

AFRICA

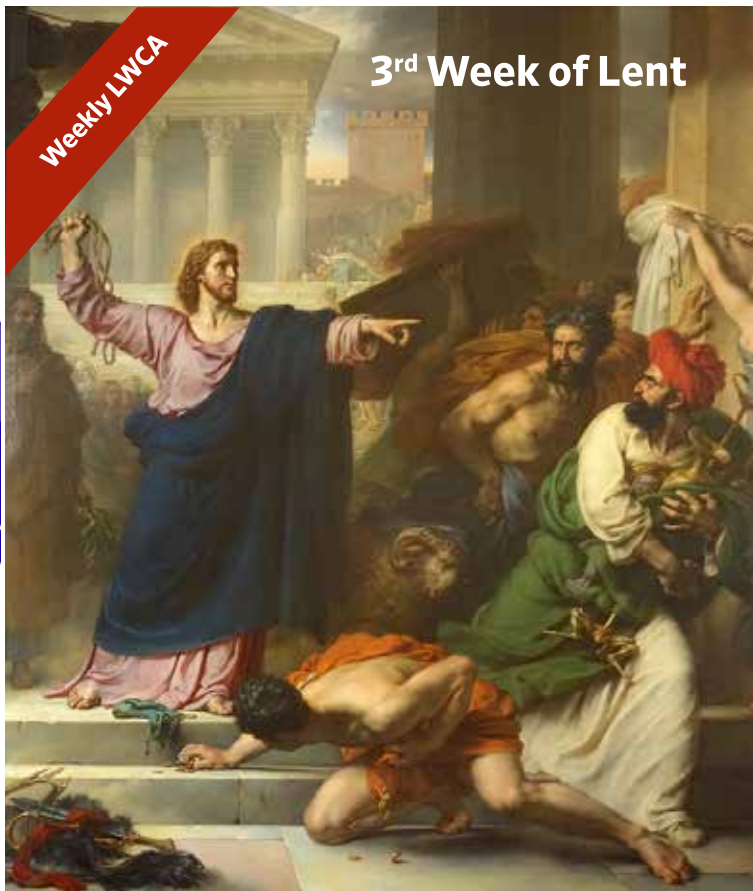
Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

3rd Week of Lent

bayard afrique



AFRICA ● 3 - 9 March 2024 ● Digital n°75

Contents

Living with Christ March 2024

1 Editorial

Praying with the Church

2 Pope's Prayer Intention

3-5 Focus on the Holy Mass

*The Functions of the Instituted
Ministers During the Holy Mass*

Daily Readings and commentaries

6-15 March 3

3rd Sunday of Lent

1st Scrutiny

16-44 March 4-9

3rd Week of Lent

Liturgical texts:

Texts contained in this work
derived whole or in part from Daily
Missal copyrighted by St Paul
Communication/Daughters of St
Paul.

On our cover: Jesus chasing the
Temple merchants

© www.eglisesduconfluent.fr

Editorial

March 2024



Rev. Fr. Walter C. Ihejirika, Nigeria

The Foolishness of God and Human Wisdom

The Cross of Jesus Christ stands at the centre of our Christian faith for it embodies the mission of Christ. However, the logic of the Cross is contrary to the natural order. In the natural order, the powerful exhibit their power and subjugate others under their feet. But on the Cross, the all-powerful God allowed himself to be crucified by mere mortals. For the Jews, this was incomprehensible as they said: ‘come down from the cross and we will believe in him’ (Mt 27:42) In the natural order, the sinner is punished, but on the cross, the judge dies in the place of the condemned. When St Paul told the Greeks that God came down and died, ‘some of them burst out laughing’ (Acts 17:32) As Christians, we are called to model our lives according to the Cross. This may make us look foolish in the eyes of those who live according to the wisdom of the world. It is not easy to be humble when we are powerful. The essence of our Lenten observances is to strengthen our efforts to model our lives on the Cross.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

For the new martyrs: We pray that those who risk their lives for the gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

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

The Functions of the Instituted Ministers During the Holy Mass

The ministries of acolyte and lector (reader) are the two instituted ministries in the Catholic Church. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal specifies the duties of the different ministers in the Eucharistic celebration. After focusing the attention on the duties of the ordained ministers in the previous article, I am now underlining the functions of the acolyte and of the lector (reader).

During the Entrance procession, the acolyte may carry the Cross. It is important to know that the minister who carries the cross walks between two other ministers who carry lighted candles. The one who carries the thurible is in front of everyone.

