

Weekly LWCA

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2nd Week of Lent

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Living with Christ Feb-March 2024

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2nd Week of Lent

Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: Through prayer we have Christ and through Christ we have eternal life

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Editorial

February 2024



Rev. Fr. Dennis Opoku, Tema Ghana

ALMS-GIVING AND SERVICE

Thanksgiving and service are the two polls of the christian life that lead to a faithful act worship to God. In thanking God, we acknowledge his providence and sovereignty over us. During this season of lent, we need to thank God all the more through prayers, alms-giving, thanksgiving, active service and for sending his Son, Jesus Christ to take our sins and making us clean.

Alms-giving is a basic act of sharing what we have received from God. That is his loving kindness expressed through the giving of Jesus to us.

This week, the liturgy makes us think of God's revelation of Jesus Christ as his beloved Son and also how God loves us. God gave us his all in Jesus (John 3:16). Our appreciation to him is to also give our all to humanity. We need to serve the needs of our brethren. Above all, we need to continue to pray in thanksgiving to God, and listen to Jesus Christ in order to offer a bit fitting service to God. Amen.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

For the terminally ill: We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

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

The Duties of the Ordained Ministers During the Holy Mass

In this article I would like to focus on the duties of the ordained ministers during the Eucharistic celebration. It is important to know that the sacrament of Holy Orders includes the episcopate (bishop), the presbyterate (priest) and the diaconate (deacon). We will put an emphasis on what they all can do before focusing on what is reserved to each one of them.

Only ordained ministers venerate the Altar by kissing it at the beginning of the Holy Mass. Kissing the Altar is a very meaningful sign. The Altar symbolises Christ himself who convokes the Community. Therefore, they need to have to enter into a profound relationship with Him who is the first actor of every liturgical action. Therefore, the kissing of the Altar at the beginning of the holy Mass can be interpreted as a way of acknowledging the presence of Christ in the Community and declaring that nothing can be done without him. At the end of the Mass, the kissing of the Alter is like a thanksgiving

to Christ for all the graces that he has bestowed on the Community.

Ordained ministers are the only ones who recite the Apologies. Apologies are the prayers that the ministers recite quietly. For instance, during the offertory when the priest washes his hands, he recites the following apology quietly: ***Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*** Through the apologies, the ministers recognise their worthlessness before God and ask for a special grace so that they may carry out properly their ministry.

Let us now point out some specific liturgical roles that are linked to these three levels of ordination. It is important to know that a ministry does not suppress another. A bishop is still a priest and a deacon and a priest; a priest is still a deacon. Therefore, whatever a deacon can do in the Eucharistic celebration, a priest and a bishop can do it too.

To the bishop is reserved the ordinations: diaconal ordination, priestly ordination and episcopal ordination. In the case of the episcopal ordination, there is need for

three bishops: the presiding bishop is called *Consecrator* and the other two are *Co-consecrators*. Therefore, a catholic priest cannot ordain. He cannot even be delegated by the bishop. Moreover, ordinary minister of the Sacrament of confirmation is the bishop. But for this sacrament, he can delegate to a priest.

The priest is an ordinary minister of the Holy Eucharist. He celebrates an ordinary Mass. He celebrates all the sacraments except the Holy Orders. In the Eucharistic celebration, the deacon doesn't have anything that is reserved for him as far as the Holy orders are concerned. But when he is present at the celebration of the Eucharist, he has three major roles to play according to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal: a. He assists the priest and walks at his side, b. He ministers at the Altar, both as regards to the chalice and the book (Missal), c. He proclaims the Gospel and may, at the direction of the priest celebrant, give the homily. Generally, at the end of the holy Mass, he is the one dismissing the assembly.

Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. Kombi,
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Sunday February 25

Second Sunday of Lent

*Genesis 22: 1-2. 9a. 10-13. 15-18 / Psalm 116: 10. 15. 16-17. 18-19 /
Romans 8: 31b-34 / Mark 9:2-10*



"This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" (Mark 9:7)



Faith in God and the Divine Nature of Christ

Through the story of Abraham and his readiness to sacrifice his son Isaac we can relate how God tested Abraham's faith. Abraham's act affirms his unwavering obedience and faith in God. The unusual, dramatic act, is a reality that proves his obedience to God. It is proof that God's plans and actions may not always be clear to us, but they are ultimately for our benefit or some greater purpose. When in hardship and we find comfort, God sends us His divine assistance through the help we receive from others, prayer or any other spiritual practices. We should always reflect on the mysterious ways God works in our lives.

