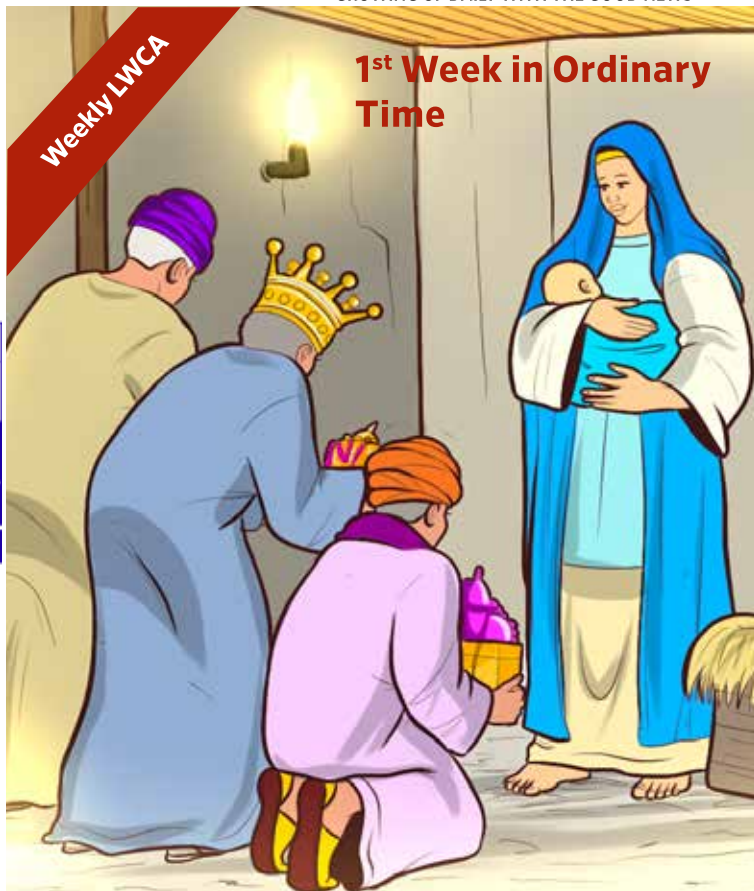


Weekly LWCA

**1st Week in Ordinary
Time**

bayard africain



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On our cover: Epiphany of the Lord

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Editorial

January 2024



Rev. Fr. Walter C. Ihejirika, Nigeria

Manifestation of Jesus the Messiah

The liturgical celebrations of the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord manifest the divinity of Jesus Christ and his mission as the Messiah of the world. The wise men (Magi) from the East (Mt 2:1-12) represent the neighbouring pagan religions, who welcome the Good News of salvation through the Incarnation. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Saviour of the world. (CCC 211-213) Just like in the Epiphany, the Baptism of Jesus (Mt 3:13-17) was another important occasion for his manifestation as the only begotten Son of God. As the preface to the liturgy makes clear, through the voice that came down from heaven, we come to believe in the Word of God dwelling among us. Again, through the Spirit's descending in the likeness of a dove, we know that Christ has been anointed with the oil of gladness and sent to bring the goodness to the poor.

Through our baptism in the Lord, we become adopted children of God, co-heirs with Christ to the Kingdom of God.



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 7

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, Solemnity

Isaiah 60: 1-6 / Psalm 72: 1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13 / Ephesians 3: 2-3a. 5-6 / Matthew 2: 1-12



“... they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was”
(Matthew 2:9)



Lead People to Christ

The word epiphany means to reveal, appearance or manifestation. The Feast of Epiphany marks four events in the Church: the Baptism of the Lord, the miracle at Cana, the Nativity of Christ and the visit of the three Wise men. These events are revelations and manifestations of the Person of Christ to us, humans. From these events we gain a deeper knowledge of God and by knowing Him, we can better love God.