The various functions of the acolyte are specified by the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (187-193). The acolyte is instituted to serve at the altar and to assist the priest and the deacon. He may be called to carry some duties that can occur at the same moment of the



Focus on the Symbols

Eucharistic celebration. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal proposes that those various duties be distributed among other acolytes and if there is only one acolyte, he will perform the more important duties leaving the other to the other ministers.

Through the entire celebration, the acolyte approaches the priest or the deacon to present the book to them and to assist them in any way or another. That is why he should occupy a place in the sanctuary in order to perform his duties well. In the liturgy of the Eucharist, in the absence of a deacon, the acolyte places the corporal, the purificator, the chalice, the pall and the Missal on the altar. He assists the priest in receiving the gifts and when appropriate, brings the bread and the wine to the altar and brings them to the priest. When incense is used, the acolyte presents the thurible to the priest and assists him when he incenses the offerings, the cross and the altar. It is his duty to incense the priest and the people.

The acolyte distributes the holy communion as an extraordinary minister. In fact, the ordinary ministers of the distribution of the holy communion are the bishop, the

Focus on the Symbols

priest and the deacon. But the help of an acolyte may be needed in some circumstances.

The various duties of the lector are specified by the General Instruction of the roman Missal (194-198). The lector (reader) is instituted to proclaim the readings from the Sacred scriptures, with the exception of the Gospel. He may also announce the intentions for the universal prayer and in the absence of a psalmist, recites the responsorial psalm. It is important to know that the readings are made from the ambo. In the absence of a deacon, the reader may carry the Book of the Gospels during the procession to the altar. If there is no singing during Mass, the lector reads the Entrance Antiphon and the Communion Antiphon.

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



Sunday March 3

3rd Sunday of Lent

*Exodus 20:1-17 (or: Ex 20:1-3.7-8.12-17) / Ps 19:7.8.9.10. 1 /
Cor 1:22-25. / John 2:13-25.*



“Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up” (Jn 2, 13-25)



Jesus, The Sign Per Excellence: Purify Us And Make Us Zealous

The Gospel of today highlights how Jesus finding moneychangers in the temple overturns their tables and expels them. This event is recorded in all four Gospels, however, different from the three Synoptics, John, places it much earlier at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, after his first miracle at the wedding at Cana in Galilee. Moneychangers wasn't something alien in the temple area since worship included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshipers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, and was used to pay for the temple tax. But Jesus is already prefiguring that the temple worship would no longer be necessary because it would be surpassed in the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. After the incidence, the people asked, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done? In response, Jesus predicted His passion, death and Resurrection, the sign par excellence. Lent is a time to reflect upon the meaning of this 'sign' for us, to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. May we experience anew the Paschal Mysteries and its significance in our lives. Jesus cleansed the physical temple, the moneychangers



Sunday March 3

might have been a distraction to other worshippers. We are spiritual temples (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) may we ask the Lord to purify us, to cleanse us from every corruption that is within us, to free us from all that distracts us and re-focus our lives on prayer and God's presence. May this Lent prompt us to cleanse the temple of our own hearts and souls, in order to improve proper worship of God. Another challenge, we need to ask ourselves is: are we consumed with 'zeal' for the Lord's house, zeal for our faith and whatever pertains to God. Christ was zealous in His mission of salvation till the Paschal Mysteries, may we learn from Him during this Lent, the value of remaining zealous in our Christian faith.

Rev. Fr. Franc Mbiu, Tanzania



Entrance Antiphon (*Ps (24) 25:15-16*)

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

The Gloria in excelsis (*Glory to God in the highest*) **is not said**

Collect

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (*Exodus 20:1-17*)

A reading from the Book of Exodus

In those days: God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. “You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the



Sunday March 3

Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing mercy to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it. Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet neighbour's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour's." The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

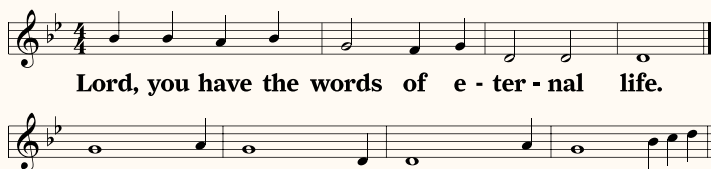
Or Shorter: (Exodus 20:1-3.7-8.12-12)

A reading from the Book of Exodus



In those days: God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. “You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour’s house; you shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour’s.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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





