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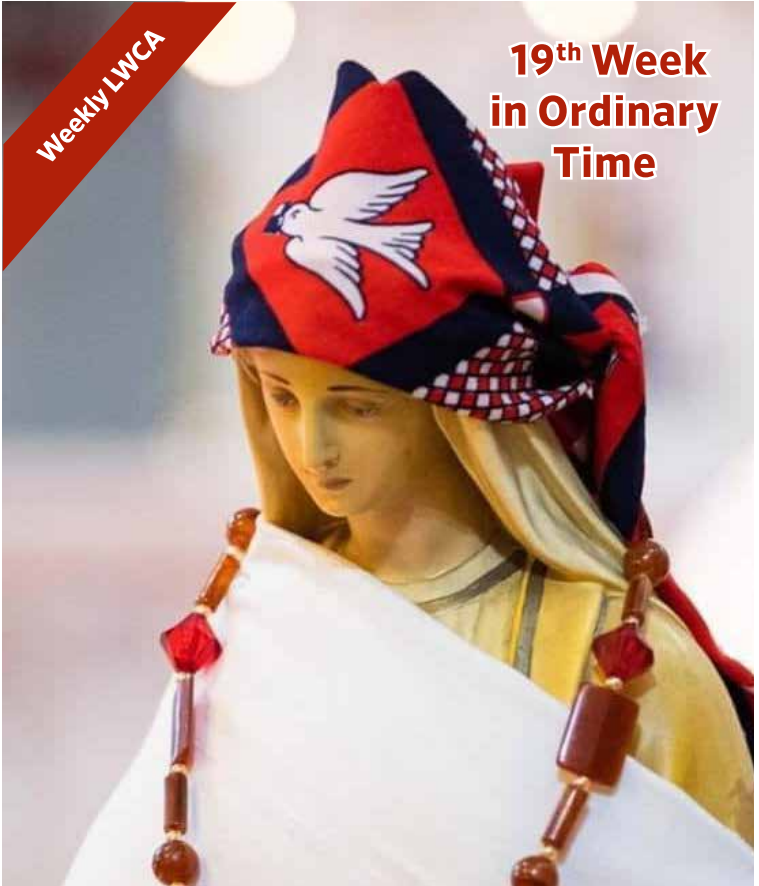
Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

19th Week
in Ordinary
Time

bayard africain



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Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: The Virgin Mary dressed in African fashion

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Editorial

August 2023



Rev. Fr. Joy Senanu Kwamla Ofori-Kumeni
Accra- Ghana

Heaven Is the Goal

The Church teaches that there are Four Last Things: Death, Judgement, Hell and Heaven. The “last things” (*eschata*) are various moments or stages in the final manifestation process. Death is the end of earthly life. After death comes judgment (particular or general). After judgment comes heaven or hell.

The characters for the 2nd week of August guide us on how to get to heaven. Elijah’s run for his life after the contest on Mount Carmel (1 Kg 18:1ff) and the storms at sea testify that life is a contest. Moses’ call of commitment from the Israelites proves that in difficult times, commitment to God is expected (Deut. 10:12-22). God’s choice of Joshua as leader shows us that he provides leaders to guide us on the journey to heaven (Josh 24:15). The calming of the storms at sea also proves that Christ never leaves our side in stormy moments.

Like Moses, we too will one day die. But Mary’s Assumption teaches us that devotion to God on earth will merit us heaven. Heaven is the goal of all Christians.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

For World Youth Day: We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

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

The Liturgy of the Eucharist : the Eucharistic Prayer

During Holy Mass, Eucharistic Prayer starts with the preface right after the prayer over the offerings. The preface always begins with a dialogue between the celebrant and the assembly (***The Lord be with you; and with your spirit...***). The Missal contains many prefaces. They are used according to the mysteries that are celebrated in specific celebrations. There are prefaces of the main liturgical seasons (Advent season, Lenten season, Easter season and Ordinary Time), there are prefaces of the Sundays in ordinary time, there are prefaces of the Blessed Virgin Mary, there are prefaces for the Apostles, there are prefaces for the Saints, there are prefaces for Holy martyrs, there are common prefaces, etc. The preface can be sung or recited.

