

AFRICA

# Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

Holy  
Week

bayard afrique



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#### **Liturgical texts:**

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**On our cover:** Jesus entering Jerusalem as Savior and King on a donkey.

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# Editorial

April 2023



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

## Lord's Passover from Death to Resurrection

April 2023 is full of events: Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday, the Holy week having in it “the Paschal Triduum” and finally, Easter Celebrations. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday when Jesus made his final entrance into Jerusalem. Holy Week is the most solemn and glorious week in Christianity, the pinnacle of the liturgical year. It culminates with Easter Sunday.

Holy week commemorates the final week of our Lord's life on earth. It has in it the Sacred Triduum, one great festival recounting the last three days of Jesus' life on earth, the events of his Passion and Resurrection, when the Lamb of God laid down his life in atonement for our sins.

Easter Sunday is what we have all been waiting for! The forty days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent was in preparation for this day, when our hearts and souls can drink in deeply the culmination of the Paschal mystery: the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

*Happy Easter!*



# The Pope's Prayer Intention

***For a culture of peace and non-violence:*** We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

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

### The Introductory Rites

**A**ccording to the Roman Missal, the initial rites range from the gathering of the faithful to the prayer called Collect. The Missal emphasizes the communal character of the Eucharistic celebration in the following words: “*When the people are gathered, the Priest approaches the altar with the ministers while the Entrance Chant is sung*”. The liturgical celebration can never be a personal activity. The two main actors in the liturgy are Christ and the Church. The communal character of the Eucharistic celebration is also expressed by the invitation: *Let us pray*, and the use of the first person plural: *We ask this...*

During the procession, the choir sings the entrance song. The Roman Missal contains an Entrance Antiphon for each Eucharistic celebration. They should be selected according to the theme of the day. The Entrance Antiphon discloses the liturgical theme that the Church proposes to the faithful. Liturgical songs are not sung at random. Composers of the songs must have a solid theological, liturgical and biblical formation.

## **Focus on the Holy Mass**

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The Roman Missal gives an important information about the veneration of the altar in these words: “*When he has arrived at the altar, after making a profound bow with the ministers, the Priest venerates the altar with a kiss, and if appropriate, incenses the cross and the altar*”. In the Eucharistic celebration, the altar holds a special place. It is the center of the celebration since it symbolizes Jesus Christ himself. In fact, the fifth preface of Easter states that Christ is the *Priest, the Altar and the Lamb of sacrifice*.

Apart from the cross, the candles, and the Missal in some cases, the altar should not have anything on it during the first part of the Eucharistic celebration. It is during the Liturgy of the Eucharist that bread and wine are put on the altar. This helps the faithful understand that the altar is the table of the sacrifice.

After the Entrance song, the Priest and the faithful sign themselves with the sign of the cross while the priest says: *In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*. The cross is the sign of our salvation. In the Holy Mass we celebrate our salvation through the Paschal mystery (Suffering, death and resurrection

of Jesus Christ). After the sign of the cross, the Priest greets the faithful using the following words: *The Lord be with you* or any other words which are indicated in the Missal. The bishop says: *Peace be with you*.

Then comes the moment for the penitential Act. The faithful acknowledge their sins and ask for forgiveness so that the sacrifice may be acceptable to God. This is followed by the *Gloria* song. It is sung on feasts, solemnities, and on Sundays except the Advent and the Lenten seasons. When the *Gloria* song is concluded, the Priest invites the faithful to pray, marks a moment of silence and sings or recites the *Collect* which is referred to as *the Opening Prayer* in other languages. The *collect* is concluded by the long doxology: *Through Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.*

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



# Sunday April 2

## Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

*Procession: Matthew 21: 1-11. Mass: Isaiah 50: 4-7/ Psalm 22: 8-9. 17-18. 19-20. 23-24/ Philipians 2:6-11/ Matthew 26: 14 - 27: 66*



“The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Matthew 21:9)





## *The One We Seek to Imitate*

Today's liturgy raises the *tempo* of our preparation towards the celebration of Easter. Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday, as today is known, draws our attention to Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

This week which precedes the celebration of our Gracious Lord's resurrection from the dead is also called the Holy Week.

Our First Reading from Isaiah talks about the Servant of Yahweh who was humiliated and later vindicated by God. He is also called the Suffering Servant. According to Him: "The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word" (Is 50.4a).

The blessing of a well-trained tongue given to the Servant was primarily for the good of the many others around Him who were weary from the drudgeries of life. Probably, having gone through suffering Himself, the Servant was able to empathise with those who were in a similar situation.



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The Servant of Yahweh who empowered others met with brutal challenges. He said: “I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting” (Is 50.6).

Christians over the ages have seen a striking resemblance of the life of the Servant of Yahweh to the life of Jesus Christ.

Nobody can fully comprehend how God could humble Himself to the point of becoming man. Jesus, “though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited” (Phil 2.6).

The Gospel Reading for today sets the tone for the major theme of this Holy Week—the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus knew Judas was the disciple who was going to betray Him. That notwithstanding, He did not ostracise him. He also knew Peter was going to deny knowledge of Him. He once again did not name and shame Peter.

This is the One we seek to imitate. After His passion there will be the triumphant Easter Sunday. In Him alone is our joy and peace.

*Rev Fr John Patrick TINDANA, Houston, Texas*



**Entrance Antiphon** (*Jn 12:1.12-13; Ps (23) 24:9-10*)

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

**\*Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blest are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!**

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory?  
He, the LORD of hosts, he is the king of glory.

**\*Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blest are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!**

**Collect**

Almighty everlasting God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**



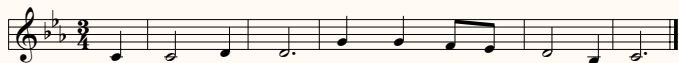
Sunday April 2

***First Reading (Isaiah 50:4-7)*** \_\_\_\_\_

**A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him that is weary. Morning by morning he wakens, he wakens my ear to hear as those are taught. The Lord has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I turned not backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been confounded; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. The word of the God. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm (Psalm (21) 22:8-9.17-18a.19-20.23-24)***



**My God, my God, why have you for - sak - en me?**



**R. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**



All who see me deride me;  
they curl their lips, they toss their heads:  
“He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;  
let him release him, for in him he delights.” R.

For dogs have surrounded me;  
a band of the wicked besets me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet;  
I can count every one of my bones. R.

They divide my clothing among them,  
they cast lots for my robe.  
But you, O Lord, do not stay afar off;  
my strength, make haste to help me! R.

I will tell of your name to my kin,  
and praise you in the midst of the assembly;  
“You who fear the Lord, give him praise,  
all descendants of Jacob, give him glory;  
revere him, all you descendants of Israel.” R.



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***Second Reading (Philippians 2:6-11)*** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth, and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the glory of the God the Father. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Acclamation (Philippians 2:8b-9)***

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ.** Christ became obedient for us unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him: and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

***Gospel (Matthew 26:14-27:66)*** \_\_\_\_\_

**The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew**

*In the following Passion narrative: N.= narrator, †Christ, S.= Speakers other than Christ.*



**N.** At that time: One of the Twelve, who was called Judah Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

**S.** “What will you give me if I deliver him to you?”

**N.** And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him. Now on the first day of unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

**S.** “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?”

**N.** He said,

† “Go into the city to such a one, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’”

**N.** And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he sat at table with the twelve disciples; and as they were eating, he said,

† “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”

**N.** And they were very sorrowful, and began to say to him one after another,

**S.** “Is it I, Lord?”

**N.** He answered,

† “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me.



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The Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

**N.** Judas, who betrayed him, said,

**S.** “Is it I, Master?”

**N.** He said to him,

† “You have said so.”

**N.** Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said,

† Take, eat; this is my body.”

