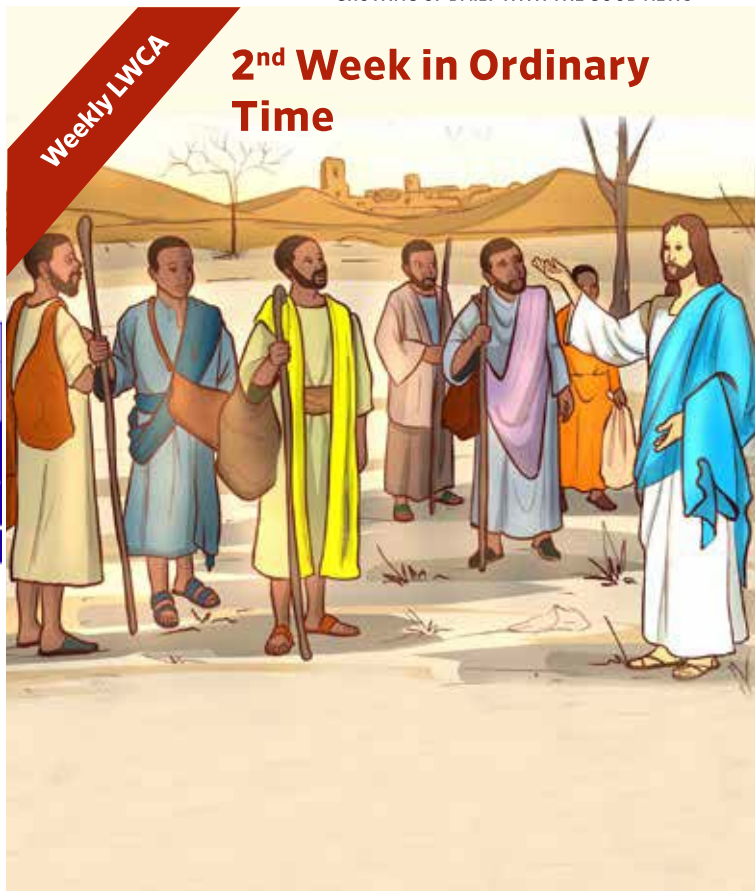


Weekly LWCA

2nd Week in Ordinary Time

bayard africain



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Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: An image in reference to
the call of Jesus: "Come, and you will see".

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Editorial

January 2024



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

Good Leadership

Good leaders are necessary for every society to thrive. The readings for this week present some qualities of good leaders through the leadership examples of Samuel, Saul, David, John the Baptist, and Jesus.

Good leaders give good directives and think of the future of the society. Eli guided Samuel to recognize the voice of God (1 Sam 3:3b-10, 19), and John the Baptist pointed Jesus the Lamb of God, to his disciples (Jn 1:36).

The choice of David by God through Samuel reveals that God's choice of a leader may not always be a human choice (1 Sam 16:1-13).

Disobedient leaders are disapproved by God like in the case of Saul (1 Sam 15:16-23). Leaders must not seek their personal gains, but that of God and the people. Leaders must know that they cannot succeed without God. David defeated Goliath because God was with him (1 Sam 17:32 ff). May God help all leaders to give good directives, think about the future, be responsible, and overcome their challenges.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

For the gift of diversity in the Church: We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

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

THE DIFFERENT MINISTERS IN THE EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION (I)

Before the second Vatican Council, the priest was at the centre of the liturgy, particularly the Eucharistic celebration. Pius V Missal, which previous to the current one, states that the Mass begins when the priest is ready. In this line, the assembly was not taken into account as such. Moreover, the Mass was said in Latin, a language that the faithful was not used to. Many parts of the celebrations were recited by the priest in a low voice. The first part of the Mass that we call the liturgy of the Word these days was reserved to the priest. In one word, the faithful were attending Mass, they were not participating in it.