In general, there is a link between a preface and the other liturgical texts used during Holy Mass (Opening prayer, prayer over the offerings, prayer after communion). All these texts and the readings help

the faithful understand better the liturgical theme of the day. The preface ends with the *Sanctus* which is a very important song in the Eucharistic celebration. It reminds that the Eucharist is beyond the assembly as it involves visible and invisible beings. The liturgy that is celebrated on Earth is a participation in the celestial liturgy in which the Angels and all the Saints sing God's glory day and night.

The Missal contains many Eucharistic prayers. The most used Eucharistic prayer is the second one because of its shortness. The third and the fourth are rarely used. It is important to mention that some prefaces constitute a whole unit such that the celebrant is obliged to do so. During the consecration, the assembly is invited to keep silent because it is a crucial moment of the celebration. That is the reason why during some specific moments of the Eucharistic Prayer a minister rings the bell to call for the assembly's attention.

In the Eucharistic prayer, there are two major requests called epiclesis. In the first one, the celebrant asks God the Father to make holy bread and wine by sending the Holy Spirit upon them so that they may become

the Body and Blood of Jesus-Christ. This first request is called the ***Epiclesis on the gifts***. The second request is when the celebrant prays so that by the partaking of bread and wine, the spirit may transform the Christians into one People. This request is called the ***Epiclesis on the community***. In fact, the aim of the Eucharist is unity. From the African perspective, those who share the same meal form one family. In the liturgy, those who participate in the same Eucharistic Banquet belong to the same family.

The Eucharistic prayer ends with the elevation (*when the Sacred Body of Christ and the chalice containing the Most Precious Blood of Christ are lifted up and presented to the assembly*). At that specific moment the celebrant sings: through him, and with him and in him...taking the chalice and the paten with the host and raising both.

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



Sunday August 13

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*1 Kings 19: 9a. 11-13a / Psalms 85: 9. 10. 11-12. 13-14 /
Romans 9: 1-5 / Matthew 14: 22-33*



And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Matthew 14: 28-29



God Is with us

Sometimes, situations in our life can force us to think that God is not with us. In such situations we may turn to look for God in our own ways. When the Prophet Elijah was desperate and in need of God, he felt God would appear to him in a fearsome manner. Rather, God revealed himself to him in a gentle breeze.

In no uncertain term, Saint Paul expressed his deep desire to defending the truth about God and Jesus, even to the detriment of his life if it would help his brothers and lead them to Christ.

In our difficult moments God through Jesus Christ bids us to come as he did for Peter. Even when the Lord bids us to come, we may still dwell in our weaknesses which can lead us away from him. We must rely on God through Jesus Christ in faith in the storms of life.

There is no need to look for the Lord in the spectacular. Our Lord is always present with us in the daily events of our lives. When we feel let down by life due to over



Sunday August 13

reliance on our own strength, let us quickly call on Jesus as did Peter to save us.

May the Lord save us anytime we call upon him.

Rev. Fr. Francis Gave, Ghana



Entrance Antiphon (*Ps (72) 73:20.19.22.23*)

Look to your covenant, O Lord; forget not the life of your poor ones forever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause; do not forget the cries of those who seek you.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (1 Kings: 19:9a.11-13a) —————

A reading from the first Book of Kings

In those days: When Elijah came to [Horeb the mount of God,] he lodged in a cave; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him. And he said, “Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake, a fire, but the Lord was not in



Sunday August 13

the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. And Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm _____
(Psalm (84) 85:8ab and 9:10-11.12-13)

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your sal - vation.

R. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God speaks;
he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful.
His salvation is near for those who fear him,
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**



Merciful love and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have kissed.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,
and justice look down from heaven. R.

Also the Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.
Justice will march before him,
and guide his steps on the way. R.