**N.** And he took a chalice, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,

† “Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

**N.** And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

† “You will all fall away because of me this night; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

**N.** Peter declared to him,

**S.** “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

**N.** Jesus said to him,





† “Truly, I say to you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”

**N.** Peter said to him,

**S.** “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you”

**N.** And so said all the disciples. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

† “Sit here, while I go over there and pray”

**N.** And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them,

† “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”

**N.** And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed,

† “My father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

**N.** And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

† “So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

**N.** Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed,

† “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

**N.** And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,



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† “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

**N.** While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the Twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

**S.** “The one I shall kiss is the man; seize him.”

**N.** And he came up to Jesus at once and said,

**S.** “Hail, Master!”

**N.** And he kissed him. Jesus said to him,

† “Friend, why are you here?”

**N.** Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

† “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”

**N.** At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

† “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple



teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place, that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.”

**N.** Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter followed him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole council sought false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

**S.** “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.’”

**N.** And the high priest stood up and said,

**S.** “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”

**N.** But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him,

**S.** “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

**N.** Jesus said to him,

† “You have said so. But I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

**N.** Then the high priest tore his robes, and said,

**S.** “He has uttered blasphemy. Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?”



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N. They answered,

S. “He deserves death.”

N. Then they spat in his face, and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

S. “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

N. Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a maid came up to him, and said,

S. “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”

N. But he denied it before them all, saying,

S. “I do not know what you mean.”

N. And when he went out to the porch, another maid saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

S. “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

N. And again he denied it with an oath,

S. “I do not know the man.”

N. After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

S. “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.”

N. Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and swear,

S. “I do not know the man.”

N. And immediately the cock crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death; and they bound him



and led him away and delivered him to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that he was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying,

**S.** “I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.”

**N.** They said,

**S.** “What is that to us? See to it yourself.”

**N.** And throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

**S.** “It is not lawful to put them into treasury, since they are blood money.”

**N.** So they took counsel, and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.”

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him,

**S.** Are you the King of the Jews?”

**N.** Jesus said to him,

† “You have said so.”

**N.** But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him,



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S. “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?”

N. But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge; so that the governor wondered greatly. Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

S. “Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?”

N. For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting of the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much over him today in a dream” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them,

S. “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”

N. And they said,

S. “Barabbas.”

N. Pilate said to them,

S. “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ.”

N. They all said,

S. “Let him be crucified.”

N. And he said,

S. “Why, what evil has he done?”



**N.** But they shouted all the more,

**S.** “Let him be crucified.”

**N.** So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

**S.** “I am innocent of this righteous man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

**N.** And all the people answered,

**S.** “His blood be on us and on our children!”

**N.** Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying,

**S.** “Hail, King of the Jews!”

**N.** And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him. As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they compelled to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified



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him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus the King of the Jews.” Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads, and saying, **S.** You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

**N.** So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,

**S.** “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him; for he said; “I am the Son of God.””

**N.** And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice,

† Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?”

**N.** That is

† “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

**N.** And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filed it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

“Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”





**N.** And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

***All kneel and pause for a moment.***

**N.** And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said,

**S.** “Truly this was the Son of God!”

**N.** There were also many women there, looking on from afar, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him; among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. Next



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day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

**S.** “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.”

**N.** Pilate said to them,

**S.** “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.”

**N.** So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

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

**Shorter form: Matthew 27:11-54.**

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 more fruitful apostolates and pastoral works and for personal experience with Christ, let us pray to the Lord our God. **℟.**



For a closer relationship and personal experience with Christ, let us pray to the Lord our God. R.

For those who still do not believe in Christ, for our salvation and the salvation of the world, let us pray to the Lord our God. R.

For peace, mercy, love, security and the end of every kind of calamities. R.

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord, may our reconciliation with you be near at hand, so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds, yet by this sacrifice made once for all, we may feel already the effects of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Preface: The Passion of the Lord.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For though innocent he suffered willingly for sinners and accepted unjust condemnation to save the guilty. His Death has washed away our sins, and his resurrection has



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purchased our justification. And so, with all the angels, in joyful celebration we, too, acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

**Communion Antiphon** (*Mt 26:42*)

**Father, if this chalice cannot pass without me drinking it, your will be done.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that just as through the death of you Son you have brought us to hope for what we believe, so by his Resurrection you may lead us to where you call. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Blessing and Dismissal** (*p. 238*)



# Monday April 3

Holy Week

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## Entrance Antiphon

*(Ps (34) 35:1-2; 140:8)*

**Contend, O Lord, with my contenders; fight those who fight me. Take up your buckler and shield; arise in my defence, Lord, my mighty help.**

## Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that though in our weakness we fail, we may be revived through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Reading

*(Isaiah 42:1-7)*

**A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him, he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break; and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not fail or be discouraged till he has established justice

in the earth; and the islands wait for his law. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread forth the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: “I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm —**  
**(Psalm (26) 27: 1.2.3.13-14)**

**R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread? R.

When those who do evil draw near to devour my flesh, It is they, my enemies and foes, who stumble and fall. R.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart would not fear. Though war break out against me, even then would I trust. R.

I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the

land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord! R

### Acclamation

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ.** Hail, our King: you alone have had mercy on our failings! **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

### Gospel

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*(John 12:1-11)*

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound

of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on

account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Look graciously, O Lord, upon the sacred mysteries we celebrate here: and may what you have mercifully

provided to cancel the judgement we incurred, bear for us fruit in eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (101) 102:3)* **Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress. Turn your ear towards me; on the day when I call, speedily answer me.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Visit your people, O Lord, we pray, and with ever-watchful love look upon



the hearts dedicated to you by means of these sacred mysteries, so that under your protection we may keep safe this remedy of

eternal salvation, which by your mercy we have received. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Commentary

### Showing Appreciation

John 12:1-11

Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil...

Anytime Jesus was in Bethany he would visit his friends Martha, Mary and Lazarus. This time around they gave him a special dinner, probably to thank him for raising their brother Lazarus from the dead. We are told Martha served and Mary also brought a costly perfume to anoint the feet of Jesus. Everyone who appreciated the Lord did all they could to show him love and gratitude.

Looking at our lives, considering how far we have come, how can we also show love and gratitude to Jesus?

***Rev Fr John Patrick Tindana, Houston, Texas***



# Tuesday April 4

Holy Week

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## Entrance Antiphon

*(Ps (26) 27:12)* **Do not leave me to the will of my foes, O Lord, for false witnesses rise up against me and they breathe out violence.**

## Collect

Almighty ever-living God, grant us so to celebrate the mysteries of the Lord's Passion that we may merit to receive your pardon. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading ---

*(Isaiah 49:1-6)*

**A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

Listen to me, O islands, and pay attention, you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have laboured

in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God.” And now the Lord says, who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength –he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm —**  
*(Psalm (70) 71: 1-2.3-4a.5-6ab. and 17)*

**R. My mouth will tell of your salvation, Lord.**

In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your justice, rescue me, free me; incline your ear to me and save me. R

Be my rock, my constant refuge, a mighty stronghold to save me, for you are my rock, my stronghold. My God, free me from the hand of the wicked. R

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. On you I have leaned from my birth; from my mother’s womb, you have been my help. R

My mouth will tell of your justice, and all the day long

of your salvation. O God, you have taught me from my youth, and I proclaim your wonders still. R

### **Acclamation**

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ.** Hail, our King, obedient to the Father; you were led to crucifixion like a meek lamb to the slaughter. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Gospel** ————— **(John 13:21-33.36-38)**

