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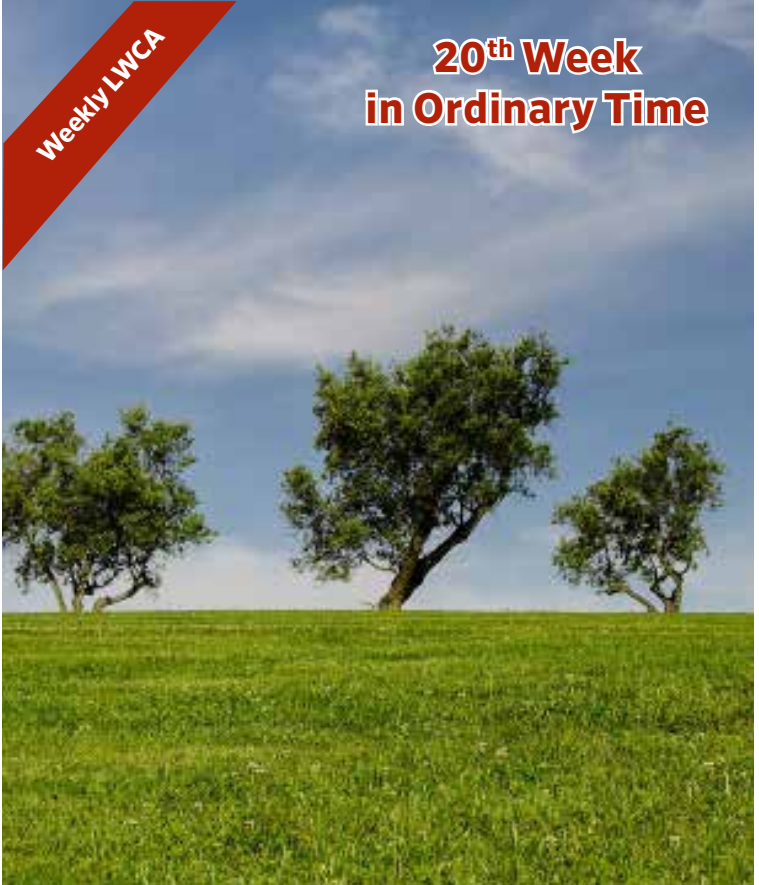
Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

**20th Week
in Ordinary Time**

byard africque



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Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: A Green Landscape

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Editorial

August 2023



Rev. Fr. Walter C. Ihejirika, Nigeria

Mary, Our Queen

During this week, the Church celebrates the Queenship of Mary. This celebration comes a week after her Assumption into Heaven. Her Queenship, like her Assumption, derive from her divine maternity. She is inseparable from her Son, and because of him, all generations call her Blessed. (Lk 1:48)

As disciples of Christ, we acknowledge Mary to be the Queen of all created order, in heaven and on earth. In the Litany of the Holy Rosary, we honour her as: Queen of Angels; Queen of Patriarchs; Queen of Prophets; Queen of Apostles; Queen of Martyrs; Queen of Confessors; Queen of Virgins; Queen of all Saints; Queen conceived without original sin; Queen assumed into heaven; Queen of the most holy Rosary; Queen of families; Queen of peace. As the principal Patroness of Nigeria, the Church in Nigeria invokes her as the Queen of Nigeria.

Through *Living With Christ*, we continue to give honour to Mary our Queen. May she obtain for you and your family, the bountiful graces you need.



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: <http://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

Focus on the Holy Mass

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 20

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 56: 1. 6-7/ Psalms 67: 2-3. 5. 6. 8 (4) / Romans 11: 13-15. 29-32/ Matthew 15: 21-28



O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire."
And her daughter was healed instantly. (Matthew 15:28)



The Canaanite Woman

There is a famous story of a successful businessman who lost almost everything in a fire incident. After the fire, he put out a sign, which says: Shop burnt! House burnt! Goods burnt! But faith not burnt. Starting business tomorrow! This is a good example of resilience and persistent faith. We can learn much from the persistent faith of the unnamed Canaanite woman. She never gave up even when Jesus delayed in responding to her urgent request for the healing of her daughter. She was a mother truly concerned about the well-being of her daughter and would go to any length and endure all pain in order to obtain healing for her daughter.

