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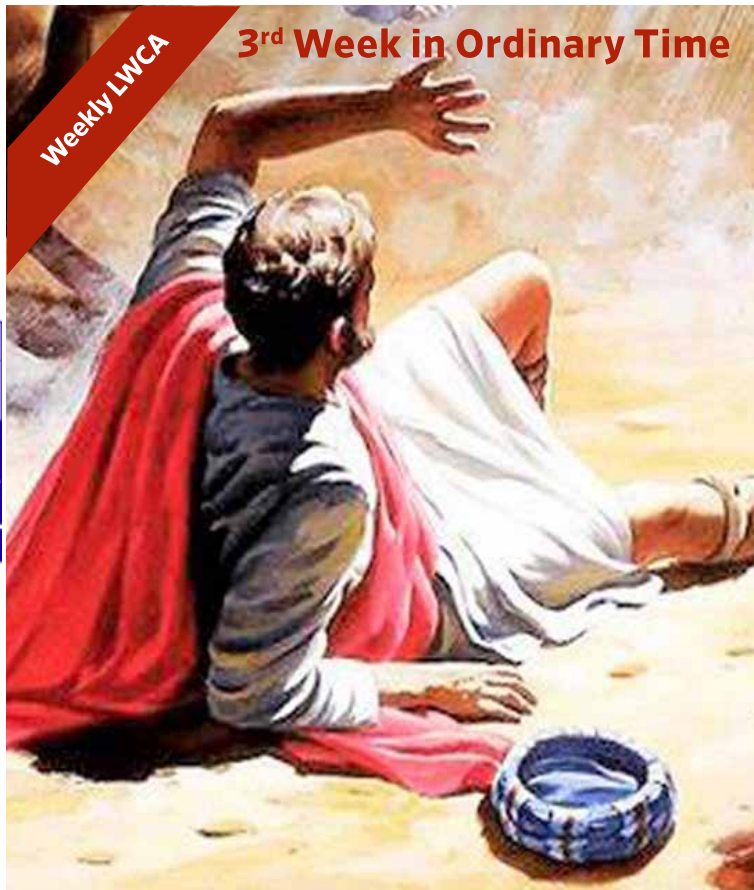
Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

3rd Week in Ordinary Time

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On our cover: The conversion of Saint
Paul

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Editorial

January 2024



Rev. Fr. Walter C. Ihejirika, Nigeria

Communicating the Faith

Two celebrations which occur in this liturgical week highlight the importance of communication in the life and mission of the Church. Firstly, we have the Memorial of St Francis de Sales, who was noted as the first to make use of religious tracts to communicate the true doctrines of the Church to those who had fallen from the faith. Because of his assiduous engagement to communicate the faith through writing, St Francis is today invoked as the patron of Catholic writers and journalists. Secondly, we have the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul (Acts 9:1-9) After his conversion, Paul became the most eloquent proclaimer of the Good News.

Both saints can be qualified as great communicators of the faith. Good and effective communication is indispensable for the continued existence of the Church as a community made up of human beings in the world. Through our daily living with Christ, may we be enabled to communicate the Good News in season and out of season.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

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

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

THE DIFFERENT MINISTERS IN THE EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION (I)

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

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

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

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

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

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



Sunday January 21

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Jonah 3: 1-5.10 / Psalm 25: 4-5. 6-7. 8-9 (4a) / 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31
/ Mark 1: 14-20*



"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. (Mark 1: 17-18)



Call for Change

Jesus began his public ministry by preaching repentance. He constantly asked people to change their hearts and called on others to change their work. It was all about change. He said, “The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel” (Mark 1:15). Repentance involves total conversion from one style of life to another. It is a gradual and lifetime process. Repentance is not just about turning away from past sins but also repenting from wicked plans. An anonymous writer says, “It is much easier to repent of sins that we have already committed than to repent of those we intend to commit.” What areas of your life would you feel compelled to transform? Are there habitual sins and tendencies you would wish to drop? Change of heart (repentance) is good news because it leads to happiness. In addition to preaching about a change of heart, Jesus also called some men to change their roles. He said to them, “Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men” (Mark 1:17). Simon and Andrew left their nets immediately and followed him; James and John left their father in the boat with the hired servants and followed him immediately. Jesus chose ordinary people



Sunday January 21

who were busy, humble, willing, ready, available, and able. He chose ordinary people who could connect with those who are poor in spirit. You and I are also called to proclaim the good news. How willing and ready are we to respond to the call of Jesus for a change of heart and participation in missionary work? How would you live this call in your professional and day to day work?