In today's Gospel, we hear the story of the visit of the Magi to Christ, the new born King. At this event the divinity of Christ is revealed to the Gentiles. What does this entail? Christ came for all people of all nations and for both the sinners and the righteous.

We are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” 1 Pet. 2:9. Christ by this feast scattered all that divide us and brought us together as one. We are enjoined to detangle ourselves from all forms of racism, ethnicism, tribalism, religious differences and every factor



Sunday January 7

that bring about division in our world. We are called to be harbingers of peace, unity and togetherness in our families, communities and the world. People and nations engage in war and innocent lives are lost. Where is the peace, reconciliation, forgiveness and love that Christ taught us? Let us be light of the world and salt of the earth and the star that will lead people to Christ by our way of life. Today, the star led the Magi to Jesus. And very notable, the Wise men were alert to recognize the star and to follow in obedience to reach their destination. May we in obedience to Christ, be aware of God's daily action in our lives and decipher what He desires of us and which path He wants us to tread. In so doing, may we reach our destination in heaven after this journey of earthly life.

Rev. Sr. Clare Emeruom, HVM, Nigeria



Entrance Antiphon (*Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12*)

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

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

Collect

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy, that we who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (*Isaiah 60:1-6*)

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

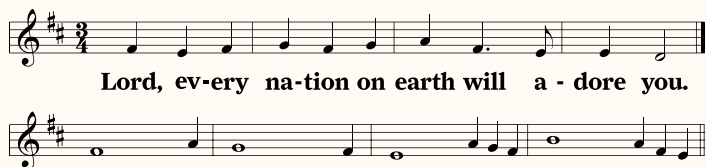
Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall walk by your light, and kings in the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be carried in the arms.



Sunday January 7

Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frank incense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —————
(Psalm 72:1-2.7-8.10-11.12-13 (R. cf. 11))



R. All nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice, and your poor in right judgement. **R.**



In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth. R.

The kings of Tarshish and the islands I shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba / shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. R.

For he shall save the needy when they cry,
the poor, and those who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,
and save the lives of the needy. R.

Second Reading (Ephesians 3 :2-3a.5-6)—————

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brethren: I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that is, how the Gen tiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Sunday January 7

Acclamation (*Matthew 2:2*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. We have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship the Lord. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*Matthew 2:1-12*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the Wise Men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest



over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. 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 Church, light of the nations, witness to the gospel of Christ Jesus, we pray to the Lord: **℟.**

For the members of all faith communities working in mutual respect and acceptance, we pray to the Lord: **℟.**

For those who seek food at our table and a place in our community, we pray to the Lord: **℟.**



Sunday January 7

For ourselves, God's people, yearning to follow the Light of Christ, we pray to the Lord: *R.*

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your Church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon (*Cf. Mt 2:2*)

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and every where, that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which you have willed us to participate. Through Christ our Lord. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Monday January 8

1st Week In Ordinary Time

Feast

Baptism of the Lord,

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf Mt 3:16-17) **After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

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

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who when Christ had been baptised in the River

Jordan, and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Or:

O God, whose Only Begotten Son has appeared in our very flesh, grant, we pray, that we may be inwardly transformed through him whom we



recognise as outwardly like ourselves. Who lives and reigns with you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading —————
(Isaiah 55:1-11)

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: “Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and

come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, merciful love for David. Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Behold, you shall call nations that you know not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.” “Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your



thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I intend, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm——
(Isaiah 12:2-3.4bcd.5-6
(R. 3))

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

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

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

Sing praises to the Lord for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,



for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.” R.