We learn something from her strong faith in Jesus; we learn from her humility in approaching him; we learn also about her perseverance. She never gave up even when Jesus ignored her; she never gave up when he annoyed her. She knew exactly what she wanted and never left Jesus until she got it. Jesus was so impressed with the faith of the mother that he commended her: “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish” (Matthew 15:27-28) Jesus is impressed with people who are persistent in praying and those who persevere in prayer despite the roadblocks set



Sunday August 20

against them by the difficulties of life. Jesus advises us to 'pray always,' not just sometimes, or occasionally, but always.

Rev. Fr. Gerald M Musa, Nigeria



Entrance Antiphon (*Psalm (82) 83:10-11*)

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Collect

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (Isaiah 56:1.6-7) _____

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. “And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, every one who keeps the sabbath, and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and



Sunday August 20

their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

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

Responsorial Psalm —————
(Psalm (66) 67:2-3.5.6 and 8)

Let the peo - ples praise you, O
God, let all the peo - ples praise you!

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

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us. **R.**

So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your salvation. **R.**



Let the nations be glad and shout for joy,
with uprightness you rule the peoples;
you guide the nations on earth. R.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
that all the ends of the earth may revere him. R.

Second Reading (Romans 11:13-15,29-32)—————

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brethren: I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry in order to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. For if their rejoice means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also receive mercy. For God has consigned all men to disobedience that he may have mercy upon all.

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



Sunday August 20

Acclamation (*Matthew 4:23*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Jesus was preaching the Gospel of the kingdom and healing every infirmity among the people.
Alleluia.

Gospel (*Matthew 15:21-28*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus went away and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon. But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” And he answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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



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.



Sunday August 20

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought about a glorious exchange, that by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon (*Ps (128) 129: 7*)

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

Prayer after Communion

Made partakers of Christ through these Sacraments, we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that, conformed to his image on earth, we may merit also to be his co-heirs in heaven. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Monday August 21

20th week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Pius X

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord chose him for himself as high priest, and opening his treasure house, made him rich in all good things.

Collect

O God, who to safeguard the Catholic faith and to restore all things in Christ, filled Pope Saint Pius the Tenth with heavenly wisdom and apostolic fortitude, graciously grant that, following his teaching and example, we may gain

an eternal prize. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— **(Judges 2:11-19)**

A reading from the Book of Judges

In those days: The sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals; and they forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; they went after other gods, from



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among the gods of the peoples who were round about them, and bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger. They forsook the Lord, and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them; and he sold them into the power of their enemies. Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord had warned, and as the Lord had sworn to them; and they were in great distress. Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the power of those who plundered them. And yet they did not listen to their judges; for they played the

harlot after other gods and bowed down to them; they soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord, and they did not do so. Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. But whenever the judge died, they turned back and behaved worse than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them; they did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.



The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm (105) 106)

**R. O Lord, remember us
 with the favour you show
 to your people.**

They failed to destroy the peoples, as the Lord had commanded them; instead they mingled with the nations, and learned to act as they did. R.

They also served their idols, and these became a snare to entrap them. They even offered their sons and their daughters in sacrifice to demons. R.

So they defiled themselves by their actions; their deeds were those of a harlot. Then God's anger

blazed against his people; he was filled with horror at his heritage. R.

Time after time he rescued them, but in their malice they dared to defy him. In spite of this he paid heed to their distress, so often as he heard their cry. R.

