Ps (118) 17:1, 2-3, 6-7/ Lk 9:46-50
Tue	27	□ Memorial Saint Vincent de Paul, priest	Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23/ Ps (87) 88:2-3, 4-5a, 5b, 6-7-8/ Lk 9:51-56
Wed	28	■ Ferial or ■ Saint Wenceslaus, martyr or ■ Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, martyrs	Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/ Ps (87) 88:10b-11, 12-13, 14-15/ Lk 9:57-62
Thur	29	□ Feast Saints Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/ Ps (137) 138:1-2ab, 2bcd, 3-4-5/ Jn 1:47-51
Fri	30	□ Memorial Saint Jerome, priest and doctor	Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40: 3-5/ Ps (138) 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab/ Lk 10:13-16

LEGEND: ■ ■ ■ Liturgical colours
Bold: Solemnity, Feast or Sunday

Roman: Memorial
Italic: Optional Memorial

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1 John 4:7



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