Second Reading —————
(1 John 5:1-9)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved Every one who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God and every one who loves the parent loves the one begotten by him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and

this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the witness, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree. If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has borne witness to his Son.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Acclamation (*Cf. John 1:29*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. John saw Jesus coming towards him and said: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ————— (*Mark 1:7-11*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: John preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.” In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And when he

came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him, who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface of the Baptism 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. For in the waters of the Jordan you revealed with signs and wonders a new Baptism, so that through the voice that came down from heaven we might come to believe in your Word's dwelling among us, and by the Spirit's descending in the likeness of a dove we might know that Christ

your Servant has been anointed with the oil of gladness and sent to bring the good news to the poor. And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth and before your majesty without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 1:32.34) **Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.**

Prayer after Communion

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to

your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Commentary

Live as Jesus Lived

Is 55: 1-11 (or 1 Jn 5: 1-9) Ps 12: 2-3. 4bcd. 5-6 / Mk 1: 7-11

Jesus is the fullness of revelation. This is manifested in the event of the Baptism of the Lord. God is pleased with His Son. Jesus lived in total obedience to the Father's will. How are we living our own lives? Is God pleased with us? Jesus came to show us an example to follow. May we look up to Him as our only model. Through the scriptures we see how Jesus lived and how He handled different situations of life, may we find time to pray with the scriptures and learn how to live as Jesus lived.

Rev. Sr. Clare Emeruom, HVM, Nigeria



Tuesday January 9

1st Week In Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Upon a lofty throne, I
saw a man seated, whom
a host of angels adore,
singing in unison: Behold
him, the name of whose
empire is eternal.

Collect

Attend to the pleas of your
people with heavenly care,
O Lord, we pray, that they
may see what must be
done, and gain strength to
do what they have seen.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading

(1 Samuel 1:9-20)

**A reading from the first
Book of Samuel**

In those days: After they
had eaten and drunk in
Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now
Eli the priest was sitting on
the seat beside the doorpost
of the temple of the Lord.
She was deeply distressed
and prayed to the Lord,
and wept bitterly. And she
vowed a vow and said, "O
Lord of hosts, if you will
indeed look on the affliction
of your maidservant, and
remember me, and not
forget your maidservant,
but will give to your



maidservant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.” As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard; therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. And Eli said to her, “How long will you be drunken? Put away your wine from you.” But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman sorely troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. Do not regard your maidservant as a base woman, for all along I have been speaking

out of my great anxiety and vexation.” Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have made to him.” And she said, “Let your maidservant find favour in your eyes.” Then the woman went her way and ate, and her countenance was no longer sad. They rose early in the morning and worshipped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her; and in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the Lord.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(1 Samuel 2:1.4-5.6-7.
Sabcd (R. see 1a))***

**R. My heart exults in the
Lord, my Saviour.**

My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in the Lord. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. R.

The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. R.

The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises

up. The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. R.

He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the dung heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honour. R.

***Acclamation (See 1
Thessalonians 2:13)***

Alleluia. Alleluia. Accept the word of God not as the word of men but as what it really is the word of God. **Alleluia.**

***Gospel —
(Mark 1:21b-28)***

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

[In the city of Capernaum,]
Jesus entered the
synagogue on the sabbath

and taught. And they were astonished at his teaching for he taught them as one who had authority and not as the scribes. And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit and he cried out, "What have you to do with us Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching! With authority he commands even the unclean spirits,

and they obey him." And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

May your people's oblation, O Lord, find favor with you, we pray, that it may restore them to holiness and obtain what they devoutly entreat. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 36:10) **With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your light we see light.**

Or: Jn 10:10

I have come that they may have life, and have it

more abundantly, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Humbly we ask you, almighty God, be graciously

pleased to grant that those you renew with your Sacraments may also serve with lives pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Proclaim the Truth with Conviction

Commentary

**1 Sm 1: 9-20/ 1 Sm 2: 1.
4-5.6-7. 8abcd/ Mk 1: 21b-28**

Jesus' teaching made deep impression on the people because He taught with authority. Teaching with authority entails being convinced with what is taught. That means it is the truth. Jesus showed us the way, taught us the truth and gave us life. As baptized Christians, we are priests, prophets and kings, thus, commissioned to deeply believe in the Deposit of Faith handed down to us and to teach, proclaim and witness to this truth with conviction and without fear even in the face of persecutions.