Second Reading (Romans 9:1-5) —————

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brethren: I am speaking the truth in Christ, I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the sonship, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and of their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed for ever. Amen. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Sunday August 13

Acclamation (*Psalm (129) 130:5*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I long for you O Lord, my soul longs for his word. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*Matthew 14:22-33*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

[After the crowd was satisfied,] Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, “Take heart, it is I; have no fear.” And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they



got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

R. Lord, hear us!

For 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.



Sunday August 13

Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of your Church, for in your mercy you have given them to be offered, and by your power you transform them into the mystery of our salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon *(Ps 147:12.14)*

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

Prayer after Communion

May the communion in your Sacrament that we have consumed, save us, O Lord, and confirm us in the light of your truth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Monday August 14

19th week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Maximilian Mary Kolbe, priest

Entrance Antiphon

(Mt 25:34.40) **Come, you blessed of my Father, says the Lord. Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me.**

Collect

O God, who filled the Priest and Martyr Saint Maximilian Kolbe with a burning love for the Immaculate Virgin Mary and with zeal for souls and love of neighbour, graciously grant, through his intercession, that striving for your glory by eagerly

-serving others, we may be conformed, even until death, to your Son. Who lives and reigns with you. **Amen.**

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (72) 73: 20.19.22.23) **Look to your covenant, O Lord; forget not the life of your poor ones forever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause; do not forget the cries of those who seek you.**

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy



Monday August 14

Spirit, we dare to call our father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(Deuteronomy 10:12-22)

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

Moses spoke to the people, saying, “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which

I command you this day for your good? Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it; yet the Lord set his heart in love upon your fathers and chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as at this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner therefore; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall



serve him and cling to him, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and terrible things which your eyes have seen. Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons; and now the Lord your God has made you as the stars of heaven for multitude.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm (146) 147)

R. O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord.
or: Alleluia

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord! O Sion, praise your God! He has strengthened

the bars of your gates; he has blessed your children within you. **R.**

He established peace on your borders; he gives you your fill of finest wheat. He sends out his word to the earth, and swiftly runs his command. **R.**

He reveals his word to Jacob; to Israel, his decrees and judgements. He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his judgments. **R.**

Acclamation

(2 Thessalonians 2:14)

Alleluia. Alleluia. God has called us through the gospel, to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____
(Matthew 17:22-27)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: As the disciples were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” And they were greatly distressed. When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the half-shekel tax went up to Peter and said, “Does not your teacher pay the tax?” He said, “Yes.” And when he came home, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tribute? From their sons or from others?” And when he said,

“From others,” Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are free. However, not to give offence to them, go to the sea and cast a hook, and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel; take that and give it to them for me and for yourself.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

We present our oblations to you, O Lord, humbly praying that we may learn from the example of Saint Maximilian to offer our very lives to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 15:13) **Greater love has no one than to lay down**



his life for his friends, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

We pray, O Lord, that, renewed by the Body and

Blood of your Son, we may be inflamed with the same fire of charity that Saint Maximilian received from this holy banquet. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reverence the Lord our God

Commentary

Deuteronomy 10:12-22

Moses made the way of the Lord known to his people. He asked them not fear the Lord, but to follow all his ways, love him, serve him and keep his commandments. Moses encouraged the people to praise God. This is how we must also see God today. He is the one we must revere and praise. Prestige, wealth and status are not to be praised and worshipped for God is the source of everything that we boast of and we must recognize him.

Rev. Fr. Francis Gave, Ghana



Tuesday August 15

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity

Vigil: 1 Chronicles 15: 3-4. 15-16; 16: 1-2/ Psalms 132: 6-7. 9-10. 13-14 / 1 Corinthians 15: 54b-57/ Luke 11:27-28. Day: Revelation 11: 19a; 12: 1-6a. 10ab/ Psalms 45: 10. 11. 12. 16 / 1 Corinthians 15: 20-27/ Luke 1: 39-56



For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Luke 1: 48-50

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, nr. 966: “Finally, the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, she was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death.”