Rt. Rev. Gerald Mamman Musa, Katsina, Nigeria



Entrance Antiphon (*Cf. Ps 95:1.6*)

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works. Through Christ our Lord **Amen.**

First Reading (Jonah 3:1-5.10) _____

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jonah

The word of the Lord came to Jonah saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he cried, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God repented of the evil which



Sunday January 21

he had said he would do to them; and he did not do it. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —————
(Psalm 25:4-5ab.6 and 7bc8-9 (R. 4a))



R. O Lord, make me know your ways.

O Lord, make me know your ways.

Teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth, and teach me;

for you are the God of my salvation. ***R.***

Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, I for they are from of old. In your merciful love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. ***R.***



Good and upright is the Lord; he shows the way to sinners. He guides the humble in right judgement; to the humble he teaches his way. *R.*

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 7:29-31) —————

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

I mean, brethren, the appointed time has grown very short; from now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world, as though they had no dealings with it. For the form of this world is passing away. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Acclamation (Mark 1:15)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel. **Alleluia.**



Sunday January 21

Gospel (Mark 1:14-20)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel.” And passing along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and followed him.

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

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

℟. Lord, hear our prayer.

For unity among Christians across the country and around the world, we pray to the Lord: **℟.**



For peace in our world, our churches, our schools and our families, we pray to the Lord: R.

For all who are lonely, isolated or grieving, we pray to the Lord: R.

For ourselves gathered here, messengers of the Good News of Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord: R.

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray, and in sanctify them grant that they may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon (*Cf. Ps 33:6*)

Look towards the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

Or: Jn 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.



Sunday January 21

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, receiving the grace by which you bring us to new life, we may always glory in your gift. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Monday January 22

3rd week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: **S. Vincent**, *Optional Memorial*

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 95:1.6) **O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.**

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(2 Samuel 5:1-7.10)

A reading from the second Book of Samuel

In those days: All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you that led out and brought in Israel; and the Lord said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.'" So all the elders of Israel came to the king at



Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, “You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off” — thinking, “David cannot come in here.” Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David. And David became

greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm 89:20.21-
22.25-26 (R. 25a))***

R. My mercy and my faithfulness shall be with him.

Then you spoke in a vision.

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

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



My mercy and my faithfulness shall be with him; by my name his might shall be exalted.

I will stretch out his hand to the Sea, and his right hand upon the Rivers. R.

Acclamation

(See 2 Timothy 1:10)

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

Gospel ————— *(Mark 3:22-30)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: The scribes who came down from Jerusalem said of Jesus, “He

is possessed by Beelzebul, and by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” And he called them to him, and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man; then indeed he may plunder his house. “Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy



Monday January 22

Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray, and in sanctifying them grant that they may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Cf. *Ps* 33:6) **Look towards the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.**

Or: Jn 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

**Prayer after Communion**

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, receiving the grace by which you bring us

to new life, we may always glory in your gift. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

One Unforgivable Sin**Commentary**

2 Sm 5: 1-7. 10/ Ps 89: 20.
21-22. 25-26/ Mk 3: 22-30

The scribes doubted Jesus' power and accused him of being an agent of Satan. Jesus told them, all sins will be forgiven except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. St. John Paul II in his encyclical 'Dominum et Vivificantem' explains the gravity of Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, "Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit...does not properly consist in offending the Holy Spirit in words; it consists rather in the refusal to accept the salvation which God offers to men and women through the Holy Spirit.." (#46).

Rt. Rev. Gerald Mamman Musa, Katsina, Nigeria



Tuesday January 23

3rd week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 95:1.6) O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works. Through Christ our Lord **Amen.**

Reading

(2 Samuel 6:12b-15.17-19)

A reading from the second Book of Samuel

In those days: David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obededom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. And David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was belted with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the



horn. And they brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent which David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people departed, each to his house. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm — (Psalm 24:7.8.9.10 (R. see 8ab))

R. Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! R

“Who is this king of glory? The Lord, the mighty the valiant; the Lord, the valiant in war.” R

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! R

“Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.” R

Acclamation

(See Matthew 11:25)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

(Mark 3:31-35)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: The mother of Jesus and his brethren came; and standing outside they sent to him and called him. And a crowd was sitting about him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brethren are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brethren?"