Rev. Sr. Clare Emeruom, HVM, Nigeria



Wednesday January 10

1st Week In Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Upon a lofty throne, I saw
a man seated, whom a host
of angels adore, singing in
unison: Behold him, the
name of whose empire is
eternal.

Collect

Attend to the pleas of your
people with heavenly care,
O Lord, we pray, that they
may see what must be
done, and gain strength to
do what they have seen.
Through Christ our Lord
Amen.

Reading

(1 Samuel 3:1-10.19-20)

A reading from the first
Book of Samuel

In those days: The boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim, so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down within the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called,

“Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. And the Lord called again, “Samuel!” And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the

boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord came and stood forth; calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.” And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 40:2 and 5.7-8a.
Sb-9.10 (R. see 8a.9a))

**R. See, I have come, Lord,
 to do your will.**

I waited, I waited for the
 LORD, and he stooped
 down to me; / he heard my
 cry. R

Blessed the man who has
 placed / his trust in the Lord,
 and has not gone over to
 the proud / who follow false
 gods. R

You delight not in sacrifice
 and offerings, but in an
 open ear You do not ask for
 / holocaust and victim. Then
 I said, "See, I have come." R

In the scroll of the book
 it stands written of me: "I
 delight to do your will, O

my God; your instruction
 lies deep within me." R

Your justice I have
 proclaimed / in the great
 assembly. My lips I have
 not sealed; I you know it, O
 Lord. R

Acclamation (John
10:27)

Alleluia. Alleluia. My
 sheep hear my voice, says
 the Lord; and I know
 them, and they follow me.
Alleluia.

Gospel —
(Mark 1:29-39)

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

At that time: Jesus left the
 synagogue, and entered the
 house of Simon and Andrew,
 with James and John. Now
 Simon's mother-in-law

lay sick with a fever, and immediately they told him of her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her; and she served them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered together about the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. And in the morning, a great while before day, he rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him followed him, and they found him and said to him, "Every one is searching for you." And

he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also; for that is why I came out." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

May your people's oblation, O Lord, find favor with you, we pray, that it may restore them to holiness and obtain what they devoutly entreat. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 36:10) **With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your light we see light.**



Or: Jn 10:10

I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Humbly we ask you, almighty God, be graciously pleased to grant that those you renew with your Sacraments may also serve with lives pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Be Focused on God's Purpose for you

Commentary

**1 Sm 3: 1-10. 19-20/ Ps 40: 2
and 5. 7-8a. 8b-9. 10/ Mk**

Jesus knew His mission and was focused on executing it to the fullest. God calls us for different purposes and gives us a mission to accomplish for Him. Sometimes we don't recognize God's mission for us. We go about carrying out our own mission, rather than the mission of God. May God open the eyes of our minds to understand His purpose and mission for us and be focused to accomplish it for our own justification and to the glory of His name.

Rev. Sr. Clare Emeruom, HVM, Nigeria





Thursday January 11

1st Week In Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Upon a lofty throne, I saw
a man seated, whom a host
of angels adore, singing in
unison: Behold him, the
name of whose empire is
eternal.

Collect

Attend to the pleas of your
people with heavenly care,
O Lord, we pray, that they
may see what must be
done, and gain strength to
do what they have seen.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading ————— (1 Samuel 4:1-11)

**A reading from the first
Book of Samuel**

It happened that in those days Israel went out to battle against the Philistines; they encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek. The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who slew about four thousand men on the field of battle. And when the troops came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the Lord put

us to rout today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord here from Shiloh, that he may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.” So the people sent to Shiloh, and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. When the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, “What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?” And

when they learned that the ark of the Lord had come to the camp, the Philistines were afraid; for they said, “A god has come into the camp.” And they said, “Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the Wilderness. Take courage, and acquit yourselves like men, O Philistines, lest you become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; acquit yourselves like men and fight.” So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home; and there was a very great

slaughter, for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. And the ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽⁴³⁾ 44:10.11.14-15.24-25 (R. 2Th)