Acclamation
(Matthew 5:3)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **Alleluia.**

Gospel——
(Matthew 19:16-22)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Behold, one came up to Jesus, saying,



Monday August 21

“Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?” And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” He said to him, “Which?” And Jesus said, “You shall not kill; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honour your father and mother; and You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” The young man said to him, “All these I have observed; what do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this he went away

sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive with kindness our oblations and grant, O Lord, we pray, that, following the teachings of Pope Saint Pius, we may celebrate these divine mysteries with sincere reverence and receive them in a spirit of faith. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn15:16) **It was not you who chose me, says the Lord, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.**



Prayer after Communion

Celebrating the Memorial of Pope Saint Pius, we pray, O Lord our God, that by the power of this

heavenly table we may be made constant in the faith and be of one accord in your love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Redirecting Affections

Commentary

Matthew 19:16-22

Today, our bookshops and libraries contain books on how to be rich. Money has become a god, which enjoys allegiance in the modern world. Jesus challenged a rich young man: "Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come follow me." He was totally unhappy about what Jesus demanded of him and so he walked away sad because he was rich. Can we learn to redirect our affection towards loving God above every other thing, including wealth and gold?

Rev. Fr. Gerald M Musa, Nigeria



Tuesday August 22

20th week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (44) 45:10) **At your right stands the queen in robes of gold, finely arrayed.**

Collect

O God, who made the Mother of your Son to be our Mother and our Queen, graciously grant that, sustained by her intercession, we may attain in the heavenly Kingdom the glory promised to your children. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Judges 6:11-24a)

A reading from the Book of Judges

In those days: The angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press, to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valour." And Gideon said to

him, “Please, sir, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this befallen us? And where are all his wonderful deeds which our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has cast us off, and given us into the hand of Midian.” And the Lord turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Do I not send you?” And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I deliver Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.” And the Lord said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.” And he said to him, “If now I have found favour with you, then show me a

sign that it is you who speak with me. Do not depart from here, I beg you, until I come to you, and bring out my present, and set it before you.” And he said, “I will stay till you return.” So Gideon went into his house and prepared a kid, and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour; the meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and bring them to him under the oak and presented them. And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them.” And he did so. Then the angel of the Lord reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes; and there sprang

up fire from the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and the angel of the Lord vanished from his sight. Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the Lord; and Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord God! For now I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face.” But the Lord said to him, “Peace be to you; do not fear, you shall not die.” Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it, the Lord is peace.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (84) 85)***

**R. The Lord speaks of
peace for his people.**

I will hear what the Lord God speaks; he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful, and those who turn their hearts to him. 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.

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 _____*(Matthew 19:23-30)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who

then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Then Peter said in reply, “Behold, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

As we observe this Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we bring you our offerings, O Lord, praying to be given strength by the humanity of Christ, who offered himself to you on the

Cross as the unblemished oblation. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Lk 1:45) **Blessed are you who have believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord will be fulfilled.**



Prayer after Communion

Having received this heavenly Sacrament, we humbly pray, O Lord, that we who reverently celebrate the Memorial of

the Blessed Virgin Mary may merit to be partakers at your eternal banquet. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Commentary

The Danger of Riches

Matthew 19:23-30

A rich man asked Jesus: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus advised the rich man to go sell everything and come follow him, but the rich man went away sad. Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven." Jesus was not condemning riches. This teaching implies that the gate into heaven is so low and narrow and only those who humble themselves can enter. What shall we profit if we gain the world and suffer the loss of our souls?

Rev. Fr. Gerald M Musa, Nigeria



Wednesday August 23

20th week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: St Rose of Lima, virgin, optional memorial

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (82) 83:10-11) **Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.**

Collect

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain

your promises, which surpass every human desire. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Judges 9:6-15)*