Sunday March 3

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.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 1:22-25) —————
**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the
Corinthians**

Brethren: Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,
but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews
and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both



Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be God.**

Acclamation (*John 3:16*)

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

Gospel (*John 2:13-25*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers at their business. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all, with the sheep and oxen, out of the temple; and he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; you shall not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign have you to show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple,



Sunday March 3

and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he spoke of the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken. Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs which he did; but Jesus did not trust himself to them, because he knew all men and needed no one to bear witness of man; for he himself knew what was in man. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For Church leaders who teach with the wisdom, courage and zeal that come from the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord: **R.**

For peaceful discernment in the hearts of those called to positions of leadership, we pray to the Lord: **R.**

Sunday March 3

For all who desire freedom from oppression in their lives, we pray to the Lord: R.

For ourselves, called to live the message of Jesus, we pray to the Lord: R.

Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon (*Ps (83) 84:4-5*)

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Prayer after Communion

As we received the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven, and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Monday March 4

3rd Week of Lent

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (83) 84:3) My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh cry out to the living God.

Collect

May your unfailing compassion, O Lord, cleanse and protect your Church, and since without you she cannot stand secure, may she be always governed by your grace. Through Christ our Lord... **Amen.**

Reading

(2 Kings 5:1-15a)

A reading from the second Book of Kings

In those days: Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favour, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valour, but he was a leper. Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little maid from the land of Israel, and she waited on Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "Would



that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.” So Naaman went in and told his lord, “Thus and so spoke the maiden from the land of Israel.” And the king of Syria said, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten festal garments. And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, “When this letter reaches you know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy.” And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to kill and to

make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me.” But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel.” So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the door of Elisha’s house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” But Naaman was angry, and went away,



Monday March 4

saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharper, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, if the prophet had commanded you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much rather, then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh

was restored like the flesh of little child, and he was clean. Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him; and he said, “Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm ⁽⁴¹⁾ 42: 2.3; 43: 3.4)

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

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

My soul is thirsting for God, the living God; when



can I enter and appear before the face of God? R.

O send forth your light and your truth; they will guide you 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.

Acclamation (*Ps (129) 130:5.7*)

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. I wait for the Lord, and in his word I hope; with him is mercy and plenteous redemption. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel —————
(*Luke 4:24-30*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: When Jesus had come to Nazareth, he said to the people in the synagogue, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his own country. But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when there came a great famine over all the land; and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha; and none



Monday March 4

of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian. When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. And they rose up and put him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw him down headlong. But passing through the midst of them he went away. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

May what we offer you, O Lord, in token of our service, be transformed by you into the sacrament of salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (116) 117:1.2) **O praise the Lord, all you nations, for his merciful love towards us is great.**

Prayer after Communion

May communion in this
your Sacrament, we pray,
O Lord, bring with it

purification and the unity
that is your gift. Through
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Familiarity Brings Contempt

Commentary

John 4: 5-42

Jesus inaugurates His ministry in a synagogue in Nazareth. People were amazed by his eloquence. 'Where did He get it all?' Unfortunately, they didn't believe in Him. The fact that they 'knew' Him, blinded them to His true identity, as the Messiah. To them, he was just 'the carpenter's son.' We too can very easily fail to recognize the voice of God in certain people who in fact, are bearers of the Good News. May we pray for the grace to see, hear and witness Christ in the people we meet daily.

Rev. Fr. Franc Mbiu, Tanzania



Tuesday March 5

3rd Week of Lent

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 17:6.8) **To you I call, for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.**

Collect

May your grace not forsake us, O Lord, we pray, but make us dedicated to your holy service and at all times obtain for us your help. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Daniel 3:2.11-20)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

In those days: Azariah stood and offered this prayer; in the midst of the fire he opened his mouth and said: “For your name’s sake do not give us up utterly, and do not break your covenant, and do not withdraw your mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham your beloved and for the sake of Isaac your servant and Israel your holy one, to whom you promised to make their descendants as



many as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the shore of the sea. For we, O Lord, have become fewer than any nation, and are brought low this day in all the world because of our sins. And at this time there is no prince, or prophet, or leader, no burnt offering, or sacrifice, or oblation, or incense, no place to make an offering before you or to find mercy. Yet with a contrite heart and a humble spirit may we be accepted, as though it were with burnt offerings of rams and bulls, and with tens of thousands of fat lambs; such may our sacrifice be in your sight this day, and may we wholly follow you, for there will be no shame for those who trust in you. And now with all our heart we

follow you, we fear you and seek your face. Do not put us to shame, but deal with us in your forbearance and in your abundant mercy. Deliver us in accordance with your marvellous works, and give glory to your name, O Lord!" The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽²⁴⁾ 25:4-5ab. 6 and
7cd.8-9)***