The second Vatican Council marked a very important moment in the history and in the liturgical practice. Far from putting the emphasis on the priest, the current Missal values the importance of the assembly. The Mass no longer starts when the priest is ready but when the assembly is gathered. The Council insists on the fact that we all form the People of God. The assembly no longer attends Mass but participates actively in it.

One of the major the liturgical principles that the second Vatican Council insists on is the active participation. The faithful are not mere assistants or viewers of what is going on in the liturgy. They are rather active participants in it since the liturgy is the action of Christ and of the Church. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy states the following: *Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation by the Christian people as “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people (1 Pet. 2:9; cf. 2:4-5), is their right and duty by reason of their baptism (Constitution on the Sacred liturgy n. 14).*

It is important to know that the assembly is made up of various ministers. Though they all participate in the Holy Eucharist, they do not do the same thing. In other words, each minister has a specific role that he (she) plays during the Holy Mass. The priest participates in the Eucharist by presiding over it, doing what he is required to do; not more and not less; the Choir members participate in the Holy Eucharist by singing

the prescribed songs. In one word, everyone does what is in his competence. In this context, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal n.91 affirms: *All, therefore, whether ordained ministers or lay Christian faithful, in fulfilling their function or their duty, should carry out solely but totally that which pertains to them.* In the following articles, we are going to focus our attention on the different ministers and what they are asked to do in the liturgy.

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



Sunday January 14

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*1 Samuel 3: 3b-10. 19 / Psalm 40: 2. 4. 7-8. 8-9. 10 (8a. 9a) /
1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a. 17-20 / John 1: 35-42*



.....“We have found the Messiah” (John 1:42)



Called by God; Called to Purity and Called to Call Others

On this second Sunday of Ordinary Time, our readings challenge us to reflect on our Christian identity. On the day of our baptism, each of us was called by name. The priest's voice at baptism represents God's voice, just as He called Samuel in our first reading. On the day of our Confirmation, when we became soldiers of Christ, we were called by name. In Holy Matrimony, God calls us by name (through our spouse) when we stand before the Altar to exchange our marital vows. "I ...N... do take you ...N... to be my lawfully wedded...)

Again, on the day of our ordination, God called out our names, and we stood to answer "Present", walking up to the altar where we prostrated ourselves, surrendering our lives to the Church. Every time we attend the Holy Mass, God calls us to speak to our conscience in the Liturgy of the Word.



Sunday January 14

For Samuel to have heard God, he was fully conscious, like one expecting to be called. If we are not spiritually alert and awake, we will not hear God's voice. God never forces His way on anyone. We must be ready for God with hearts positively disposed to listen like Samuel who said: "Speak Lord, your servant is listening."

In our second reading today, St. Paul presents a very important dimension of God's, especially to us modern-day Christians: "Shun immorality. ... Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; so, glorify God in your body." (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

God never calls us just for our own sake. No! Whenever He calls, it is always so that we, too, can, in turn, call others. When God called Matthew, he brought all his friends to Jesus, and there was a great party in his house. This was Matthew's way of calling others. Be creative in attracting your friends to the faith. You will not keep it to yourself if you understand you have been called. An African adage says: "When food tastes good, it is not eaten alone."

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Entrance Antiphon (*Ps 66:4*)

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and be stow your peace on our times. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (1 Samuel 3:3b-10.19) —————

A reading from the first Book of Samuel

In those days: Samuel was lying down within the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. And the Lord called again, “Samuel!” And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then



Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came and stood forth, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.” And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

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

Responsorial Psalm —————
(Psalm 40:2 and 4ab.7-8a.8b-9.10
(R. ct 8a and 9a))



R. See, I have come, Lord, to do your will. I waited, I waited for the Lord, and he stooped down to me; / he heard my cry.



He put a new song into my mouth,
/ praise of our God. R.