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

At that time: [Jesus, reclining with his disciples,] was troubled in spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” The disciples looked at

one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was lying close to the breast of Jesus; so Simon Peter beckoned to him and said, “Tell us who it is of whom he speaks.” So lying thus, close to the breast of Jesus, he said to him, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I shall give this morsel when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.” Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the money box, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the feast”; or, that

he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the morsel, he immediately went out; and it was night. When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of man glorified, and in him God is glorified; if God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'" Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now; but you shall follow afterward." Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life

for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the cock will not crow, till you have denied me three times." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Look favourably, O Lord, we pray, on these offerings of your family, and to those you make partakers of these sacred gifts grant a share in their fullness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Rom 8:32)* **God did not spare his own Son, but handed him over for us all.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

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

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

## Asking God for Guidance

### Commentary

John13:21-33,36-38

“Truly, truly I say to you, one of you will betray me.” Jesus was in no doubt about his betrayer. He knew it would be one of his disciples. With affection he gave Judas a morsel which he dipped. Unfortunately this sign did not mean anything to Judas because he was blinded by the evil he was about to commit. This should be a warning to all of us. We should never take the grace of God for granted. We should always ask him for guidance so that every decision we make would be under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

***Rev. Fr. John Patrick Tindana, Houston, Texas***



# Wednesday April 5

Holy Week

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## Entrance Antiphon

*(Phil 2:10.8.11)* **At the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on the earth and under the earth, for the Lord became obedient to death, death on a cross: therefore Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

## Collect

O God, who willed your Son to submit for our sake to the yoke of the Cross, so that you might drive from us the power of the enemy, grant us, your servants, to attain the grace of the

resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading --- *(Isaiah 50:4-9a)*

**A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him that is weary. Morning by morning he wakens, he wakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I turned not backward. I gave my back to those who

struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been confounded; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty. The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm —**  
**(Psalm (68) 69:8-10.21-22.31 and 33-34)**

**R. In your great mercy, answer me, O God, for a time of your favour.**

It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame has covered my face. To my own kin I have become an outcast, a stranger to the children of my mother. Zeal for your house consumes me, and taunts against you fall on me. R.

Taunts have broken my heart; here I am in anguish. I looked for solace, but there was none; for consolers –not one could I find. For food they gave me gall; in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. R.



Then I will praise God's name with a song; I will glorify him with thanksgiving. The poor when they see it will be glad, and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy, and does not spurn his own in their chains. R.

### Acclamation

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ.** Hail, our King: you alone have had mercy on our failings! **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

### Or the following:

Hail, our King, obedient to the Father; you were led to crucifixion like a meek lamb to the slaughter.

### Gospel ————— (Matthew 26:14-25)

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

At that time: One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will give me if I deliver him to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him. Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He said,

“Go into the city to such a one, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he sat at table with the twelve disciples; and as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” And they were very sorrowful, and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me. The Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have

been better for that man if he had not been born.” Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Is it I, Master?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Receive, O Lord, we pray, the offerings made here, and graciously grant that celebrating your Son’s passion in mystery, we may experience the grace of its effects. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Mt 20:28)* **The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.**

### Prayer after Communion

Endow us, almighty God, with the firm conviction that through your Son's Death in time, to which

the revered mysteries bear witness, we may be assured of perpetual life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Commentary

### Fidelity to the Gospel

Matthew 26:14-25

Staying together with the group is very important. Unfortunately Judas in the Gospel reading departed from this fact and contacted the enemies of Jesus in order to betray him. He sold his Master for thirty pieces of silver.

Even today some Christians betray the Gospel values. As Christians we are called to a life of fidelity to the message of Christ. Failure to do that will be a sign of betrayal.

We would have to ask ourselves daily, "how faithful am I to the teachings of Christ?"

**Rev. Fr. John Patrick Tindana**, Houston, Texas



## THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM 2023

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The Triduum is a three day celebration of the central mystery of our faith: the death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Holy Thursday**

He freely offers himself for our salvation.

### **Good Friday**

He suffers the Passion.

### **Holy Saturday**

All is still...

### **Easter Vigil**

We celebrate His Resurrection from the dead!

The Cross on which Jesus Christ died has become a gateway to eternal life.



# Thursday April 6

## Mass of the Lord's Supper

*Exodus 12: 1-8. 11-14 / Psalm 116: 12-13. 15-16bc. 17-18 /  
1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 / John 13: 1-15.*

## *We Become What We Eat*

**F**riends in Christ, on Holy Thursday, the Church celebrates Mass of the Lord's Supper during which she recalls how Jesus washed his disciples' feet and instituted both the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders. Jesus' command of "Do this in memory of me" leaves us with a timeless mandate for strengthening and spiritual renewal. Since the sacred priesthood is a prerequisite for the valid celebration of the sacraments, we are charged on servant-leadership, reflecting deeply on the Sacred Paschal Triduum and using the Mass of Chrism to continue the sacraments, assist the Bishop and contribute to the feeding of the poor.

Today begins the Sacred Paschal Triduum which commences "with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with evening prayer on Easter Sunday." This forms the crescendo of the paschal mystery. Chrism Mass which is part of



**Thursday April 6**

this celebration involves the blessing of the sacramental oils of chrism (for baptism, ordination, consecration and dedication), catechumens (for those preparing for baptism) and the sick by the bishop for the Church's use throughout the liturgical year. At that occasion, priests also renew their priestly commitment before their bishop "to signify the unity of the presbyterate of the diocese..."

For Pastoral reasons, most dioceses observe Chrism Masses on Tuesday of the Holy Week. This is to give priests ample opportunity to travel back to their parishes and prepare for the Triduum. Within the celebration, *Cathedradicum* (derived from the Latin *Cathedra*, which stands for the bishop's seat/chair in the cathedral from where he shepherds over the diocese) is observed – The custom involves parishes bringing gifts to the bishop for the poor and building of the diocese. Although this takes place on Tuesday of Holy Week, it is supposed take place on Holy Thursday or as the local ordinary (bishop) deems fit. Our liturgy challenges us to be what we eat by being witnesses of the Eucharistic Jesus who has given us himself and the priesthood as a ministry of sanctification. May the Holy Spirit help us to become truly a Eucharistic people in all we do and say.

*Rev. Fr. Justine Dyikuk, Jos Plateau-Nigeria*



**Entrance Antiphon** (*Gal 6:14*)

**We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and believed. Amen.**

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

**Collect**

O God, who have called us to participate in this most sacred Supper, in which your Only Begotten Son, when about to hand himself over to death, entrusted to the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity, the banquet of his love, grant, we pray, that we may draw from so great a mystery, the fullness of charity and life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading** (*Exodus 12:1-8.11-14*)

**A reading from the Book of Exodus**

In those days: The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month shall be for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they shall take every man a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household; and if the household is too small for a lamb, then a man and his



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neighbour next to his house shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old; you shall take it from the sheep or from the goats; and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs in the evening. Then they shall take some of the blood, and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. "In this manner you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy, when I strike the land of Egypt. "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as an ordinance for ever." The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**





**Responsorial Psalm (Psalm <sup>(115)</sup> 116:12-13.15 and 16bc.17-18)**

The cup of blessing that we bless  
is a shar-ing in the Blood of Christ.

**R. The cup of blessing is a participation in the blood of Christ.**

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

How precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful.  
Your servant am I, the son of your handmaid;  
you have loosened my bonds. R.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;  
I will call on the name of the Lord.



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My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people. R.

**Second Reading (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)**\_\_\_\_\_

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

Brethren: I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the chalice, after supper, saying, "This chalice is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the chalice, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

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

**Acclamation (John 13:34)**

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ.** A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another even as I have loved you. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

***Gospel (John 13:1-15)*****A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. And during supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter; and Peter said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not know now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part in me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but he is clean all over; and you are clean, but not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "You are not all clean." When he had washed their feet, and taken his garments,



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and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you”.