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a singular participation in her Son’s Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians. Unlike the case of Elijah, Mary’s move into heaven is not vividly documented in the Bible, at least not directly. Nonetheless, our today’s readings give us helpful clues as to what actually happened.

According to the book of Revelation, Mary is that woman who gave birth to a child against all odds. That child, as Saint Paul makes us understand, is the New Adam. The one who came to undo the mistake of the first Adam.

In other words, Mary was not an ordinary woman. She had a great purpose and mission.

Our Gospel passage from Luke describes the meeting of two pregnant women: one pregnant even though she passed the age of childbearing, the other pregnant even though she had never known a man before. The lives of Elizabeth and Mary are proofs that there is no such thing as impossibility when it comes to God. If God could make a virgin pregnant, what is there in taking up a person body and soul into heaven? The word of Elizabeth to Mary defines her uniqueness amongst everything that God ever created. “Blessed are you among women.”

What exactly is the significance of today’s feast for us? Our opening prayer at mass gives us a good answer. It says: “Grant we pray, that always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit being sharers in her (Mary’s) glory. Colossians 3:1-2 says: “So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. Never forget home. Set your mind on things above.”

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria

Entrance Antiphon (*Rv 12:1*)

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

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

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. Through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (*Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a.10ab*)

A reading from the Book of Revelation

God's temple in heaven was opened. And a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; she was with child and she cried out in her pangs of birth, in anguish for delivery. And another sign appeared in heaven; behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems upon his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the

earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, that he might devour her child when she brought it forth; she brought forth a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come.”

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

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm (44) 45:10.11.12.16) —————



At your right hand stands the queen in gold of
O-phir.

R. On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir. **R.**

Listen, O daughter, pay heed and give ear;
forget your own people and your father's house. R.

So will the king desire your beauty.
He is your lord, pay homage to him. R.

They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king. R.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 15:20-27) —————
**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the
Corinthians**

Brethren: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. "For God has put all things in subjection under his feet."
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Acclamation

Alleluia. Alleluia. Mary has been taken up into heaven; the host of angels rejoices. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (Luke 1:39-56)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the child leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoice in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has

scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his prosperity for ever.” And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

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

Prayer 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 in Africa, let us pray to the Lord our God through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. R.

Profession of Faith *(p. 211)*

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, our tribute of homage, rise up to you, O Lord, and, through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, may our hearts, aflame with the fire of love, constantly long for you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon *(Lk 1:48-49)*

All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me ever singing your praise.

Prayer after Communion

Having received the Sacrament of salvation, we ask you to grant, O Lord, that, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, we may be brought to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Wednesday August 16

19th week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or Stephen of Hungary, optional memorial

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (72) 73: 20.19.22.23)

Look to your covenant, O Lord; forget not the life of your poor ones forever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause; do not forget the cries of those who seek you.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,

that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(Deuteronomy 34:1-12)

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

In those days: Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land

of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. And the Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there." So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no man knows the place of his burial to this day. Moses was hundred and twenty years old when he died; his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated. And the sons of Israel wept for

Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the days of weeping, and mourning for Moses were ended. And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands upon him; so the people of Israel obeyed him, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses. And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and the wonders which the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, and for all the mighty power and all the great and terrible deeds which Moses wrought in the sight of all Israel. The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (65) 66:1-3a.5 and
8.16-17)

**R. Blest be God, who gave
life to my soul.**

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

Come and see the works
of God: awesome his deeds
among the children of
men. O peoples, bless our
God; let the voice his praise
resound. **R.**

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

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 _____

(Matthew 18:15-20)

**A reading from the holy
Gospel according to Mat-
thew**

At that time: Jesus said to his
disciples, “If your brother
sins against you, go and tell
him his fault, between you
and him alone. If he listens
to you, you have gained
your brother. But if he
does not listen, take one or
two others along with you,
that every word may be

confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the Church; and if he refuses to listen even to the Church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name there am I in the midst of them.”
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of our Church, for in your mercy you have given them to be offered, and by your power you transform them into the mystery of our salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 147:12.14) **O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord who gives you your fill of finest wheat.**

Or

The bread that I shall give, says the Lord, is my flesh for the life of the world.