**R. Remember your
compassion, O Lord.**

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, 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.*

Acclamation (*Joel 2:12-13*)

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, for I am gracious and merciful. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ**

Gospel —————
(*Matthew 18: 21-35*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had,

and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will; pay you everything.' "And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' "He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord

summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that this saving sacrifice may cleanse us of our faults and become an oblation pleasing to your almighty power. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Cf. Ps (14) 15:1-2) **Lord, who may abide in your tent, and dwell on your holy mountain? Whoever walks without fault and does what is just.**

Prayer after Communion

May the holy partaking of this mystery give us life, O Lord, we pray, and grant us both pardon and protection. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Mercy Not Math**Commentary****Matthew 18: 21-35**

In the Gospel we see a link between God's mercy and our forgiveness. Peter asks how many times he should forgive. He even proposes, 'seven times.' However, Jesus differs, 'seventy seven times.' This implies that mercy is limitless. This is exactly the way God acts towards us. Imagine, you had only seven chances of being forgiven our sins in our lifetime, and at confession the priest says to you, 'sorry you have exhausted your quota.' Let us pray for the grace to act on the same basis with other people.

Rev. Fr. Franc Mbiu, Tanzania



Wednesday March 6

3rd Week of Lent

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (118) 119:133) Let my steps
be guided by your promise;
may evil never rule me.

Collect

Grant, we pray; O Lord,
that, schooled through
Lenten observance and
nourished by your word,
through holy restraint we
may be devoted to you
with all our heart and
be ever united in prayer.
Through Christ our Lord...
Amen.

Reading

(Deuteronomy 4:1.5-9)

A reading from the Book
of Deuteronomy

Moses spoke to the people,
saying, "And now, O Israel,
give heed to the statutes
and the ordinances which
I teach you, and do them;
that you may live, and go in
and take possession of the
land which the Lord, the
God of your fathers, gives
you. Behold, I have taught
you statutes and ordinances,
as the Lord my God
commanded me, that you
should do them in the land
which you are entering to

take possession of it. Keep them and do them; for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and ordinances so righteous as all this law which I set before you this day? “Only take heed, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all days of your life; make them known to your children and your

children’s children.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 147:12-13.15-
16.19-20)***

R. O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord!

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord!
O Sion, praise you God! He has strengthened the bars of your gates; he has blessed your children within you. R.

He sends out his word to the earth, and swiftly runs his command. He showers down snow like wool; he scatters hoarfrost like ashes. R.

He reveals his word to Jacob; to Israel, his decrees and judgments. He has not dealt

thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his
judgments. R

Acclamation (*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 —————
(*Matthew 5:17-19*)

**A reading from the holy
Gospel according to Mat-
thew**

At that time: Jesus said to
his disciples, "Do not think
that I have come to abolish
the law and the prophets;
I have come not to abolish
them but to fulfil them.
For truly, I say to you, till

heaven and earth pass away;
not an iota, not a dot, will
pass from the law until all
is accomplished. Whoever
then relaxes one of the least
of these commandments
and teaches men so, shall be
called least in the kingdom
of heaven; but he who does
them and teaches them shall
be called in the kingdom of
heaven." The Gospel of the
Lord. **Praise to you, Lord
Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, we pray,
the prayers of your people
along with these sacrificial
offerings, and defend
those who celebrate your
mysteries from every kind
of danger. Through Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (15) 16:11) **You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord. for they shall have their fill.**

Prayer after Communion

May the heavenly banquet at which we have been fed, sanctify us, O Lord, and, cleansing us of all errors, make us worthy of your promises from on high. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Love, And Do As You Wish**Commentary****Mt 5: 17-19**

In the Gospel, Jesus clarifies His mission, 'I have not come to abolish the law or the prophets but to fulfill them.' For Jesus, it is not enough to follow the laws. The Pharisees and Scribes had perfect observance of the Law focused on external observance. True observance must be in the heart and mind. Lenten season encourages us to do 'penitential acts,' but these acts only have meaning if they deepen our relationship with God. In all things, our guiding principle must be the law of love.