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

## **The Washing of Feet**

### **Antiphon 1** (*Jn 13:4.5.15*)

**After the Lord had risen from supper, he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of his disciples: he left them this example.**

### **Antiphon 2** (*Jn 13:12. 13. 15*)

**The Lord Jesus, after eating supper with his disciples, washed their feet and said to them: Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done for you? I have given you an example, that you should do likewise.**

### **Antiphon 3** (*Jn 13:6. 7. 8*)

**Lord, are you to wash my feet? Jesus said to him in answer: If I do not wash your feet, you will have no share with me.**



**V.** So he came to Simon Peter and Peter said o him:  
-Lord...

**V.** What I am doing, you do not know for now, but later  
you will come to know  
- Lord...

#### **Antiphon 4** (*Jn 13:14*)

If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, how  
much more should you wash each other's feet?

#### **Antiphon 5** (*Jn 13:35*)

This is how all will know that you are my disciples: if  
you have love for one another.

**V** – Jesus said to his disciples:  
- This is how...

#### **Antiphon 6** (*Jn 13:34*)

I give you a new commandment, that you love one  
another as I have loved you, says the Lord

#### **Antiphon 7** (*1 Cor 13:13*)

Let faith, hope and charity, these three, remain among  
you, but the greatest of these is charity.

**V.** Now faith, hope and charity, these three, remain; but  
the greatest of these is charity.  
- Let...



Thursday April 6

## The Liturgy of the Eucharist

**Ant.** Where true charity is dwelling, God is present there.

**V.** By the love of Christ we have been brought together:

**V.** let us find in him our gladness and our pleasure;

**V.** may we love him and revere him, God the living,

**V.** and in love respect each other with sincere hearts.

**Ant.** Where true charity is dwelling, God is present there.

**V.** So when we are gathered all together,

**V.** let us strive to keep our minds free of division;

**V.** may there be an end to malice, strife and quarrels,

**V.** and let Christ our God be dwelling here among us.

**Ant.** Where true charity is dwelling, God is present there.

**V.** May your face thus be our vision, bright in glory,

**V.** Christ our God, with all the blessed Saints in heaven:

**V.** such delight is pure and faultless, joy unbounded,

**V.** which endures through countless ages world without end.

**Amen.**

## 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.**



**Preface** (*Eucharist, p. 294*)

**Communion Antiphon** (*1 Cor 11:24-25*)

**This is the Body that will be given up for you; this is the chalice of the new covenant in my Blood, says the Lord; do this, whenever you take it, in memory of me.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Grant, almighty God, that, just as we are renewed by the Supper of your Son in this present age, so we may enjoy his banquet for all eternity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**



# Friday April 7

## Friday of the Passion of the Lord

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 / Psalm (30) 31 / Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 /  
John 18:1-19:42

### *He Paid a Debt He did not Owe*

**B**eloved, we continue in our Triduum. This second day, counted all together with Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday, make a continuum. We are in the middle of a long, three-day celebration. Celebrating Good Friday. Good because the salvation of humanity has been accomplished. Jesus has made the ultimate sacrifice for our redemption. The words of R. J. Stevens' song "He paid a debt" come to mind.

*He paid a debt he did not owe;  
I owed a debt I could not pay.  
I needed someone, to wash my sins away;  
now I can sing a brand new song  
Amazing grace, Lord Jesus paid the debt  
that I could never pay.*





Jesus chose the cross, a symbol of shame, public ridicule, and public disgrace and turns it into a powerful means of salvation. For this reason, we shall venerate the Crucifix in today's liturgy. In the passion narrative read today according to the account of St. John, Jesus exclaims 'tètèlèstai' translated as "it is accomplished" or "it is complete". Your sins and my sins have been paid for in full.

What does this mean for us?

1. We are set free from the bondage of sin
2. Our hearts should be filled with gratitude to Christ for this act
3. We too must be agents of reconciliation : We must forgive people who have offended us. We too must seek forgiveness from those we have offended.

May the saving grace of the cross enable us to do this.

***Rev. Fr. Albert Amonzem, Accra Ghana***



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The Priest and the Deacon (if a Deacon is present), wearing red vestments as for Mass, go to the altar in silence and, after making a reverence to the altar, prostrate themselves or, if appropriate, kneel and pray in silence for a while. All others kneel.

Then the Priest, with the ministers, goes to the chair where, facing the people, who are standing, he says, with hands extended, one of the following prayers, omitting the invitation 'Let us pray'.

### *Prayer*

Remember your mercies, O Lord, and with your eternal protection sanctify your servants, for whom Christ your Son, by the shedding of his Blood, established the paschal mysteries. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### *Or*

O God, who by the Passion of Christ your Son, our Lord, abolished the death inherited from ancient sin by every succeeding generation, grant that just as, being conformed to him, we have borne by the law of nature the image of the man of earth, so by the sanctification of grace we may bear the image of the Man of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

***First Reading (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)*****A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

Behold, my servant shall prosper, he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. As many were astonished at him –his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the sons of men – so shall he startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they shall see, and that which they have not heard they shall understand. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord



Friday April 7

has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgement he was taken away; and as for his generation who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to bruise him; he has put him to grief; when he makes himself an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand; he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous and he shall bear iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made made intercession for the transgressors.

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



***Responsorial Psalm (Psalm (30) 31:2 and 6.12-13.15-16.17 and 25)***

**R. Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!**

In you, O Lord, I take refuge.  
Let me never be put to shame.  
In your justice, set me free.  
Into your hands I commend my spirit.  
You will redeem me, O Lord, O faithful God. R.

Because of all my foes  
I have become a reproach,  
an object of scorn to my neighbours  
and of fear to my friends.  
Those who see me in the street flee from me.  
I am forgotten, like someone dead,  
and have become like a broken vessel. R.

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

"Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your merciful love."  
Be strong, let your heart take courage,  
all who hope in the Lord. R.



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**Second Reading (Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9)** \_\_\_\_\_

**A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews**

Brethren: Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

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

**Acclamation (Philippians 2:8b.9)**

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ.** Christ became obedient for us unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

***Gospel (John 18:1-19:42)*** 

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**The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John**

In the following Passion narrative: N.= Narrator, †Christ, S.= Speakers other than Christ.

**N.** At that time: Jesus went forth with his disciples across the Kidron valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them,

† “Whom do you seek?”

**N.** They answered him,

**S.** “Jesus of Nazareth.”

**N.** Jesus said to them,

† “I am he.”

**N.** Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When he said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them,

† “Whom do you seek?”

**N.** And they said,

**S.** “Jesus of Nazareth.”



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N. Jesus answered,

† “I told you that I am he; so if you seek me, let these men go.”

N. This was to fulfil the word which he had spoken, “Of those whom you gave me I lost not one.” Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s slave and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

† “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the chalice which the Father has given me?”

N. So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who kept the door, and brought Peter in. The maid who kept the door said to Peter,

S. “Are not you also one of this man’s disciples?”

N. He said

S. “I am not.”

N. Now the servants and the officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming





themselves; Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him,

† “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together; I have said nothing secretly. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them; they know what I said.”

**N.** When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying,

**S.** “Is that how you answer the high priest?”

**N.** Jesus answered him,

† “If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?”

**N.** Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him,

**S.** “Are not you also one of his disciples?”

**N.** He denied it and said,

**S.** “I am not.”

**N.** One of the servants of the high priest, a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,

**S.** “Did I not see you in the garden with him?”

**N.** Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed. Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the



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praetorium so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said,

S. "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

N. They answered him,

S. "If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have handed him over."

N. Pilate said to them,

S. "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

N. The Jews said to him,

S. "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death."

N. This was to fulfil the word which Jesus had spoken to show by what death he was to die. Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him,

S. "Are you the King of the Jews?"

N. Jesus answered,

† "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?"

N. Pilate answered,

S. "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?"

N. Jesus answered,

† "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world."

N. Pilate said to him,

S. "So you are a king?"



**N.** Jesus answered,

† “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice.”