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 not sealed; / you know it, O Lord. R.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 6:1 3c-15a. 17-20) —
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brethren: The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your



body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Acclamation (*Cf. John 1:41.17b*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. We have found the Messiah, who is Christ; grace and truth came through him. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*John 1:35-42*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying; and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, "So



you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

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 the Church, hearing and proclaiming God’s call to holiness, we pray to the Lord: R.

For world leaders, working for a lasting peace, we pray to the Lord: R.

For those who hunger for food, for understanding and for companionship, we pray to the Lord: R.

For ourselves, gathered to share the gifts of faith, hope and love, we pray to the Lord: R.

The Creed is said.



Sunday January 14

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in these mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated the work of our redemption is accomplished. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon (*Cf Ps 23:5*)

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

Or: 1Jn 4:16

We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.

Prayer after Communion

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this one heavenly Bread one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Monday January 15

2nd week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 66:4) All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and be stow your peace on our times. Through our Lord **Amen.**

Reading

(1 Samuel 15:16-23)

A reading from the first Book of Samuel

In those days: Samuel said to Saul, “Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me this night.” And he said to him, “Say on.” And Samuel said, “Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. And the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ Why then did you not obey the



voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop on the spoil, and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?” And Saul said to Samuel, “I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.” And Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and

stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord he has also rejected you from being king.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm 50:8-9.16bc-
17.21 and 23 (R. 23bc))***

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

“I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices; your offerings are always before me. I do not take more bullocks from your farms, nor goats from among your herds.” *R.*

“How can you recite my commandments, and take my covenant on your lips,



you who despise correction, and cast my words behind you.” R

“You do this, and should I keep silence? Do you think that I am like you? I accuse you, lay the charge before you. A sacrifice of praise gives me honour, and to one whose way is blameless, I will show the salvation of God.” 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 ————— (*Mark 2:18-22*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; if he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the wine will burst the skins,



Monday January 15

and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but new wine is for fresh skins.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in these mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated the work of our redemption

is accomplished. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Cf Ps 23:5) **You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.**

Or: 1Jn 4:16

We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.

**Prayer after Communion**

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those

you have nourished by this one heavenly Bread one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Trust and Obey God;
Do Not Bow to Human Pressure****Commentary****1st Samuel 15: 16-23****Mark 2:18-22**

There is no such thing as partial obedience. Avoid giving excuses. For Saul, his excuse for disobedience was to offer the booty as a sacrifice to God. Obedience to God's commandment is in itself a sacrifice. Before you make up your mind to sin, think of Saul and let the words of Samuel ring a bell in your heart: "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice ...Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king." (1 Samuel 15:22-23). Sin removes our Kingship. Sin is self-cheating.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Tuesday January 16

2nd Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 66:4) All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and be stow your peace on our times. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(1 Samuel 16:1-13)

A reading from the first Book of Samuel

In those days: The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, seeing I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ And invite Jesse to the sacrifice,



and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me him whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on

the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and fetch him; for we will not sit down till he comes here." And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. And the

Lord said, “Arise, anoint him; for this is he.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 89:20.21-22.27-28
(R. 21a))***

R. I have found my servant David.

Then you spoke in a vision. To your faithful ones you said, “I have set the crown on a warrior, I have exalted one chosen from the people. R.

I have found my servant David, and with my holy oil anointed him. My hand shall always be with him, and my arm shall make him strong. R.

He will call out to me, ‘You are my father, my God, the rock of my salvation.’ I for my part will make him my firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. R.