Prayer after Communion

May the communion in your Sacrament that we have consumed, save us, O

Lord, and confirm us in the light of your truth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Fraternal Correction

Commentary

Matthew 18:15-20

To have a holy and peaceful community, our Lord calls us to work with him through fraternal correction. We have an obligation to correct our brothers and sisters.

Our Lord identifies three steps in correction; Alone, in the presence of one two witnesses and Before the Church. The expectation is that when one is taken through these stages, there would be repentance and restoration of the sinner to God and re-integration into society. May the Lord help us to accept fraternal correction from one another.

Rev. Fr. Francis Gave, Ghana



Thursday August 17

19th week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (72) 73 :20.19.22.23)

Look to your covenant, O Lord; forget not the life of your poor ones forever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause; do not forget the cries of those who seek you.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance

which you have promised. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Joshua 3:7-10a.11.13-17)

A reading from the Book of Joshua

In those days: The Lord said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. And you shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, ‘When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall

stand still in the Jordan.” And Joshua said to the sons of Israel, “Come here, and hear the words of the Lord your God.” And Joshua said, “Hereby you shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites. Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is to pass over before you into the Jordan. And when the soles of the feet of the priests Who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be stopped from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap.” So, when the people set

out from their tents, to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, and when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap far off, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down towards the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, Were wholly cut off; and the people passed over opposite Jericho. And while all Israel were passing over on dry ground, the priests

who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 114:1-2.3-4.5-6)

℟. Alleluia.

When Israel came forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a foreign people, Judah became his temple, Israel became his domain. ℟.

The sea beheld them and fled; the Jordan turned back on its course; The mountains leapt like rams, and the hills like yearling sheep. ℟.

Why was it, sea, that you fled; that you turned back, Jordan, on your course? O mountains, that you leapt like rams; O hills, like yearling sheep? ℟.

Acclamation
(Psalm 119:135)

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

Gospel —————
(Matthew 18:21-19:1)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against

me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ “And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ “So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me; and should not you have had mercy on your

fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of

your Church, for in your mercy you have given them to be offered, and by your power you transform them into the mystery of our salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm 147:12.14) **O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord who gives you your fill of finest wheat.**

Or: (Jn 6:51)

The bread that I shall give, says the Lord, is my flesh for the life of the world.

Prayer after Communion

May the communion in your Sacrament that we have consumed, save us,

O Lord, and confirm us in the light of your truth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Forgive seventy-seven time.

Commentary

Matthew 18:21-19:1

To Peter's question on how often must he forgive his brother, Jesus answered: seventy-seven times. That is to forgive always.

The parable of the wicked servant who refused to forgive his fellow servant when his master had forgiven him so much is the demonstration of how difficult it is for humans to forgive always while it is the case for our God. He is always merciful and forgiving when we approach him.

May the Lord give us the grace to always forgive.

Rev. Fr. Francis Gave, Ghana



Friday August 18

19th week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (72) 73: 20.19.22.23)

Look to your covenant, O Lord; forget not the life of your poor ones forever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause; do not forget the cries of those who seek you.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance

which you have promised. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Joshua 24:1-13)*

A reading from the Book of Joshua

In those days: Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “This says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Your fathers lived of old beyond the

Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it; and afterwards I brought you out. Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea; and the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. And when they cried to the Lord, he put darkness between you and

the Egyptians, and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did to Egypt; and you lived in the wilderness a long time. Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan; they fought with you, and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land and I destroyed them before you. Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel; and he sent and invited Balaam the son of Beor to curse you, but I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he blessed you; so I delivered you out of his hand. And you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the men of Jericho fought

against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I gave them into your hand. And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you dwell therein; you eat the fruit of vineyards and olive yards which you did not plant.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (135) 136)

R. For his mercy endures for ever.

or: Alleluia.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods, for his mercy endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his mercy endures forever. R

Through the desert his people he led, for his mercy endures forever. Nations in their greatness he struck, for his mercy endures forever. Kings in their splendor he slew, for his mercy endures forever. R

He gave their land as a heritage, for his mercy

endures forever. A heritage for Israel, his servant, for his mercy endures forever. And he snatched us away from our foes, for his mercy endures forever. R.