**N.** Pilate said to him,

**S.** “What is truth?”

**N.** After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again, and told them,

**S.** “I find no crime in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover; will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?”

**N.** They cried out again,

**S.** “Not this man, but Barabbas!”

**N.** Now Barabbas was a robber.

Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and clothed him in a purple robe; they came up to him, saying,

**S.** “Hail, King of the Jews!”

**N.** and struck him with their hands.

Pilate went out again, and said to them,

**S.** “Behold, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him.”

**N.** So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.

Pilate said to them,



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S. “Here is the man!”

N. When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out,

S. “Crucify him, crucify him!”

N. Pilate said to them,

S. “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him.”

N. The Jews answered him,

S. “We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God.”

N. When Pilate heard these words, he was even more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus,

S. “Where are you from?”

N. But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him,

S. “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?”

N. Jesus answered him,

+ “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin.”

N. Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out,

S. “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend; every one who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar.”

N. When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgement seat at a place called The Pavement,



and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews,

**S.** “Here is your King!”

**N.** They cried out,

**S.** “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!”

**N.** Pilate said to them,

**S.** “Shall I crucify your King?”

**N.** The chief priests answered,

**S.** “We have no king but Caesar.”

**N.** Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate,

**S.** “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”

**N.** Pilate answered,

**S.** “What I have written I have written.”

**N.** When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his



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tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another,

**S.** “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.”

**N.** This was to fulfil the Scripture, “They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, † “Woman, behold your son!”

**N.** Then he said to the disciple, † “Behold, your mother!”

**N.** And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture), † “I thirst.”

**N.** A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, † “It is finished;”

**N.** and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

*All kneel and pause for a moment in prayer.*

**N.** Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for that



Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness – his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth – that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled, “Not a bone of him shall be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on him whom they have pierced.” After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds’ weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand they laid Jesus there.

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



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## The Solemn Intercessions

*For Holy Church*

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God, that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world and grant that, leading our life in tranquillity and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, who in Christ revealed your glory to all the nations, watch over the works of your mercy, that your Church, spread throughout all the world, may persevere with steadfast faith in confessing your name. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*For the Pope*

Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope N., that our God and Lord, who chose him for the Order of Bishops, may keep him safe and unharmed for the Lord's holy Church, to govern the holy People of God. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, by whose decree all things are founded, look with favour on our prayers and in your kindness protect the Pope chosen for us, that, under him, the Christian people, governed by you their maker, may grow in merit by reason of their faith. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





*For all orders and degrees of the faithful*

Let us pray also for our Bishop N., for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church and for the whole of the faithful people. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear our humble prayer for your ministers, that, by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*For catechumens*

Let us pray also for (our) catechumens, that our God and Lord may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts and unlock the gates of his mercy, that, having received forgiveness of all their sins through the waters of rebirth, they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, who make your Church ever fruitful with new offspring, increase the faith and understanding of (our) catechumens, that, reborn in the font of Baptism, they may be added to the number of your adopted children. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*For the unity of Christians*

Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ, that our God and Lord may be pleased,



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as they live the truth, to gather them together and keep them in his one Church. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, who gather what is scattered and keep together what you have gathered, look kindly on the flock of your Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated may be joined together by integrity of faith and united in the bond of charity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*For the Jewish people*

Let us pray also for the Jewish people, to whom the Lord our God spoke first, that he may grant them to advance in love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his descendants, graciously hear the prayers of your Church, that the people you first made your own may attain the fullness of redemption. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*For those who do not believe in Christ*

Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ, that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they, too, may enter on the way of salvation. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, grant to those who do not confess Christ that, by walking before you with a sincere



heart, they may find the truth and that we ourselves, being constant in mutual love and striving to understand more fully the mystery of your life, may be made more perfect witnesses to your love in the world. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*For those who do not believe in God*

Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God, that, following what is right in sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God himself. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, who created all people to seek you always by desiring you and, by finding you, come to rest, grant, we pray, that, despite every harmful obstacle, all may recognize the signs of your fatherly love and the witness of the good works done by those who believe in you, and so in gladness confess you, the one true God and Father of our human race. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*For those in public office*

Let us pray also for those in public office, that our God and Lord may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true peace and freedom of all. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, in whose hand lies every human heart and the rights of peoples, look with favour, we pray, on those who govern with authority over us,



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that throughout the whole world, the prosperity of peoples, the assurance of peace, and freedom of religion may through your gift be made secure. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*For those in tribulation*

Let us pray, dearly beloved, to God the Father almighty, that he may cleanse the world of all errors, banish disease, drive out hunger, unlock prisons, loosen fetters, granting to travellers safety, to pilgrims return, health to the sick, and salvation to the dying. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, comfort of mourners, strength of all who toil, may the prayers of those who cry out in any tribulation come before you, that all may rejoice, because in their hour of need your mercy was at hand. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Adoration of the Holy Cross

*Three times the priest or deacon invites the assembly to proclaim its faith:*





Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. **Come, let us adore.**

*After each response all adore the Cross briefly in silence. After the third response, the Cross and the candles are placed at the entrance to the sanctuary and the people approach, moving as in procession, to adore the Cross. They may make a simple genuflection or perform some other appropriate sign of reverence according to local custom.*

*During the adoration, suitable songs may be sung. All who have already adored the Cross remain seated. Where large numbers of people make individual adoration difficult, the priest may raise the Cross briefly for all to adore in silence.*

## Lord's Prayer

### Prayer after Communion

Almighty ever-living God, who have restored us to life by the blessed Death and Resurrection of your Christ, preserve in us the work of your mercy, that, by partaking of this mystery, we may have a life unceasingly devoted to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



# Saturday April 8

## The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night Prayer

*Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 2 or 1: 1.26-31a / Psalm (103) 104: 1-2. 5-6. 10. 12. 13-14. 24. 35 or Psalm (32) 33: 4-5. 6-7. 12-13. 20-22 / Genesis 22: 1-18 or 22: 1-2. 9a. 10-13. 15-18 / Psalm (15) 16: 5. 8. 9-10. 11 / Exodus 14: 15 – 15: 1 / Exodus 15: 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 17-18 / Isaiah 54: 5-14 / Psalm (29) 30: 2. 4. 5-6. 11-12. 13 / Isaiah 55: 1-11 / Isaiah 12: 2-3. 4. 5-6 / Baruch 3: 9-15. 32 – 4: 4 / Psalm (18) 19: 8. 9. 10. 11 / Ezekiel 36: 16-17a. 18-28 / Psalm (41) 42: 3. 5; 43: 3. 4 or Isaiah 12: 2-3. 4bcd. 5-6 or Psalm (50) 51:12-13. 14-15. 18-19 / Romans 6: 3-11 / Psalm 118: 1-2. 16-17. 22-23 / Matthew 28: 1-10*

## *Joyful Missionaries of the Risen Lord*

Dear brethren, this night, we start the celebration of God's wonders for his people in the past, in the present and in the days to come. Easter indeed unifies the history of salvation and gives us the required force of the Spirit to be joyful missionaries of the Risen Lord wherever we are. After our journey through the Lenten season, we are ready to celebrate the victory of our God over all the forces of destruction especially the victory of life over death. The Easter celebrations start with the Easter vigil which is the mother of all the vigils (St Augustin). The next day, on the day of the Lord, we shall again assemble to sing alleluia with all our heart. Symbols and scriptures used in those celebrations point out that, if we follow Jesus, light



of the world and firstborn of the dead, we shall live forever of the life of God.

The liturgy of the Easter vigil comprises four steps which indicate that we are a people walking under the guidance of the light of God, a people conceived and formed by the listening of the word of God, a people of baptized born from the death and resurrection of God and sustained by the body and blood of his Lord and finally a people sent to proclaim everywhere the mighty works of God who has called us out of darkness to his own wonderful light (cf. Preface I of Sundays).