St. Paul's letter to the Romans underscores the transformative power of God's love and the assurance of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Paul encourages believers to have sureness in God's unwavering love and to trust in his salvation through the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ his son. Jesus continues to advocate on behalf of believers, reinforcing the security of their salvation.



Sunday February 25

The Gospel of St. Mark discloses the Divine nature of Jesus through His radiant appearance. The presence of Moses and Elijah signifies the continuity between the law and the prophets with Jesus who cements both. God's voice, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him," echoes the unique relationship between Jesus and God and directs the disciples to pay attention to Jesus' teachings.

Lenten season, a period set aside for spiritual preparation through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, encourages a humble and contrite heart. On this second Sunday of Lent, the Church invites us to reflect on the transfiguration of Christ. The disciples had the opportunity to glimpse His glory. This extraordinary experience strengthened their faith and gave them a deeper understanding of Jesus' role in God's plan for salvation. The transfiguration can be translated as the revelation of Jesus' divine glory and a preview of the glory that would be fully revealed in his resurrection (At Easter time).

Rev. Sr. Jecinter Antoinette Okoth, FSSA, Kenya



Entrance Antiphon (*Cf. Ps 27:8-9*)

**Of you my heart has spoken Seek his face It is your face
O Lord that I seek; hide not your face from me.**

Or: Cf. Ps 25:6.2.22

Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress. The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is not said.

Collect

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (Genesis 22: 1-2.9a. 10-13.15-18) —

A reading from the Book of Genesis

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



Sunday February 25

offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order. 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. 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 heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, 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 116:10 and 15 16 17 18 19(R 9))



R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said, "I am sorely afflicted."
 How precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. R.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I,
 the son of your handmaid;
 you have loosened my bonds.
 A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
 I will call on the name of the Lord. R.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people,
 in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O
 Jerusalem. R.



Sunday February 25

Second Reading (Romans 8:31b-34) —————

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brethren: If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Verse Before The Gospel (Matthew 4:16)

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel (Mark 9:2-10) —————

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves; and he was transfigured before them, and his garments became glistening, intensely white, as no



filler on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses; and they were talking to Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” For he did not know what to say, for they were exceedingly afraid. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” And suddenly looking around they no longer saw any one with them but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of man should have risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant.

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

The Creed is said.

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

℟. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the family of God, faithful to Jesus’ call to repent and believe the Good News, we pray to the Lord: ℟.



Sunday February 25

For world leaders, called to govern with justice and compassion, we pray to the Lord: R.

For all who suffer illness, discomfort and pain, we pray to the Lord: R.

For our community, ever striving to be true followers of Jesus, we pray to the Lord: R.

Prayer over the Offerings

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, cleanse us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in body and mind for the celebration of the paschal festivities. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface: The Transfiguration 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 after he had told the disciples of his coming Death, on the holy mountain he manifested to them his glory, to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets, that the Passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection. And so, with the Powers of heaven,



we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

Communion Antiphon (*Mt 17:5*)

This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased, listen to him

Prayer after Communion

As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer over the People

Bless your faithful, we pray, O Lord, with a blessing that endures for ever, and keep them faithful to the Gospel of your Only Begotten Son, so that they may always desire and at last attain that glory whose beauty he showed in his own Body, to the amazement of his Apostles. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Monday February 26

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Entrance Antiphon

(Cf Ps 26:11-12) Redeem me, O Lord, and have mercy on me. My foot stands on level ground: I will bless the Lord in the assembly.

Collect

O God, who have taught us to chasten our bodies for the healing of our souls, enable us, we pray, to abstain from all sins, and strengthen our hearts to carry out your loving commands. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Daniel 9:4b-10)*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and merciful love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and ordinances; we have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our



princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us confusion of face, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those that are near and those that are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery which they have committed against you. To us, O Lord, belongs confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness; because we have rebelled against him, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by following his laws, which he set

before us by his servants the prophets. .