Rev. Fr. Franc Mbiu, Tanzania



Thursday March 7

3rd Week of Lent

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. In whatever tribulation they will call out to me, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Collect

We implore your majesty most humbly, O Lord, that as the feast of our salvation draws ever closer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly towards the worthy celebration of the paschal mystery. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— (Jeremiah 7:23-28)

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah

Thus says the Lord: “This command I gave my people, ‘Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people; and walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.’ But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went back and not forward. From the day that your fathers came

out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day, yet they did not listen to me, or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers. “So you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to them. You shall call to them, but they will not answer you. And you shall say to them, “This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the Lord their God, and did not accept discipline; truth has perished; it is cut off from their lips.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (94) 95:
1-2.6-7abc.7d-9)

R. O that today! You would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Come, let us ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come into his presence, giving thanks; let us hail him with a song of praise. R.

O come; let us bow and bend low. Let us kneel before the God who made us, for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. R.

O that today you will listen to his voice! “Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at

Massah in the desert when your forebears put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.” R.

Acclamation (*Joel 2:12-13*)

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, for I am gracious and merciful.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel —————
(*Luke 11:14-23*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus was casting out a demon that was mute; when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke and the people

marvelled. But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons”; while others, to test him, sought from him a sign from heaven. But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and house falls upon house. And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But If it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his

goods are in peace; but when one stronger than he assails him overcomes him, he takes away his armour in which he trusted, and divides his spoil. He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Cleanse your people, Lord, we pray, from every taint of wickedness, that their gifts may be pleasing to you;

and do not let them cling to false joys, for you promise them the rewards of your truth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (118) 119:4-5) **You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.**

Prayer after Communion

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this Sacrament, that we

may come to possess your salvation both in mystery and in the manner of our

life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let Go Of Any Form Of Negative Prejudices

Commentary

Luke 11: 14-23

In today's Gospel, we are urged to listen attentively to God speaking to us and to see clearly God working miracles in our lives. We should not be blinded by negative prejudices. They may prevent us from recognizing the signs and wonders of God, working through ordinary people and every day experiences. At times, due to pride, we ignore people and events, yet God is communicating to us through them. God can and does use any channel to reach us, be it saints or sinners.

Rev. Fr. Franc Mbiu, Tanzania



Friday March 8

3rd Week of Lent

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (85) 86:8.10) **Among the gods there is none like you O Lord, for you are great and do marvellous deeds; you are alone God.**

Collect

Pour your grace into our hearts, we pray, O Lord, that we may be constantly drawn away from unruly desires and obey by your own gift the heavenly teaching you give us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Hosea 14:1-9)*

A reading from the Book of Prophet Hosea

Thus says the Lord: Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take with you words and return to the Lord; say to him, “Take away all iniquity; accept that which is good and we will render the fruit of our lips. Assyria shall not save us, we will not ride upon horses; and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’ to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy.”

I will heal their faithfulness;
I will love them freely, for
my anger has turned from
them. I will be as the dew
to Israel; he shall blossom as
the lily, he shall strike root
as the poplar, his shoots
shall spread out; his beauty
shall be like the olive and
his fragrance like Lebanon.
They shall return and dwell
beneath my shadow, they
shall flourish as a garden;
they shall blossom as the
vine, their fragrance shall be
like the wine of Lebanon O
Ephraim, what have I to do
with idols? It is I who answer
and look after you. I am
like an evergreen cypress,
from me comes your fruit.
Whoever is wise, let him
understand these things;
whoever is discerning, let
him know them; for the
ways of the Lord are right,

and the upright walk in
them, but transgressors
stumble in them. The word
of the Lord. **Thanks be to
God.**

Responsorial Psalm
(Psalm (80) 81:6c-8a.8bc-9.
10-11ab.14 and 17)

**R. I am the Lord your God:
listen to my voice.**

A voice I did not know said
to me: "I freed your shoulder
from the burden; your hands
were freed from the builder's
basket. You called in distress
and I delivered you." R.
"I answered, concealed in
the thunder; at the waters of
Meribah I tested you. Listen,
my people, as I warn you.
O Israel, if only you would
heed!" R.