***Acclamation
(Ephesians 1:17-18)***

Alleluia. Alleluia. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we might know what is the hope to which he has called us. **Alleluia.**



Gospel ————— **(Mark 2:23-28)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

It happened that one sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. And the Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?” And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the showbread, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?” And he said to them, “The

sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath; so the Son of man is lord even of the sabbath.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in these mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated the work of our redemption is accomplished. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Cf Ps 23:5) **You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.**

Or: 1Jn 4:16

**We have come to know
and to believe in the love
that God has for us.**

Prayer after Communion

Pour on us, O Lord, the
Spirit of your love, and in

your kindness make those
you have nourished by this
one heavenly Bread one in
mind and heart. Through
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God Looks at the Heart

Commentary

**1 Samuel. 16:1-13, Mark
2:23-28**

Saul was granted the Kingship on a platter of gold, but he did not live up to God's expectations. Samuel tried to guide Saul, but his efforts were in vain. Power corrupts; it tends to bring out our true colours. God sent Samuel to the home of Jesse. Jesse lined up his sons before Samuel, all good-looking but God was interested in the content of their hearts. David, though physically attractive had a beautiful heart. We could be good looking, but without a good character and without God, we cannot succeed.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Wednesday January 17

2nd Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

St. Anthony, abbot

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 92:13-14) **The righteous will flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a Lebanon cedar, planted in the house of the Lord in the courts of the house of our God.**

Collect

O God, who brought the Abbot Saint Anthony to serve you by a wondrous way of life in the desert, grant, through his intercession, that, denying ourselves, we may always love you above all things.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading —————
(1 Samuel 17:32-33.37.40-51)

A reading from the first Book of Samuel

In those days: David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are

but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth.” And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!” Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in his shepherd’s bag or wallet; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine. And the Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. And when the Philistine looked, and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, ruddy and comely

in appearance. And the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.” Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down, and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the



air and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand." When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly towards the battle line to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone, and slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine, and killed

him; there was no sword in the hand of David. Then David ran and stood over the Philistine, and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath, and killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 144:1.2.9-10 (R.
1a))***

R. Blest be the Lord, my rock!

Blest be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for battle, who prepares my fingers for war. R.

He is my merciful love, my fortress; he is my

stronghold, my saviour,
my shield in whom I take
refuge. He brings peoples
under my rule. R

To you, O God, will I sing
a new song; I will play on
the ten-stringed harp to
you who give kings their
victory, who set David your
servant free from the evil
sword. R

Acclamation (See
Matthew 4:23)

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

Gospel —————
(*Mark 3:1-6*)

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

At that time: Again Jesus
entered the synagogue,
and a man was there who
had a withered hand. And
they watched him, to see
whether he would heal
him on the sabbath, so
that they might accuse
him. And he said to the
man who had the withered
hand, "Come here." And he
said to them, "Is it lawful
on the sabbath to do good
or to do harm, to save life
or to kill?" But they were
silent. And he looked
around at them with anger,
grieved at their hardness of
heart, and said to the man,
"Stretch out your hand."
He stretched it out, and
his hand was restored. The
Pharisees went out, and
immediately held counsel
with the Herodians against
him, how to destroy him.



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

Prayer over the Offerings

May these offerings of our service, placed on your altar in commemoration of Saint Anthony, be acceptable to you, O Lord, we pray, and grant that, released from earthly attachments, we may have

our riches in you alone.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Mt 19:21) **If you would be perfect, go, sell what you have, give to the poor, and follow me, says the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

Nourished for our healing by your Sacraments, O Lord, may we escape every snare of the enemy unharmed, just as by your

grace Saint Anthony won glorious victories over the powers of darkness.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

What to do in Moments of Danger**Commentary**

1 Sam. 17:32-33,37,40-51

Mark 3:1-6

The army of Israel was terrified of Goliath. David asked: "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine ...? A positive attitude changes everything; it is a sign of faith. David's courage was fuelled by a memory of how God granted him victory over wild animals who attacked his flock. If we forget what God has done in the past, and in the face of danger, we find ourselves panicking. David had full confidence in God, not on his stones or catapult. Like David, through God we can overcome any challenge.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Thursday January 18

2nd week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 66:4) All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and be stow your peace on our times. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19: 1-7)