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm 79:8.9.11.13
(R. see Ps103:10a))

R. O Lord, do not treat us according to our sins.

Do not remember against us I the guilt of former times. Let your compassion hasten to meet us; for we have been brought very low. R.

Help us, O God our saviour, for the sake of the glory of your name. Free us and forgive us our sins, because of your name. R.

Let the groans of the prisoners come before you, your strong arm reprieve those condemned to die. R.



Then we, your people, the flock of your pasture, will give you thanks forever and ever. From age to age we will recount your praise. R.

Verse Before The Gospel (*John 6:63c.68c*)
Glory and praise to you, O Christ. Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of eternal life. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel —————
(Luke 6:36-38)
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will

not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept in your goodness these our prayers, O Lord, and set free from worldly attractions those you allow to serve the heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Communion Antiphon

(Lk 6:36) **Be merciful as your Father is merciful, says the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

May this Communion, O Lord, cleanse us of wrongdoing and make us heirs to the joy of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Commentary

When Mercy Reigns

Lk 6: 36-38

The Gospel of Luke underscores a spirit of non-judgment and places a special emphasis on mercy, urging a compassionate and forgiving approach to others. St. Luke reinforces the Golden Rule, encouraging us to treat others as we wish to be treated. Thus, by embodying virtues such as mercy, forgiveness, and non-judgment, we can anticipate receiving similar treatment. This underscores the idea that the generosity we extend to others will be reciprocated to us in abundance.

Rev. Sr. Jecinter Antoinette Okoth, FSSA, Kenya



Tuesday February 27

2nd week of Lent

Ferial

Or: St. Gregory of Narek, *optional memorial*

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf Ps 13:4-5) **Give light to my eyes lest I fall asleep in death; lest my enemy say, I have overcome him.**

Collect

Guard your Church, we pray,
O Lord, in your unceasing
mercy, and since without
you mortal humanity is
sure to fall, may we be kept
by your constant help from
all harm and directed to
all that brings salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading

(Isaiah 1:10.16-20)

**A reading from the Book
of Isaiah**

Hear the word of the
Lord, you rulers of
Sodom! Give ear, to the
teaching of our God, you
people of Gomorrah!
Wash yourselves; make
yourselves clean; remove
the evil of your doings
from before my eyes; cease
to do evil, learn to do
good; seek justice, correct
oppression; defend the
fatherless, plead for the



widow. “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

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

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

“How can you recite my commandments, and take my covenant on your lips, you who despise correction, and cast my words behind you.” R.

“You do this, and should I keep silence? Do you think that I am like you? I accuse you, lay the charge before you. A sacrifice of praise

gives me honour, and to one whose way is blameless, I will show the salvation of God.” R

Verse Before The Gospel *(Ezekiel 18:31)*

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, says the Lord, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel ————— *(Matthew 23:1-12)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes

and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice. They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honour at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, and salutations in the market places, and being called rabbi by men. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth,



for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

O Be pleased to work your sanctification within us by means of these mysteries, O Lord, for by it we are cleansed of earthly faults and led to the gifts of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 9:2-3) **I will recount all your wonders. I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.**

Prayer after Communion

May the refreshment of this sacred table, O Lord, we pray, bring us an increase in devoutness of life and the

constant help of your work of conciliation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Action Other Than Words**Commentary****Matthew 23: 1-12**

The Gospel is clear that our words lack meaning and authenticity unless accompanied by action. No wonder Christ is calling us to practice what we preach. Additionally, St. Mathew is warning us about clinging to earthly leadership and authority but to know that all authority comes from God. When in leadership, let us take it as a privilege and an opportunity from God to serve others in humility. Without his guidance we are nothing.

Rev. Sr. Jecinter Antoinette Okoth, FSSA, Kenya



Wednesday February 28

2nd week of Lent

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 38:22-23) Forsake me not, O Lord! My God, be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

Collect

Keep your family, O Lord, schooled always in good works, and so comfort them with your protection here as to lead them graciously to gifts on high. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Jeremiah 18:18-20)

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah

They said, “Come let us make plots against Jeremiah, for the law shall not perish from the priest nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, let us strike him with the tongue, and let us not heed any of his words.” Give heed to me, O Lord, and listen to my plea.