Acclamation

(2 Thessalonians 2:13)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Accept the word of God, not as the word of men, but as what it really is, the word of God.
Alleluia.

Gospel _____

(Matthew 19:3-12)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time Pharisees came up to Jesus and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's

wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one'? So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder." They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" He said to them, "For your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity,

and marries another, commits adultery; and he who marries a divorced woman, commits adultery.” The disciples said to him, “If such is the case to them, “Not all men can receive this precept, but only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to receive this, let him receive it.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of our Church, for in your mercy you have given them to be offered, and by your power you transform them into the mystery of our salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (146) 147:12.14) **O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord who gives you your fill of finest wheat.**

Or

The bread that I shall give, says the Lord, is my flesh for the life of the world.

Prayer after Communion

May the communion in your Sacrament that we

have consumed, save us, Through Christ our Lord.
O Lord, and confirm us **Amen.**
in the light of your truth.

Till death do us apart

Commentary

Matthew 19:3-12

Marriage is instituted by God and he established rules to govern it. In Matthew 19:3-12, some pharisees shrewdly wanted Jesus to take human side of rules regulating marriage especially on divorce. In his response, Jesus pointed out that God intended marriage to be permanent. In addition to permanency of marriage, Jesus emphasized that marriage is between man and woman.

Although there are challenges in marital union, we must not allow such challenges and differences to separate what God has put together.

Rev. Fr. Francis Gave, Ghana



Saturday August 19

19th week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: **St John Eudes**, *Optional memorial*

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (72) 73: 20.19.22.23)

Look to your covenant, O Lord; forget not the life of your poor ones forever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause; do not forget the cries of those who seek you.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,

that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— **(Joshua 24:14-29)**

A reading from the Book of Joshua.

In those days: Joshua spoke to the people, saying, “Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the

River, and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if you be unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods of the fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, and who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples though whom we passed;

and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land, therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.” But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord; for he is a holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No; but we will serve the Lord.” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign

gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord the God of Israel.” And the people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem. And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a great stone, and set it up there under the oak in the sanctuary of the Lord. And Joshua said to all the people, “Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us; for it has heard all the words of the Lord which he spoke to us; therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God.” So Joshua

sent the people away, every man to his inheritance. After these things Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being a hundred and ten years old. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 15) 16)***

R. It's you, O Lord, who are my portion.

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord.” O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; you yourself who secure my lot. R.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord before me always; with

him at my right hand, I shall not be moved. *R.*

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand, bliss forever. *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 _____ *(Matthew 19:13-15)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people; but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." And he laid his hands on them and went away. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of our Church, for in your mercy you have given them to be offered, and by your power you transform them into the mystery of our salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 147:12.14) **O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord who gives you your fill of finest wheat.**

Or

The bread that I shall give, says the Lord, is my flesh for the life of the world.

Prayer after Communion

May the communion in your Sacrament that we have consumed, save us, O

Lord, and confirm us in the light of your truth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let Us Serve God for the rest of our Lives.

Commentary

Joshua 24:14-29

Joshua, asked the Israelites to choose whom they want to worship, God or the gods of their ancestors. He reminded them that serving God requires fidelity for He is a jealous God.

The people responded emphatically that they will serve God who had delivered them out of slavery. During our baptism we made the choice to serve God and reject Satan and his empty promises. May the Lord help us to always hold on to these promises for the rest of our lives.

Rev. Fr. Francis Gave, Ghana



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Growing up Daily with the Good News