And looking around on those who sat about him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brethren! Who ever does the will of God is my brother, and sister, and mother." The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray, and in Sanctifying them grant that they may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 33:6) **Look towards the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.**

Or: Jn 8:12



I am the light of the world, says the Lord; those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, receiving the grace by which you bring us to new life, we may always glory in your gift. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

True Kindred of Jesus

Commentary

**2 Sm 6: 12b-15. 17-19/ Ps 24:
7. 8. 9. 10/ Mk 3: 31-35**

Though it's said, 'blood is thicker than water', Jesus tells us that a spiritual relationship is thicker than a blood relationship. When Jesus was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you." He responded, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it" (Luke 8:20-21). Jesus widened the concept of family ties and made us understand that spiritual ties are stronger than biological ties. Are we still clinging to the traditional idea of kinship?

Rt. Rev. Gerald Mamman Musa, Katsina, Nigeria



Wednesday January 24

3rd week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

St. Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Dn 12:3) **Those who are wise will shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament and those who lead the many to Justice, shall be like the stars forever.**

Collect

O God, who for the salvation of souls willed that the Bishop Saint Francis de Sales become all things to all, graciously grant that, following his example, we may always

display the gentleness of your charity in the service of our neighbour. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(2 Samuel 7:4-17)*

A reading from the second Book of Samuel

In those days: The word of the Lord came to Nathan,

“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the sons of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the sons of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel; and I have been

with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you,

who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. When he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men; but I will not take my merciful love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever." In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David. The word

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

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 89:4-5.27-28.29-30 (R. see 29a))***

***R. I will keep my faithful
love for him always.***

"With my chosen one I have made a covenant; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your descendants forever, and set up your throne through all ages." *R.*

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

I will keep my faithful love for him always; with



him my covenant shall last. I will establish his descendants forever, and his throne as lasting as the days of heaven. R.

Acclamation

Alleluia. Alleluia. The seed is the word of God, and the sower is Christ; all who find him will abide for ever. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

(Mark 4:1-20)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: Again Jesus began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole crowd was beside

the sea on the land. And he taught them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it had not much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil; and when the sun rose it was scorched, and since it had no root it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. And other seeds fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold

and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” And when he was alone, those who were about him with the Twelve asked him concerning the parables. And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables; so that they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand; lest they should turn again, and be forgiven.” And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown;

when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word which is sown in them. And these in like manner are the ones sown upon rocky ground, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; and they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown among thorns; they are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the delight in riches, and the desire for other things, enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. But those that were sown upon the good soil are the ones



who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Through this saving sacrifice which we offer you, O Lord, kindle in our hearts that divine fire of the Holy Spirit with which

you wonderfully inflamed the most gentle soul of Saint Francis de Sales. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

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

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that through the Sacrament we have received, we may imitate on earth the charity and

meekness of Saint Francis de Sales, and so attain like him the glory of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Learning to Listen**Commentary**

**2 Sm 7: 4-17/ Ps 89: 4-5.
27-28. 29-30/ Mk 4: 1-20**

In today's gospel, Jesus speaks about a sower. Some seeds fell on the paths, others on rocky grounds and thorns; others on rich soil. The seeds on rich soil represent those who hear the word, comprehend it, believe it, and do as it says. At different points in life, our hearts were like the path, the rocky grounds, the thorns, and the rich soil. Sometimes we are productive and other times we are unproductive. Jesus says, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it" (Luke 11:28).