It would be so interesting if each of us could leave the celebration of the vigil with the determination to be missionaries of the Risen Lord. Like the women, we do not need to see the empty tomb. We do not need to put our fingers in his wounds. We have heard the wonders that God did in the past and his promises to those who will let their lives be conformed to the death and resurrection of his son. We have heard his prophecies of peace and new life. It is now upon us to be other “Mary Magdalene” and to announce to all that the Risen Lord is waiting for us at all the junctions where people needs a word of hope or a service that restores them to the dignity of the children of God. As we renew our baptismal promises and share in the paschal banquet, let us remember that they are energetic bath and food for missionary works.

*Rev. Fr. Mahoussi Adoko, Nairobi Kenya*



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## *Solemn Beginning of the Vigil* *(Lucernarium)*

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### **Greeting**

*The priest and the ministers, one of whom carries the unlit paschal candle, approach the fire.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

- 1** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- 2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3** The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

### **Blessing of the Fire**

Dear brothers and sisters, on this most sacred night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church calls upon her sons and daughters, scattered throughout the world, to come together to watch and pray. If we keep the memorial of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way, listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries, then we shall have the sure hope of sharing his triumph over death and living with him in God.

Let us pray. O God, who through your Son bestowed upon the faithful the fire of your glory, sanctify this new





fire, we pray, and grant that, by these paschal celebrations, we may be so inflamed with heavenly desires, that with minds made pure we may attain festivities of unending splendour. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Preparation of the Candle**

*The priest cuts a cross in the paschal candle and traces the Greek letters alpha (A) and omega (Ω) and the numerals 2023, saying:*

Christ yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and the Omega. All time belongs to him, and all the ages. To him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. Amen.

*When the marks have been made, the priest may insert five grains of incense into the candle in the form of a cross, saying:* By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard us and protect us. Amen.

*The priest lights the paschal candle from the new fire, saying:* May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

### **Procession**

*The deacon or another suitable minister holds the paschal candle and, three times during the procession to the altar, lifts it high and sings:*



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The Light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The Light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

*After the first response, the priest lights his candle from the paschal candle.*

*After the second response, all the people light their candles from the flame of the paschal candle.*

*After the third response, all the lights in the church are lit, except for the altar candles.*

### **Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)**

*If, because of necessity, a lay cantor sings,  
he omits the parentheses.*

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,  
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,  
let the trumpet of salvation  
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!

Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,  
ablaze with light from her eternal King,  
let all corners of the earth be glad,  
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.  
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,  
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,  
let this holy building shake with joy,  
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.



(Therefore, dearest friends  
standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,  
invoke with me, I ask you,  
the mercy of God almighty,  
that he, who has been pleased to number me,  
though unworthy, among the Levites,  
may pour into me his light unshadowed,  
that I may sing this candle's perfect praises.)

(The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**)  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right and just.**  
It is truly right and just,  
with ardent love of mind and heart  
and with devoted service of our voice,  
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,  
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.  
Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,  
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,  
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.  
These, then, are the feasts of Passover,  
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,  
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night  
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,



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from slavery in Egypt  
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night  
that with a pillar of fire  
banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night  
that even now, throughout the world,  
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices  
and from the gloom of sin,  
leading them to grace  
and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night when Christ broke the prison-bars of  
death and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain,  
had we not been redeemed.

O wonder of your humble care for us!  
O love, O charity beyond all telling,  
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam,  
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!

O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a  
Redeemer!



O truly blessed night,  
worthy alone to know the time and hour  
when Christ rose from the underworld!  
This is the night of which it is written:  
The night shall be as bright as day,  
dazzling is the night for me,  
and full of gladness.

The sanctifying power of this night  
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,  
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,  
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down  
the mighty.

On this, your night of grace,  
O holy Father,  
accept this candle, a solemn offering, the work of bees and  
of your servants' hands,  
an evening sacrifice of praise,  
this gift from your most holy Church.  
But now we know the praises  
of this pillar, which glowing fire ignites for God's honour, a  
fire into many flames divided,  
yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,  
for it is fed by melting wax,  
drawn out by mother bees  
to build a torch so precious.



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O truly blessed night,  
when things of heaven are wedded to those of earth,  
and divine to the human.

On this, your night of grace,  
O holy Father,  
accept this candle, a solemn offering,  
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,  
an evening sacrifice of praise,  
this gift from your most holy Church.

Therefore, O Lord,  
we pray you that this candle,  
hallowed to the honour of your name,  
may persevere undimmed,  
to overcome the darkness of this night.

Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,  
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.  
May this flame be found still burning  
by the Morning Star:  
the one Morning Star who never sets,  
Christ your Son,  
who, coming back from death's domain,  
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,  
and lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**



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## *Liturgy of the Word*

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Dear brethren (brothers and sisters), now that we have begun our solemn Vigil, let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God. Let us meditate on how God in times past saved his people and in these, the last days, has sent us his Son as our Redeemer. Let us pray that our God may complete this paschal work of salvation by the fullness of redemption.

### ***First Reading (Genesis 1:1-2:2)***

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#### **A reading from the Book of Genesis**

*(For the short form: read between \*)*

**\*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. \***  
The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day. And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above



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the firmament. And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it





was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day. And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day. And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

\*Then God said, “Let us make a man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” And God said,



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“Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. \*

And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done.

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

***Responsorial Psalm (Psalm (103) 104:1-2a.5-6.10  
and 12.13-14.24 and 35c)***—————

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

Bless the Lord, O my soul!  
O Lord my God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and honour,  
wrapped in light as with a robe! R.



You set the earth on its foundation,  
immovable from age to age.  
You wrapped it with the depths like a cloak;  
the waters stood higher than the mountains. R.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow in between the hills.  
There the birds of heaven build their nests;  
from the branches they sing their song. R.

From your dwelling you water the hills;  
by your works the earth has its fill.  
You make the grass grow for the cattle  
and plants to serve mankind's need.  
That he may bring forth bread from the earth. R.

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your creatures.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul. R.

**Priest:** Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, who are wonderful in the ordering of all your works, may those you have redeemed understand that there exists nothing more marvellous than the world's



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creation in the beginning except that, at the end of the ages, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### ***Second Reading (Genesis 22:1-18)***

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#### **A reading from the Book of Genesis**

*(For the short form: read between \*)*

**\*In those days: God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Take your son, your only-begotten son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."\***

So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; and he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day, Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the



wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

\*When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. Then Abraham put forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only-begotten son, from me.” And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. \*

So Abraham called the name of that place The Lord will provide; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

\*And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only-begotten son, I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies,



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and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.” \*  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm (Psalm <sup>(15)</sup> 16:5 and 8.9-10.11)***——

**R.** **Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.**

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
you yourself who secure my lot.  
I keep the Lord before me always;  
with him at my right hand, I shall not be moved. R.

And so, my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my flesh shall rest in hope.  
For you will not abandon my soul to hell,  
nor let your holy one see corruption. R.

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand, bliss forever. R.

**Priest:** Let us pray.



O God, supreme Father of the faithful, who increase the children of your promise by pouring out the grace of adoption throughout the whole world and who through the paschal mystery make your servant Abraham father of nations, as once you swore, grant, we pray that your peoples may enter worthily into the grace to which you call them. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Third Reading (Exodus 14:15-15:1)*** \_\_\_\_\_

**A reading from the Book of Exodus**

In those days: The Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the sons of Israel may go on dry ground through the sea. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.” Then the angel of God who went before the host of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness; and the night passed without one coming near the other all night. Then Moses



stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the sons of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the host the Egyptians, and discomfited the host of the Egyptians, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel; for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians". Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." So Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its usual flow when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled into it, and the Lord routed the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not so much as one of them remained. But the sons of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel





saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore. And Israel saw the great work which the Lord did against the Egyptians, and the people feared the Lord; and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider has thrown into the sea.