A reading from the first Book of Samuel

In those days: As they were coming home, when David returned from slaying the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with timbrels, with songs of joy, and with instruments of music. And the women sang to one another as they made merry, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." And Saul was very angry,

and this saying displeased him; he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands; and what more can he have but the kingdom?" And Saul eyed David from that day on. And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David. And Jonathan told David, "Saul my father seeks to kill you; therefore take heed to yourself in the morning, stay in a secret place and hide yourself and I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you; and if I learn anything I will tell you." And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father, and

said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant David; because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have been of good service to you; for he took his life in his hand and he slew the Philistine, and the Lord wrought a great victory for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced; why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?" And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan; Saul swore, "As the Lord lives, he shall not be put to death." And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan showed him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 56:2-3.9-10ab.
10c-11.12-13 (R. 5b))

**R. In God I trust; I shall not
 fear. In God I trust; I shall
 not fear.**

Have mercy on me, O
 God, for people assail me;
 they fight me all day long
 and oppress me. My foes
 assail me all day long; many
 fight proudly against me. R.

You have kept an account
 of my wanderings; you have
 placed my tears in your
 flask; are they not recorded
 in your book? Then my foes
 will turn back on the day
 when I call to you. R.

This I know that God is
 on my side In God, whose
 word I praise, in the Lord
 whose word I praise. R.

In God I trust; I shall not
 fear. What can man do to
 me? I am bound. by the vows
 I have made you. O God, I
 will offer you praise. R.

Acclamation

(See 2 Timothy 1:10)

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

Gospel —
(Mark 3:7-12)

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

At that time: Jesus withdrew
 with his disciples to the sea,
 and a great multitude from
 Galilee followed; also from
 Judea and Jerusalem and
 Idumea and from beyond

the Jordan and from about Tyre and Sidon a great multitude, hearing all that he did, came to him. And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they should crush him; for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him. And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in these mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated the work of our redemption is accomplished. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Cf Ps 23:5) **You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.**

Or: 1Jn 4:16

We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.



Prayer after Communion

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those

you have nourished by this one heavenly Bread one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Danger of Inferiority Complex

Commentary

1 Samuel 18:6-9, 19:1-7 /
Mark 3:7-12

When Saul was king of Israel, David was just a boy – a talented musician and courageous shephard. Despite Saul being a king, he was jealous of David. Out of jealousy, we can fight the people God has sent to help us. You shoot yourself in the leg when you allow jealousy to push people away instead of treating them well. In our Gospel today, great crowds pressed upon Jesus, and he cured many and cast out demons. When the evil spirits tried to sing his praises, Jesus shut them up.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Friday January 19

2nd week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 66:4) **All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!**

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and be stow your peace on our times. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(1 Samuel 24:2-20)

A reading from the first Book of Samuel

In those days: Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, 'Behold, I will give your

enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.” Then David arose and stealthily cut off the skirt of Saul’s robe. And afterward David’s heart struck him, because he had cut off Saul’s skirt. He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord’s anointed, to put forth my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord’s anointed.” So David persuaded his men with these words, and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave, and went upon his way. Afterwards David also arose, and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, “My lord the king!” And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth, and did

obedience. And David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of men who say, ‘Behold, David seeks your hurt’? Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the Lord gave you today into my hand in the cave; and some bade me kill you, but I spared you. I said, ‘I will not put forth my hand against my lord; for he is the Lord’s anointed.’ See, my father, see the skirt of your robe in my hand; for by the fact that I cut off the skirt of your robe, and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. May the Lord judge between me and you, may the Lord avenge me upon you; but my hand shall not be against you. As the proverb

of the ancients says, ‘Out of the wicked comes forth wickedness’; but my hand shall not be against you. After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! May the Lord therefore be judge, and give sentence between me and you, and see to it, and plead my cause, and deliver me from your hand.” When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Is this your voice, my son David?” And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. He said to David, “You are more righteous than I; for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did

not kill me when the Lord put me into your hands. For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the Lord reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. And now behold I know that you shall surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 57:2.3-4.6 and 11
(R. 2a))***

**R. Have mercy on me, God,
have mercy.**

Have mercy on me, God,
have mercy, for in you my
soul has taken refuge. In
the shadow of your wings I

take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by. R.