Rt. Rev. Gerald Mamman Musa, Katsina, Nigeria



Thursday January 25

3rd week in Ordinary Time

Feast

Conversion of Paul, the Apostle

Entrance Antiphon

(2 Tm 1:12;4:8) **I know the one in whom I have believed and I am sure that he, the just judge, the mighty, will keep safe what is my due until that day.**

Apostle Paul, draw us, we pray, nearer to you through the example of him whose conversion we celebrate today, and so make us witnesses to your truth in the world. Through Christ our Lord **Amen.**

The Gloria in excelsis

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

Collect

O God, who taught the whole world through the preaching of the blessed

Reading ————— **(Acts 22:3-16)**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: Paul said to the people [in Jerusalem], “I am a Jew, born at Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as you all are this day. I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, as the high priest and the whole council of elders bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brethren, and I journeyed to Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem

to be punished. “As I made my journey and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ “And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ “And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting.’ “Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me. “And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ “And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ And when I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me,



and came into Damascus. “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And in that very hour I received my sight and saw him. And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Just One and to hear a voice from his mouth; for you will be a witness for him to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptised, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Or:

Reading (Acts 9:1-22)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he journeyed he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed about him. And he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are

persecuting; but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” The men who were travelling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul arose from the ground; and when his eyes were opened, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for a man of Tarsus named Saul; for behold, he is praying, and he has seen a man named

Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon your name.” But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me that you may regain your sight and be



filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptised, and took food and was strengthened. For several days he was with the disciples at Damascus. And in the synagogues immediately he proclaimed Jesus, saying, “He is the Son of God.” And all who heard him were amazed, and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called on this name? And he has come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests.” But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 116 / 117:1.2)***

**R. Go into all the world and
preach the Gospel.**

or: Alleluia.

O praise the Lord, all you nations; acclaim him, all you peoples! **R.**

For his merciful love has prevailed over us; and the Lord's faithfulness endures for ever. **R.**

***Acclamation
(John 15:16)***

Alleluia. Alleluia. I chose you from the world that you should go and bear fruit and

that your fruit should abide,
says the Lord. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(Mark 16:15-18)

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

At that time: [Appearing
to the Eleven,] Jesus said
to them, “Go into all the
world

and preach the Gospel to
the whole creation. He who
believes and is baptised
will be saved; but he who
does not believe will be
condemned. And these
signs will accompany those
who believe: in my name
they will cast out demons;
they will speak in new
tongues; they will pick up
serpents, and if they drink
any deadly thing, it will not

hurt them; they will lay
their hands on the sick, and
they will recover.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

As we celebrate the divine
mysteries, O Lord, we
pray, may the Spirit fill
us with that light of faith
with which he constantly
enlightened the blessed
Apostle Paul for the
spreading of your glory.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

***(Gal 2:20)* I live by faith
in the Son of God who
has loved me and given
himself up for me.**

**Prayer after Communion**

May the Sacrament we have received, O Lord our God, stir up in us that fire of charity with which

the blessed Apostle Paul burned ardently as he bore his concern for all the Churches. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Conversion of Paul**Commentary**

**Acts 22: 3-16 or Acts 9: 1-22/
Ps 117: 1bc. 2/ Mk 16: 15-18**

Paul recounts his story of conversion from a zealous Jew who hated, persecuted, and delivered Christians to Prison. His life-changing experience began when he encountered the risen Jesus and saw a great light and heard a voice speaking to him. This experience left him blind and confused until Ananias, a devout man revealed God's will to him. He changed to a passionate preacher of the good news of Jesus Christ. As Jesus called Paul, He also invites us to proclaim the Word to the whole creation.

Rt. Rev. Gerald Mamman Musa, Katsina, Nigeria



Friday January 26

3rd week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Ss. Timothy and Titus, bishops

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (95) 96: 3-4) **Tell among the nations his glory, and his wonders among all the people: The Lord is great and highly to be praised.**

Collect

O God, who adorned Saints Timothy and Titus with apostolic virtues, grant, through the intercession of them both, that, living justly and devoutly in this present age, we may merit to reach our heavenly

homeland. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen. Amen.**

Reading ————— *(2 Timothy 1:1-8)*

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life which is in Christ Jesus, to Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy and peace from God the father and Christ Jesus our



Lord. I thank God whom I serve with clear conscience, as did my fathers, when I remember you constantly in my prayers. As I remember your tears, I long night and day to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you. For this reason, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control. Do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but take your share of suffering for the Gospel in the power of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

or

Reading (Titus 1:1-5)

Paul a servant of God and an Apostle of Jesus Christ, to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who never lies, promised ages ago and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching in which I have entrusted by command of God our Saviour; to Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our saviour. This is why I left you in Crete, that you might

amend what was defective,
and appoint elders in every
town as I directed you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (95) 96)***

**R. Tell among all the
peoples the wonders of the
Lord.**

O sing a new song to the
Lord Sing to the Lord, all
the earth. O sing to the Lord,
bless his name. R.