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

***Responsorial Psalm (Exodus 15:1b-2.3-4.5-6.17-18)***——

***R.* I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously.**

I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation;  
this is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father’s God and I will exalt him. *R.*

The Lord is a man of war; / the Lord is his name.  
Pharaoh’s chariots and his host he cast into the sea;  
and his picked officers are sunk in the Red Sea. *R.*

The floods cover them; they went down into the  
depths like a stone. Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in  
power, your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy. *R.*



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You will bring your people in,  
and plant them on your own mountain,  
the place, O Lord, which you have made for your abode,  
the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.  
The Lord will reign for ever and ever. R.

**Priest:** Let us pray.

O God, whose ancient wonders remain undimmed in splendour even in our day, for what you once bestowed on a single people, freeing them from Pharaoh's persecution by the power of your right hand, now you bring about as the salvation of the nations through the waters of rebirth, grant, we pray, that the whole world may become children of Abraham and inherit the dignity of Israel's birthright. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Fourth Reading (Isaiah 54:5-14)*** \_\_\_\_\_

**A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

Your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. For the Lord has called you like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God. For a brief moment I forsook you, but with great compassion I will gather you.



In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting mercy I will have compassion on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer. “For this is like the days of Noah to me: I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be moved, but my mercy shall not depart from you and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord; who has compassion on you. “O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, behold, I will set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of agate, your gates of carbuncles, and all your wall of precious stones. All your sons shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the prosperity of your sons. In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Responsorial Psalm (Psalm <sup>(29)</sup> 30:2 and 4:5-6.11-12a and 13b)*

**R. I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up.**

I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up,  
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.



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O Lord, you have lifted up my soul from the grave,  
restored me to life from those who sink into the pit. *R.*

Sing psalms to the Lord, you faithful ones;  
give thanks to his holy name.  
His anger lasts a moment; his favour all through life.  
At night there are tears, but at dawn comes joy. *R.*

Hear, O Lord, and have mercy on me;  
be my helper, O Lord. You have changed my mourning  
into dancing. O Lord my God, I will thank you forever. *R.*

**Priest:** Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, surpass, for the honour of your name, what you pledged to the Patriarchs by reason of their faith, and through sacred adoption increase the children of your promise, so that what the Saints of old never doubted would come to pass your Church may now see in great part fulfilled. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***Fifth Reading (Isaiah 55:1-11)***\_\_\_\_\_

**A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

Thus says the Lord: “Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come,



buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, merciful love David. Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Behold, you shall call nations that you know not, and nations that knew you not shall run on you, because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. “Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from the mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I intend, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

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



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*Responsorial Psalm (Isaiah 12:2-3,4bcde.5-6)* —————

**R.** With joy, you will draw water from the wells of salvation

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

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

“Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.  
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.” R.

**Priest:** Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, sole hope of the world, who by the preaching of your Prophets unveiled the mysteries of this



present age, graciously increase the longing of your people, for only at the prompting of your grace do the faithful progress in any kind of virtue. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Sixth Reading (Baruch 3:9-15.32-4:4)***\_\_\_\_\_

**A reading from the Book of Baruch**

Hear the commandments of life, O Israel; give ear, and learn wisdom! Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land of your enemies, that you are growing old in a foreign county, that you are defiled with the dead, that you are counted among those in Hades? You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom. If you had walked in the way of God, you would be dwelling in peace for ever. Learn where there is wisdom, where there is strength, where there is understanding, that you may at the same time discern where there is length of days, and life, where there is light for the eyes, and peace. Who has found her place? And who has entered her storehouses? But he who knows all things knows her, he found her by his understanding. He who prepared the earth for all time filled it with four-footed creatures; he who sends forth the light and it goes, called it, and it obeyed him in fear; the stars shone in their watches, and were glad; he called them, and they said, "Here we are!" They shone with gladness for him who made them. This is our God; no other can be compared to him! He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to Jacob



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his servant and to Israel whom he loved. Afterwards she appeared upon earth and lived among men. She is the book of the commandments of God, and the law that endures for ever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk towards the shining of her light. Do not give your glory to another, or your advantages to an alien people. Happy are we, O Israel, for we know what is pleasing to God.

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

***Responsorial Psalm (Psalm (18) 19:8.9.10.11)*** —————

**R. Lord, you have the words of eternal life.**

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

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

The fear of the Lord is pure, abiding forever.  
The judgments of the Lord are true;  
they are, all of them, just. R.





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

**Priest:** Let us pray.

O God, who constantly increase your Church by your call to the nations, grant graciously to those you wash clean in the waters of Baptism, the assurance of your unfailing protection. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Seventh Reading (Ezekiel 36:16-17a.18-28)***—————

**A reading from the Book of Ezekiel**

The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their doings. So I poured out my wrath upon them for the blood which they had shed in the land, for the idols with which they had defiled it. I scattered them among the nations and they were dispersed through the countries; in accordance with their conduct and their deeds I judged them. But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, they profaned my holy name, in that men said of them, “These are the people of the Lord, and yet they had to go out of his land! But I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel caused to be profaned among the nations to which



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they came. “Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God; It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations will know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. For I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. You shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.”

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

***Responsorial Psalm (Psalm <sup>(41)</sup>42:3.5bcd;43:3.4)***—————

**R.** Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God.



My soul is thirsting for God, the living God;  
when can I enter and appear before the face of God? R.

For I would go to the place of your wondrous tent,  
all the way to the house of God, amid cries of gladness  
and thanksgiving, the throng keeping joyful festival. R.

O send forth your light and your truth; they will guide  
me on. They will bring me to your holy mountain,  
to the place where you dwell. R.

And I will come to the altar of God, to God, my joy  
and gladness. To you will I give thanks on the harp,  
O God, my God. R.

*or*

***Responsorial Psalm (Psalm (50) 51:12-13.14-15.18-19)*** —

**R. Create a pure heart for me, O God.**

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



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Restore in me the joy of your salvation; sustain in me a willing spirit. I will teach transgressors your ways, that sinners may return to you. *R.*

For in sacrifice you take me no delight; burnt offering from me would not please you. My sacrifice to God, a broken spirit: a broken and humbled heart, O God, you will not spurn. *R.*

**Priest:** Let us pray.

O God of unchanging power and eternal light, look with favour on the wondrous mystery of the whole Church, and serenely accomplish the work of human salvation, which you planned from all eternity; may the whole world know and see that what was cast down is raised up, what had become old is made new, and all things are restored to integrity through Christ, just as by him they came into being. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo (Glory to God in the highest) is sung.**

Let us pray:



O God, who make this most sacred night radiant with the glory of the Lord's Resurrection, stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption, so that, renewed in body and in mind, we may render you undivided service. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Epistle (Romans 6:3-11)***\_\_\_\_\_

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

Brethren: All of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our former man was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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



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*The priest solemnly intones the Alleluia three times, raising his voice by a step each time, with all repeating it.*

*Responsorial Psalm (Psalm <sup>(117)</sup> 118:1-2.15c-17.22-23)*—

**R. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Give praise to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, “His mercy endures forever.” R.

“The Lord’s right hand has done mighty deeds; his right hand is exalted. The Lord’s right hand has done mighty deeds.” I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord. R.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done, a marvel in our eyes. R.