“Let there be no strange god among you, nor shall you worship a foreign god. I am the Lord your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt. *R*”

“O that my people would heed me, that Israel would walk in my ways! But Israel I would feed with finest wheat, and satisfy with honey from the rock. *R*”

Acclamation
(Matthew 4:17)

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel —————
(Mark 12:28b-34)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: One of the scribes came up to Jesus and asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said

that he is one, and there is no other but he; and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbour as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any question. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, we pray, Lord, on the offerings we dedicate, that they may be pleasing in your sight and always be salutary for us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Mk 12:33) **To love God with all your heart, and your neighbour as yourself, is worth more than any sacrifice.**

Prayer after Communion

May your strength be at work in us, O Lord, pervading our minds and bodies, that what we have

received by participating in this Sacrament, may bring us the fullness of redemption. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Love: The Driving Force**Commentary****Mark 12: 28-34**

Today Jesus, summarizes the entire law, under the umbrella of love. Love is the greatest commandment of all. Love should be the driving force in everything we do. When we truly love God, we are ready to sacrifice anything that may harm our relationship with Him, when we truly love others, we detest selfishness, envy, hatred, jealousy. May love for myself, for my neighbour and for God be brought into a better balance this Lent.

Rev. Fr. Franc Mbiu, Tanzania



Saturday March 9

3rd Week of Lent

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (102) 103:2-3) **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits; it is he who forgives all your sins.**

Collect

Rejoicing in this annual celebration of our Lenten observance, we pray, O Lord, that with our hearts set on the paschal mysteries, we may be gladdened by their full effects. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Hosea 6:1-6)*

A reading from the Book of Prophet Hosea

“Come, let us return to the Lord, for he has torn, that he may heal us; he has stricken, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his going forth is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”
What shall I do with you,

O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgement goes forth as the light. For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God, rather than burnt offerings. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽⁵⁰⁾ 51:3-4.18-19.20-21ab)

R. I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.

Have mercy on me,
O God, according to
your merciful love;

according to your great
compassion, blot out
my transgressions. Wash
me completely from my
iniquity, and cleanse me
from my sin. *R.*

For in sacrifice you take
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.*

In your good pleasure,
show favour to Sion;
rebuild the walls of
Jerusalem. Then you will
delight in right sacrifice,
burnt offerings wholly
consumed. *R.*

Acclamation
(Psalm ⁽⁹⁴⁾ 95:7d.8a)

**Glory and praise to you,
O Christ.** Today, harden
not your hearts, but listen

to the voice of the Lord.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel —————
(Luke 18:9-14)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.’ “But the

tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, by whose grace it comes to pass that we may approach your mysteries with minds made pure, grant, we pray, that in reverently handing them on, we may offer you fitting homage. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Lk 18:13) **The tax collector stood at a distance, beating his breast and saying: O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.**

Prayer after Communion

May we truly revere, O merciful God, these holy gifts by which you ceaselessly nourish us, and may we always partake of them with abundant faith in our heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Humility: A Measurement Against The Greatness Of God

Commentary

Luke 18: 9-14

I once read an article titled, 'How to be Miserable.' It says: 'Think about yourself. Talk about yourself. Use 'I' as often as possible.' In today's Gospel, the Pharisee is miserable, proud and egoist. On the other hand, the tax collector is a model of humility. Humility comes from measuring ourselves against the greatness of God. St. Augustine insists that there are three virtues that are essential for holiness or perfection: humility, humility, and humility. May we strive for humility during this Lent.

Rev. Fr. Franc Mbiu, Tanzania



Publisher: Cédric BLOQUET
Publishing & Development Manager
Editor in Chief: Rev. Fr. Jean-Paul Sagadou a.a.
Assistant: Virginia Kabugu
Graphic designer: Naomi SAWADOGO

Ghana Coordinator: Rev. Fr. Dennis OPOKU;
Associate Publishers: Fr. Walter Ihejirika, Regional Coordinator, LWC
Nigeria,
Other **Contributors:**
Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. KOMBI, Rev. Fr. Franc MBIU

Digital

ISSN: 2424-7464 ; **Contact:** Living With Christ
Rue E104, Lot 1076 Ilot 116 - Cocody Riviera 3 Abidjan , Côte d'Ivoire
Address: P.O. BOX 08 BP 2469 Abidjan 08 -
Phone number : (+225) 25 22 02 11 11 -
E-mail: info@livingwithchrist-africa.com





WhatsApp : **+225 05 94 79 75 68 / +254727074304**



Website : **[https:// www.livingwithchrist.africa](https://www.livingwithchrist.africa)**



Facebook : **Living with Christ Africa**



Tiktok



YouTube

Growing up Daily with the Good News