A reading from the Book of Judges

At that time: All the citizens of Shechem came together, and all Beth-millo, and they went and made Abimelech king, by the oak of the pillar at Schechem. When it was

told to Jotham, he went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim, and cried aloud and said to them, “Listen to me, you men of Schechem, that God may listen to you. The trees once went forth to anoint a king over them; and they said to the olive tree, “Reign over us.’ “But the olive tree said to them, ‘Shall I leave my fatness, by which gods and men are honoured and go to sway over the trees?’ And the trees said to the fig tree, ‘Come you, reign over us.’ But the fig tree said to them, ‘Shall I leave sweetness and my good fruit, and go to swag over the trees?’ And the trees said to the vine, ‘Come you, and reign over us.’ But the vine said to them, ‘Shall I leave my wine which cheers gods and men,

and go to sway over the trees?’ “Then all the trees said to the bramble, ‘Come you, and reign over us.’ And the bramble said to the trees ‘If in good faith you are anointing me king over you, then come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, let the fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
 (Psalm (20) 21)***

***R. In your strength, O Lord,
 the king rejoices.***

In your strength, O Lord, the king rejoices; how greatly your salvation makes him glad! You have granted him his heart’s desire; you

have not withheld the prayer of his lips. *R.*

You came to meet him with blessing of prosperity; you have set on his head a crown of pure gold. He asked you for life and this you have given: days that will last from age to age. *R.*

By your saving help great is his glory; you have bestowed upon him majesty and splendor; you have granted him blessings forever, made him rejoice with the joy of your presence. *R.*

Acclamation

(Hebrews 4:12)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The word of the Lord is living and active, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ————— *(Matthew 20:1-16a)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh

hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day

and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought about a glorious exchange, that by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (128) 129: 7) **With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.**

Prayer after Communion

Made partakers of Christ through these Sacraments,

we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that, conformed to his image on earth, we may merit also to be his co-heirs in heaven. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Radical Generosity

Commentary

Matthew 20:1-16a

The parable of the workers in the vineyard talks about workers who did not work for equal hours but all who received the same wage for a day's work. This Landowner paid his workers, not just for the number of hours they spent, but for their willingness to work and for completing the task given to them. God supplies grace to the unworthy who are willing and ready to return to him. God's radical generosity describes his generous mercy, grace, and justice. Therefore, one can never complain of being underpaid.

Rev. Fr. Gerald M Musa, Nigeria



Thursday August 24

20th week in Ordinary Time

Feast

Saint Bartholomew, apostle

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (95) 96:2-3) **Proclaim the salvation of God day by day; tell among the nations his glory.**

The Gloria in excelsis is said

Collect

Strengthen in us, O Lord, the faith by which the blessed Apostle Bartholomew clung wholeheartedly to your Son, and grant that through the help of his prayers your Church may become for all the nations

the sacrament of salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————

(Revelation 21:9b-14)

A reading from the Book of the Revelation

An angel spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the lamb.” And in the Spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down

out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed; on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹⁴⁴⁾ 145:10-11.12-13ab.17-18)

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

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

To make known your might to the children of men, and the glorious splendour of your reign. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your rule endures from all generations. R.

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

Acclamation

(John 1:49b)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel! **Alleluia.**

Gospel

(John 1:45-51)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip

said to him, “Come and see.” 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

As we celebrate anew the feast day of Saint Bartholomew, O Lord, we pray that we may obtain your help through the intercession of the Apostle in whose honour we bring you sacrifice of praise. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Lk 22:29-30) **I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father has conferred one on me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, says the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

As we celebrate the feast day of the blessed Apostle Bartholomew, we have received the pledge of eternal salvation, O Lord,

and we pray that it may be of help to us, both now and for the life to come.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Overcoming Mental Slavery

Commentary

Revelation 21:9b-14
John 1:45-51

Philip invited Nathanael (Bartholomew) to come and see Jesus of Nazareth and Nathanael remarked, “What good can come out of Nazareth?” The little town was considered to be socially, politically, intellectually, and historically insignificant to have produced the Messiah. We too fall into the trap of prejudice when we stereotype people because of their family background, ethnic group etc. Nathanael having met Jesus, the scales of prejudice fell out from his eyes and declared his faith in Jesus.