***Gospel (Matthew 28:1-10)*** \_\_\_\_\_

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

After the sabbath, towards the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for



an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightening, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Behold, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Hail!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee and there they will see me.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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## *Baptismal Liturgy*

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*This celebration combines text from The Roman Missal (2010) and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (1987), where appropriate.*

### **Introduction**

**1** *If there are candidates for baptism:*







Holy Angels of God,  
Saint John the Baptist,  
Saint Joseph,  
Saint Peter and Saint Paul,  
Saint Andrew,  
Saint John,  
Saint Mary Magdalene,  
Saint Stephen,  
Saint Ignatius of Antioch,  
Saint Lawrence,  
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity,  
Saint Agnes,  
Saint Gregory,  
Saint Augustine,  
Saint Athanasius,  
Saint Basil,  
Saint Martin, Saint Benedict,  
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic,  
Saint Francis Xavier,  
Saint John Vianney,  
Saint Catherine of Siena, Saint Teresa of Jesus,  
(*other saints*)  
All holy men and women, Saints of God,



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Lord, be mer - ci - ful, Lord, de - liv - er us, we pray.

Lord, be merciful, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**

From all evil,

From every sin,

From everlasting death,

By your Incarnation,

By your Death and Resurrection,

By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,



Be merciful to us sin - ners, **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

Be merciful to us sinners, **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

**1** *If there are candidates for baptism:*

Bring these chosen ones to new birth through the grace of Baptism, **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

**2** *If there are no candidates for baptism:*

Make this font holy by your grace for the new birth of your children, **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Son of the living God, **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**



Cantor	Assembly
Christ, hear us.	Christ, hear us.
Cantor	Assembly
Christ, gra-cious-ly hear us. Christ, gra-cious-ly hear us.	

Christ, hear us. **Christ, hear us.**

Christ, graciously hear us. **Christ, graciously hear us.**

*If there are candidates for baptism, the priest prays:*

Almighty ever-living God, be present by the mysteries of your great love and send forth the spirit of adoption to create the new peoples brought to birth for you in the font of Baptism, so that what is to be carried out by our humble service may be brought to fulfillment by your mighty power. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Blessing of Baptismal Water**

O God, who by invisible power accomplish a wondrous effect through sacramental signs and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation, to show forth the grace of Baptism;

O God, whose Spirit in the first moments of the world's creation hovered over the waters, so that the very substance of water would even then take to itself the power to sanctify;



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O God, who by the outpouring of the flood foreshadowed regeneration, so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;

O God, who caused the children of Abraham to pass dryshod through the Red Sea, so that the chosen people, set free from slavery to Pharaoh, would prefigure the people of the baptized;

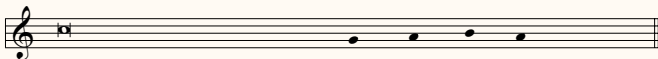
O God, whose Son, baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and, as he hung upon the Cross, gave forth water from his side along with blood, and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples: "Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.

May this water receive by the Holy Spirit the grace of your Only Begotten Son, so that human nature, created in your image and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism from all the squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children through water and the Holy Spirit.

May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down through your Son into the fullness of this font, so that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Springs of wa-ter, bless the Lord;



praise and exalt him above all for e - ver.

**Springs of water, bless the Lord;  
praise and exalt him above all for ever.**

### Renunciation of Sin

*Using one of the following formularies, the priest questions all the candidates together or individually.*

**1** Do you reject sins as to live in freedom of God's children?  
**I do.**

Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin? **I do.**

Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness? **I do.**

**2** Do you reject Satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises? **I do.**

**3** Do you reject Satan? **I do.**  
And all his works? **I do.**

And all his empty promises? **I do.**

*Adult candidates may now be anointed with the Oil of Catechumens.*



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We anoint you with the oil of salvation in the name of Christ our Saviour. May he strengthen you with his power. **Amen.**

### **Profession of Faith**

N., do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth? **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? **I do.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting? **I do.**

### **Baptism**

*The priest baptizes each candidate either by immersion or by the pouring of water.*

N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### **Anointing after Baptism**

*Any newly baptized infants are anointed now with Chrism.*

The God of power and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin and brought you to new life through water and the Holy Spirit.



He now anoints you with the Chrism of salvation, so that, united with his people, you may remain for ever a member of Christ who is Priest, Prophet, and King. **Amen.**

### **Clothing with a Baptismal Garment**

*All the newly baptized receive a white garment.*

N. and N., you have become a new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ. Receive this baptismal garment and bring it unstained to the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that you may have everlasting life. **Amen.**

### **Presentation of a Lighted Candle**

Godparents, please come forward to give to the newly baptized the light of Christ.

*A godparent of each of the newly baptized lights a candle from the paschal candle and presents it to the newly baptized.*

You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts. When the Lord comes, may you go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**

### **Confirmation of Adults**

*The newly baptized adults with their godparents stand before the priest.*

My dear candidates for confirmation, by your baptism you have been born again in Christ and you have become members of Christ and of his priestly people. Now you are to share in the



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outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us, the Spirit sent by the Lord upon his apostles at Pentecost and given by them and their successors to the baptized.

The promised strength of the Holy Spirit, which you are to receive, will make you more like Christ and help you to be witnesses to his suffering, death, and resurrection. It will strengthen you to be active members of the Church and to build up the Body of Christ in faith and love.

My dear friends, let us pray to God our Father, that he will pour out the Holy Spirit on these candidates for confirmation to strengthen them with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ, the Son of God.

### Laying on of Hands

All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide.

Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





## Anointing with Chrism

*During the conferral of the sacrament an appropriate song may be sung.*

N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Peace be with you. **And with your spirit.**

### **Blessing of Water** *(when no one is to be baptized)*

Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly beseech the Lord our God to bless this water he has created, which will be sprinkled upon us as a memorial of our Baptism. May he graciously renew us, that we may remain faithful to the Spirit whom we have received. *(Pause)*

Lord our God, in your mercy be present to your people who keep vigil on this most sacred night, and, for us who recall the wondrous work of our creation and the still greater work of our redemption, graciously bless this water. For you created water to make the fields fruitful and to refresh and cleanse our bodies. You also made water the instrument of your mercy: for through water you freed your people from slavery and quenched their thirst in the desert; through water the Prophets proclaimed the new covenant you were to enter upon with the human race; and last of all, through water, which Christ made holy in the Jordan, you have renewed our corrupted nature in the bath of regeneration.

Therefore, may this water be for us a memorial of the Baptism we have received, and grant that we may share in



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the gladness of our brothers and sisters, who at Easter have received their Baptism. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Renewal of Baptismal Promises**

*While holding lit candles, the entire community renews its baptismal promises, if it has not already done so.*

Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:

**1** Do you renounce Satan? **I do.**

And all his works? **I do.**

And all his empty show? **I do.**

**2** Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God? **I do.**

Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you? **I do.**

Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin? **I do.**

*The community professes its faith:*

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? **I do.**



Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? **I do.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? **I do.**

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life. **Amen.**  
*The priest sprinkles the people with blessed water, while an appropriate song is sung.*

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

*The following intentions are suggestions only.*

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the Church, joyful witness to the resurrection of the Lord, we pray to the Lord: **R.**

For the world's nations and people, to whom Christ's resurrection offers the fullness of God's peace, we pray to the Lord: **R.**

For those baptized this night into Christ's death and resurrection, called as Christ's body to witness to the Good News, we pray to the Lord: **R.**

For Christian communities everywhere, embodying the



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triumph of life over death in their neighbourhoods and cities, we pray to the Lord: R.

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## *Liturgy of the Eucharist*

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### **Preparation of the Gifts**

#### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept, we ask, O Lord, the prayers of your people with the sacrificial offerings, that what has begun in the paschal mysteries may, by the working of your power, bring us to the healing of eternity. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Communion Antiphon** (1 Cor 5:7-8)

**Christ our Passover has been sacrificed: therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia.**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

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



## Solemn Blessing — Easter

Bow down for the blessing.

May almighty God bless you through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend you from every assault of sin. **Amen.**

And may he, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten, endow you with the prize of immortality. **Amen.**

Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

1 Go forth, the Mass is ended, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia!



**R. Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!**



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***Growing up Daily with the Good News***