R. Redeem us, O Lord, with your merciful love!

Yet now you have rejected us, disgraced us; you no longer go forth with our armies. You make us retreat from the foe; those who hate us plunder us at will. *R.*

You make us the taunt of our neighbours, the mockery and scorn of those around us. Among

the nations you make us a byword; among the peoples they shake their heads. *R.*

Awake, O Lord! Why do you sleep? Arise! Do not reject us forever. Why do you hide your face, and forget our oppression and misery? *R.*

Acclamation (Matthew 4:23)

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

Gospel —
(Mark 1:40-45)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: A leper came to Jesus begging him, and

kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, “I will; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. And he sternly charged him, and sent him away at once, and said to him, “See that you say nothing to any one; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to the people.” But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter. The Gospel

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

Prayer over the Offerings

May your people’s oblation, O Lord, find favor with you, we pray, that it may restore them to holiness and obtain what they devoutly entreat. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 36:10) **With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your light we see light.**

Or: Jn 10:10

I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Humbly we ask you,
almighty God, be
graciously pleased to grant
that those you renew with
your Sacraments may also

serve with lives pleasing
to you. Through Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

**Always
Be Grateful**

Commentary

**1 Samuel 4: 1-11/ Psalm 44: 10-
11. 14-15. 24-25/ Mark 1: 40-45**

Do you keep quiet when you receive an unexpected favour from someone? That is the story of the leper who never expected to be cured of his leprosy, thus, was overjoyed to be made clean and went about telling of God's goodness. We experience miracles from God each day – the air we breathe, waking up alive and different provisions we receive. Let us not take these for granted, but always express our gratitude to God and proclaim His goodness to all we meet.

Rev. Sr. Clare Emeruom, HVM, Nigeria



Friday January 12

1st Week In Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Upon a lofty throne, I saw
a man seated, whom a host
of angels adore, singing in
unison: Behold him, the
name of whose empire is
eternal.

Collect

Attend to the pleas of your
people with heavenly care,
O Lord, we pray, that they
may see what must be
done, and gain strength to
do what they have seen.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading

(1 Samuel 8:4-7.10-22a)

A reading from the first
Book of Samuel

In those days: All the elders
of Israel gathered together
and came to Samuel at
Ramah, and said to him,
“Behold, you are old and
your Sons do not walk in
your ways; now appoint for
us a king to govern us like all
the nations.” But the thing
displeased Samuel when
they said, “Give us a king
to govern us.” And Samuel
prayed to the Lord. And the
Lord said to Samuel, “Listen
to the voice of the people in
all that they say to you; for

they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.” So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking a king from him. He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plough his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and

olive orchards and give them to his servants. He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. He will take your menservants and maidservants, and the best of your cattle and your donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And, in that day you will cry, out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the Lord will not answer you in that day.” But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; and they said, “No! but we will have, a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us

and fight our battles.” And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, “Listen to their voice, and make them a king.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm
(Psalm 89:89:16-17.18-19
(R. 2a))

***℟. I will sing forever of
your mercies, O Lord.***

How blessed the people who know your praise, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice their joyful acclaim. *℟.*

For you are the glory of their strength; by your favour it is that our might

is exalted. Behold, the Lord is our shield; he is the Holy One of Israel, our king. *℟.*

Acclamation (Luke 7:16)

Alleluia. Alleluia. A great prophet has risen among us, and God has visited his people. ***Alleluia.***

Gospel _____
(Mark 2:1-12)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him

a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Child, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak like this? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they questioned like this within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question like this in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take

up your pallet and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins”— he said to the paralytic— “I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.” And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

May your people’s oblation, O Lord, find favor with you, we pray, that it may restore them to holiness and obtain what they devoutly entreat. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 36:10) **With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your light we see light.**