Proclaim his salvation
day by day. Tell among the
nations his glory And his
wonders among all the
people. R.

Give the Lord, you families
of peoples Give the Lord,

Glory and power Give the
Lord the glory of his name. R.

Say to the nations, "The
Lord is king. The world he
made firm in its place He
will judge the peoples in
fairness. R.

***Acclamation
(Luke 4)***

Alleluia. Alleluia. The Lord
sent me to bring good news
to the poor and freedom to
prisoners. **Alleluia.**

***Gospel —
(Luke 10:1-9)***

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

At that time: The Lord
appointed seventy others,
and sent them on ahead
of him, two by two, into



every town and place where he himself was about to come. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go your ways; behold I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and salute no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not it shall return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer deserves his wages; not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you;

heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, we pray, the offerings of your people, which we bring in celebration of Saints Timothy and Titus, and in your kindness, render us fully acceptable, by giving us sincerity of heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Mk 16:15; Mt28:20) **Go into all the world, and proclaim the Gospel. I am with you always, says the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

May the Sacrament we have received, O Lord our God, nourish in us that faith taught by the preaching of

the Apostles and kept safe by the labours of Saints Timothy and Titus. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collaboration in Ministry**Commentary**

**2 Timothy 1:1-8 /
Titus 1:1-5 / Luke 10:1-9**

Our society is becoming more individualistic. Its said, "No man is an island." We need one another, we are interdependent. Words like synergy, harmony, and collaboration are commonly used today to express the need for working together. Jesus taught his disciples how to work together. He "...appointed seventy others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come" (Luke 10:1). Jesus teaches us the wisdom of collaboration by sending disciples two by two.

Rt. Rev. Gerald Mamman Musa, Katsina, Nigeria



Saturday January 27

3rd week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: S. Angela Merici, virgin, Optional Memorial

Or: Saturday mass of the BVM

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 95:1.6) **O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.**

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good

works. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(2 Samuel 12:1-7a.10-17)

A reading from the second Book of Samuel

In those days: The Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing

but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his morsel, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared it for the man who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing,

and because he had no pity." Nathan said to David, "You are the man. Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' Thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.'" David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away

your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child that is born to you shall die.” Then Nathan went to his house. And the Lord struck the child that Uriah’s wife bore to David, and it became sick. David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in and lay all night upon the ground. And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground; but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 51:12-13.14-15.16-17 (R. 12a))***

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.*

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.*

Rescue me from bloodshed, O God, God of my salvation, and then my tongue shall ring out your justice. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. *R.*

Acclamation*(John 3:16)*

Alleluia. Alleluia. God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son; that whoever believes in him should have eternal life. **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____
(Mark 4:35-41)**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd, they took him with them, just as he was, in the boat. And other boats were with him. And a great storm of wind arose, and the

waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stem, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" And he awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" And they were filled with awe, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?"
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings



Accept our offerings, O Lord,
we pray, and in sanctify
them grant that they may
profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**I am the light of the
world, says the Lord;
those who follow me will
not walk in darkness, but
will have the light of life.**

Communion Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 33:6) **Look towards
the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be
abashed.**

Or: Jn 8:12

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, receiving the grace by which you bring

us to new life, we may always glory in your gift. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace! Be Still!**Commentary**

2 Sm 12: 1-7a. 10-17/ Ps 51: 12-13. 14-15. 16-17/ Mk 4: 35-41

No one is immune to the storms and troubles of life. The disciples of Jesus were in a state of panic as their boat was tossed up and down in the sea.. They called Jesus who was sleeping and He asked them: "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" He calmed the storm with three words, Peace! Be Still! His intervention shows His power to subdue the forces of nature. When we call on Jesus, he calms our storms, anxieties, restlessness and troubles. How strong is our faith in the eye of a raging storm?

Rt. Rev. Gerald Mamman Musa, Katsina, Nigeria



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