Rev. Fr. Gerald M Musa, Nigeria



Friday August 25

20th week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: St Louis of France, optional memorial

Or: St Joseph Calasanz, priest, optional memorial

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (82) 83:10-11) **Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.**

Collect

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above

all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(Ruth 1:1.3-6.14b-16.22)

A reading from the Book of Ruth

In those days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn

in the country of Moab, he and his wife Naomi and his two sons. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabites wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years; and both sons died, so that the woman was bereft of her two sons and her husband. Then she started with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and

went back, but Ruth clung to her. And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Entreat me not to leave you or return from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God." So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabites her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (45) 46)

R. My soul, give praise to
the Lord!

or: Alleluia.

Blessed is he who is helped by Jacob's God, whose hope is in the Lord God, who made the heavens and the earth, the seas and all they contain. **R.**

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.**

It is the Lord who opens the eyes of the blind, the Lord who raised up those who are bowed down. It is 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.**

Acclamation
(Ps (24) 25: 4b.5a)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Teach me your paths, O Lord. Guide me in your truth.
Alleluia.

Gospel —————
(Matthew 22:34-40)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. And one of them, a lawyer,

asked him a question, to test him, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought about a glorious exchange,

that by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (128) 129: 7) **With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plenty redemption.**

or

I am the living bread who came down from heaven, says the Lord. Whoever eats of this bread shall live forever.

Thirsty come to me and drink. Streams of living water will flow from within the one who believes in me.

Prayer after Communion

Made partakers of Christ through these Sacraments, we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that,

conformed to his image on earth, we may merit also to be his co-heirs in heaven. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

God and Neighbour

Commentary

Matthew 22:34-40

“If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen” (1 John 4:20). What makes the instruction of Jesus about love so unique is that he asks his followers not to discriminate against anyone, irrespective of religion, race, tribe, or social class. Jesus teaches us that our love of God is incomplete unless we love everyone and respect everyone because everyone is made in the image and likeness of God.

Rev. Fr. Gerald M Musa, Nigeria



Saturday August 26

20th week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or Saturday mass of B.V. Mary

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (82) 83:10-11) **Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.**

Collect

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may

attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(Ruth 2:1-3.8-11; 4:13-17)

A reading from the Book of Ruth

Now Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field,

and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favour.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.” So she set forth and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my maidens. Let your eyes be upon the field which they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to molest you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn.” Then she fell on

her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favour in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?” But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next of kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He

shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. And the women of the neighbourhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he was the father of Jesse, the father of David.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (127) 128:1-2.3.4.5)

**R. Indeed thus shall be
blessed the man who fears
the Lord.**

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be blessed and prosper. R.

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive around your table. R.

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. R.

May the Lord bless you from Sion. May you see Jerusalem prosper all the days of your life! R.

Acclamation*(Matthew 23:9b.10b)*

Alleluia. Alleluia. You have one Father, who is in heaven, and you have one master, the Christ.
Alleluia.

Gospel _____*(Matthew 23:1-12)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice. They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on

men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honour at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, and salutations in the market places, and being called rabbi by men. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be

humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought about a glorious exchange, that by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (128) 129:7) **With the Lord there is mercy in him is plentiful redemption**

Or: (John 6:51-52)

**I am the living bread who came down from heaven, says the Lord.
Whoever eats of this bread shall live forever.**

Prayer after Communion

Made partakers of Christ through these Sacraments, we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that,

conformed to his image on earth, we may merit also to be his co-heirs in heaven. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Displaying Spiritual Superiority

Commentary

Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for their unnecessary quest for titles of distinctions, places of honour, and elaborate salutations. Jesus was emphasizing that the habit does not necessarily make a monk, but what makes a monk a monk is inner beauty and sanctity, which are known to God and manifested in daily life. The book of Proverbs states that God hates “A proud look” (6:17) Are we conscious of our attitudes, choices of words, body language, and actions that display our pride and self-righteousness?

Rev. Fr. Gerald M Musa, Nigeria



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