Is evil a recompense for good? Yet they have dug a pit for my life. Remember how I stood before you to speak good for them, to turn away your wrath from them.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 31:5-6.14.15-16
(R. see 17b)***

R. Save me, O Lord, in your merciful love.

Release me from the snare they have hidden, for you indeed are my refuge. Into your hands I commend my spirit. You

will redeem me, O Lord, O faithful God. **R.**

I have heard the slander of the crowd; tenor all around me, as they plot together against me, as they plan to take my life. **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.**

Verse Before The Gospel
(John 8:12)

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel —————
(Matthew 20:17-28)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.” Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him, with her sons, and kneeling before him she

asked him for something. And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Command that these two sons of mine may sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.” But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the chalice that I am to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.” He said to them, “You will drink my chalice, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.” And when the Ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of

the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave; even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
The Gospel Of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, Lord, on the sacrificial gifts we offer you, and by this holy exchange undo the bonds of our sins.

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

Grant, we pray, O Lord our God, that what you have given us as the pledge of immortality may work

for our eternal salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Humility and Service

Commentary

Mt 20: 17-28

In the Gospel today, Jesus foretells His death and resurrection to His disciples. He speaks of being delivered to the chief priests and scribes, who will ultimately condemn Him to death. The scripture also delves into the importance of humility in serving others rather than seeking to be served. Jesus contends that genuine greatness lies in selfless service, challenging conventional ideas of power and authority. He highlights values like humility and sacrificial service in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Rev. Sr. Jecinter Antoinette Okoth, FSSA, Kenya



Thursday February 29

2nd week of Lent

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 139:23-24) **Test me, O God, and know my thoughts. See that my path is not wicked and lead me in the way everlasting**

Collect

O God, who delight in innocence and restore it, direct the hearts of your servants to yourself, that, caught up in the fire of your Spirit, we may be found steadfast in faith and effective in works. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Jeremiah 17:5-10)

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah

Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his arm, whose heart turns away from the Lord. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water,

that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.” The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt; who can understand it? “I the Lord search the mind and try the heart, to give to every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 1:1-2.3.4 and 6
(Psalm 40:5ab)***

**R. Blessed the man who
has placed his trust in the
Lord.**

Blessed indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the path with sinners, nor abides in the company of scorners, but whose delight is the law of the Lord, and who ponders his law day and night. R.

He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, that yields its fruit in due season, and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that he does shall prosper. R.

Not so are the wicked, not so! For they, like

winnowed chaff, shall be driven away by the wind. For the Lord knows the way of the just, but the way of the wicked will perish. R.

Verse Before The Gospel *(Luke 8:15)*

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. Blessed are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel ————— *(Luke 16:19-31)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said to the Pharisees, "There was a rich man, who was clothed

in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end' of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' "But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in

your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him,

'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'

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

Prayer over the Offerings

By this present sacrifice, we pray, O Lord, sanctify our observance, that what Lenten discipline outwardly declares it may inwardly bring about. Through Christ our Lord.**Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 119:1) **Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

May this sacrifice, O
God, remain active in
its effects and work ever

more strongly within us.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Christ the Superhero**Commentary****Lk 16: 19-31**

The Gospel of St. Luke highlights the contrast between a rich man and a poor, suffering man, emphasizing the importance of sharing resources with the less fortunate. Amid the ongoing Synod on Synodality, the Church urges inclusivity in the journey, encompassing the youth, the poor, the vulnerable, laity, Religious, clergy, and the unheard voices. The Synod advocates for active listening, Holy Spirit guidance, and collective discernment, stressing the need to not overlook the needs of others.

Rev. Sr. Jecinter Antoinette Okoth, FSSA, Kenya



Friday March 1

2nd Week of Lent

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (30) 31:2.5) In you, O Lord,
I put my trust, let me never
be put to shame; release
me from the snare they
have hidden for me, for you
indeed are my refuge.

Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty
God, that, purifying us
by the sacred practice of
penance, you may lead us in
sincerity of heart to attain
the holy things to come.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading

*(Genesis (36) 37:3-4. 12-13a.
17b-28)*

**A reading from the Book of
Genesis**

Israel loved Joseph more
than any other of his chil-
dren, because, he was the
son of his old age; and
he made him a long robe
with sleeves. But when his
brothers saw that their fa-
ther loved him more than
all his brothers, they hated
him, and could not speak
peaceably to him. Now his
brothers went to pasture
their father's flock near
Shechem. And Israel said to
Joseph, "Are not your broth-

ers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him afar off, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild beast has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.” But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood, cast him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand upon him”-that he might rescue him out of

their hand, to restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore, and they took him and cast him into a pit. The pit was empty, there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit it is if we slay our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers heeded him. Then Midianite traders passed by; and

they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver; and they took Joseph to Egypt. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm
(Psalm (104) 105:16-17.18-19.20-21)

R. Remember the wonders the Lord has done.

But he called down a famine of the land; he broke their staff of bread. He had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, sold as a slave. R

His feet were weighed down in chains, his neck was bound with iron, until what he said came to pass, and the word of the Lord proved him true. R

Then the king sent orders and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free. He made him master of his house and ruler of all his possessions. R

Acclamation (John 3:16)

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son; that whoever believes in him should have eternal life. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel —————
(Matthew 21:33-43.45-46)
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to chief priests and the elders of the people, "Hear

another parable. There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterwards he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 'But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance'. And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes,

what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you ever read in the Scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes'? therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. But they tried to arrest him, they feared the multitudes, because they held him to

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

Prayer over the Offerings

May your merciful grace prepare your servants, O God, for the worthy celebration of these mysteries, and lead them to it by a devout way of life.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(1 Jn 4:10) **God loved us, and sent his Son as expiation for our Sins.**

Prayer after Communion

Having received this pledge of eternal salvation, we

pray, O Lord, that we may set our course so well as to attain the redemption you

promise. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God's Providence Amidst Betrayal

Commentary

Mt 21: 33-43, 45-46

The reflection explores the biblical story of Joseph being sold to the Egyptians due to family rivalry, condemning rivalry as an evil act indicative of a lack of love. Joseph's transformation into a savior after betrayal is likened to Jesus, whose temptations and betrayal led to crucifixion and the salvation of humanity. The reflection also references the Gospel of St. Matthew's parable of the Wicked Tenants, highlighting the rejection of God's messengers and suggesting that the kingdom will be given to those who will demonstrate fruitfulness.

Rev. Sr. Jecinter Antoinette Okoth, FSSA, Kenya



Saturday March 2

2nd Week of Lent

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (144) 145:8-9) The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in mercy. How good is the Lord, to all, compassionate to all his creatures.

Collect

O God, who grant us by glorious healing remedies while still on earth, to be partakers to the things of heaven, guide us, we pray, through this present life and bring us to that light in which you dwell. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Micah 7:14-15.18-20)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah

Shepherd your people, [O Lord,] with your staff, the flock of your inheritance, who dwell alone in a forest in the midst of a garden land; let them feed in Bashan, and Gilead as in the days of old. As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt I will show them marvellous things. Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression

for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger for ever because he delights in mercy. He will again have compassion upon us, he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and mercy to Abraham, as you have sworn to our father from the days of old. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (102) 103:1-2.3-4.9-
10.11-12)***

**R. The Lord is
compassionate and
gracious.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits. R.

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with mercy and compassion. R.

He will not always find fault; nor persist in his anger forever. He does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our faults. R.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so strong his mercy for those who fear him. As far the east is from the west, so far from us does he remove our transgressions. R.

Acclamation*(Luke 15:18)*

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel —————*(Luke 15:1-3.11-32)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons; and the

younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and

to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and

make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry. “Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Behold, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when

this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost and is found.’” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Through these sacred gifts, we pray, O Lord, may

our redemption yield its fruits, restraining us from unruly desires and leading us onward to the gifts of salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Lk 15:32) **You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.**

Prayer after Communion

May your divine Sacrament, O Lord, which we have received, fill the inner

depths of our heart and by its working mightily within us, make us partakers of its grace.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Forgiveness as Gateway to Peace

Commentary

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

The parable of the prodigal son in the Gospel of today, illustrates God's boundless mercy and love when a sinner repents. It emphasizes the importance of genuine repentance, as seen in the Prodigal Son's decision to return home, and the father's immediate forgiveness upon his return. This parable highlights the need for compassion and understanding rather than self-righteous judgment. It challenges us to extend forgiveness to others as God has forgiven us and to celebrate when the lost are found.

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