Or: Jn 10:10

I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Humbly we ask you, almighty God, be graciously pleased to grant that those you renew with your Sacraments may also serve with lives pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for Others

Commentary

1 Sm 8: 4-7. 10-22a / Ps 89: 16-17. 18-19/ Mk 2: 1-12

Jesus saw the faith of the paralytic's friends and healed him, body and soul. Faith enables us to believe without doubting God's actions in our lives. The story of the paralytic in today's Gospel pericope explains why we pray for others and ask others to pray for us. As we pray for ourselves, let us remember to pray for others, that is love. To experience JOY, you have to put Jesus first, others, second and yourself, last. Always praise and glorify Christ Jesus, pray for others, then yourself.

Rev. Sr. Clare Emeruom, HVM, Nigeria



Saturday January 13

1st Week In Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: St. Hilary, bishop and doctor, Optional memorial

Or: Saturday mass of the BVM

Entrance Antiphon

Upon a lofty throne, I
saw a man seated, whom
a host of angels adore,
singing in unison: Behold
him, the name of whose
empire is eternal.

have seen. Through Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
*(1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19;
10:1a)*

**A reading from the first
Book of Samuel**

Collect

Attend to the pleas of your
people with heavenly
care, O Lord, we pray,
that they may see what
must be done, and gain
strength to do what they

There was a man of
Benjamin whose name was
Kish, the son of Abiel, son of
Zeror, son of Becorath, son
of Aphiah, a Benjaminite,
a man of wealth; and he

had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he; from his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people. Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. So Kish said to Saul his son, "Take one of the servants with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys." And they passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. And they passed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then they passed through the land of Benjamin, but did not find them. When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told him,

"Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall rule over my people." Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate, and said, "Tell me where is the house of the seer?" Samuel answered Saul, "I am the seer; go up before me to the high place, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is on your mind." Then Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said, "Has not the Lord anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their enemies round about." The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 21:2-3.4-56-7 (R.
2a))***

**R. In your strength, O
Lord, the king rejoices.**

In your strength, O
Lord, the king rejoices;
how greatly your
salvation makes him glad!
You have granted him his
heart's desire; you have
not withheld the prayer
of his lips. R.

You came to meet
him with blessings of
prosperity; you have set
on his head a crown of
pure gold. He asked you
for life and this you have
given: days that will last
from age to age. R.

By your saving help
great is his glory; you
have bestowed upon him

majesty and splendour;
you have granted him
blessings forever, made
him rejoice with the joy
of your presence. R.

Acclamation

(Luke 4:18)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The
Lord has sent me to preach
good news to the poor, to
proclaim release to the
captives. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —

(Mark 2:13-17)

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

At that time: Jesus went
out again beside the sea;
and all the crowd gathered
about him, and he taught
them. And as he passed
on, he saw Levi the son of
Alphaeus sitting at the tax

office, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. And as he sat at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were sitting with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with the tax collectors and sinners?” And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

May your people's oblation, O Lord, find favor with you, we pray, that it may restore them to holiness and obtain what they devoutly entreat. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 36:10) **With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your light we see light.**

Or: Jn 10:10

I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Humbly we ask you,
almighty God, be graciously
pleased to grant that those
you renew with your

Sacraments may also serve
with lives pleasing to you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Commentary**Seek God's Mercy**

**1 Sm 9: 1-4. 17-19; 10: 1/ Ps 21:
2-3. 4-5. 6-7/ Mk 2: 13-17**

Jesus came to call sinners not the righteous. He loves the sinner and desires his/her repentance. Since we are all sinners, Jesus does not condemn us, therefore, we should not condemn others. We are encouraged to seek God's mercy and forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this sacrament, Jesus dines with us sinners, forgives us and gives us the opportunity to repent and amend our ways. May we constantly go to confession to experience the mercy of the compassionate Jesus.

Rev. Sr. Clare Emeruom, HVM, Nigeria



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