I call to you, God the Most High, to God who provides for me. May he send from heaven and save me, and put to shame those who assail me. May God send his loving mercy and faithfulness. R.

Be exalted, o God, above the heavens; may your glory shine on earth! for your mercy reaches to the heavens, and your truth to the skies. 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 —————
(Mark 3:13-19)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: Jesus went up on the mountain, and called to him those whom he desired; and they came to him. And he appointed twelve, to be with him, and to be sent out to preach and have authority to cast out demons: Simon whom he surnamed Peter; James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, whom he surnamed Boanerges, that is, sons of thunder; Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.
The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in these mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated the work of our redemption is accomplished. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Cf Ps 23:5) **You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.**

Or: 1Jn 4:16

We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.

Prayer after Communion

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you

have nourished by this one heavenly Bread one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Learn How to Treat Your Enemies

Commentary

1 Sam. 24:3-21 /
Mark 3:13-19

Though Saul was anointed, that God rejected him. He sought to kill David – God's chosen one. Despite his three-thousand-armed men, God put Saul in David's hand. David saw the opportunity to strike Saul but restrained himself. This gives us with a model of how to treat our enemies. If you treat your enemies the same way they treat you, what makes you different? Jesus asked us: "If you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?" (Matthew 5:47)

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Saturday January 20

2nd week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: St. Fabian, pope and martyr, optional memorial

Or: St. Sebastian, martyr, optional memorial.

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 66:4) **All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!**

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(2 Samuel 1:1-4.11-12.19.23-27)

The beginning of the second Book of Samuel

In those days: After the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag; and on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and earth upon his head. And when



he came to David, he fell to the ground and did obeisance. David said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." And David said to him, "How did it go? Tell me." And he answered, "The people have fled from the battle, and many of the people also have fallen and are dead; and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead." Then David took hold of his clothes, and tore them; and so did all the men who were with him; and they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the Lord and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen

by the sword. [And David said:] "Your glory, O Israel, is slain upon your high places! How are the mighty fallen! Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you daintily in scarlet, who put ornaments of gold upon your apparel. How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain upon your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How are the mighty fallen,

and the weapons of war perished!"

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 80:2-3.5-7 (R.
4b))***

**R. Let your face shine on
us, Lord, and we shall be
saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, you who lead Joseph like a flock: enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth upon Ephraim, Benjamin, Manasseh. Rouse up your might and come to save us. **R.**

How long, O Lord, God of hosts, will you be angry at the prayer of your people? You have fed them with tears for their bread, an abundance of tears for their drink. You have

made us the taunt of our neighbours; our foes mock us among themselves. **R.**

***Acclamation
(See Acts 16: 14b)***

Alleluia. Alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may give heed to the words of your Son. **Alleluia.**

***Gospel —
(Mark 3:20-21)***

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

In that time: Jesus went home with his disciples; and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. And when his friends heard it, they went out to seize him, for they said, "He is beside himself." The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in these mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated the work of our redemption is accomplished. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Cf Ps 23:5) **You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.**

Or: 1Jn 4:16

We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.

Prayer after Communion

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those

you have nourished by this one heavenly Bread one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Trust in God and Wish
No One Evil****Commentary**

**2nd Samuel 1:1-27 /
Mark 3:20-21**

In today's reading, David learns of Saul's death. Everyone expected David to rejoice over the death of a man who made himself his enemy, but David went into mourning. No matter how bad people are to us, we should never wish them evil or rejoice over their downfall. In David, we see a passion for the redemption of Saul. He wished him well. Likewise Jesus, has a passion for sinners and their salvation. What is your attitude to your enemies? Do you wish they would die or do you pray for them?

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



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Growing up Daily with the Good News