

AFRICA

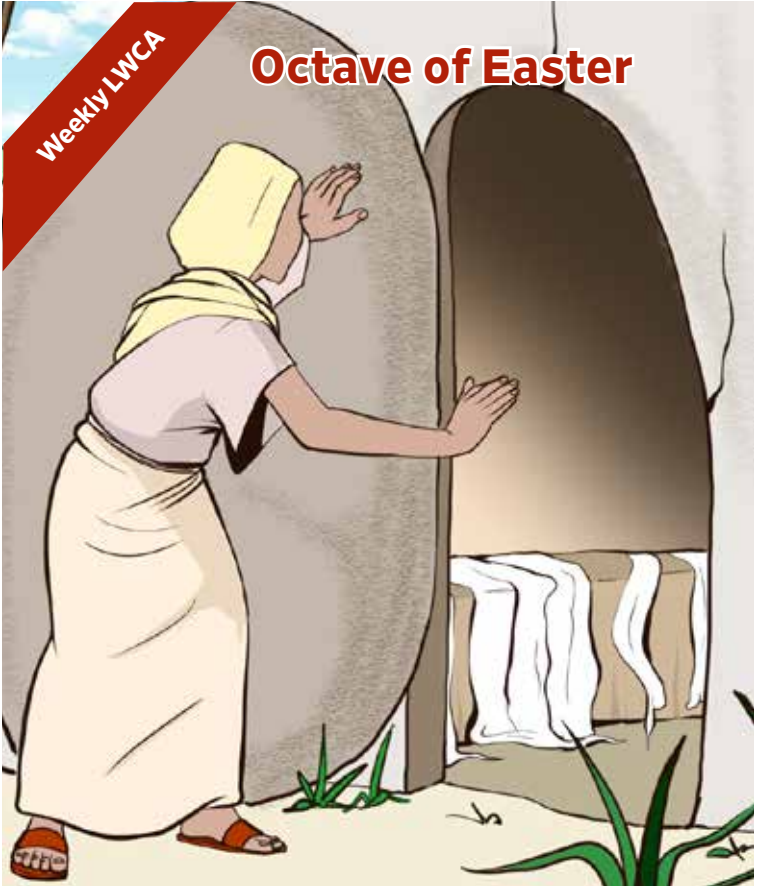
Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

Octave of Easter

bayard africain



Contents

Living with Christ April 2023

I Editorial

Praying with the Church

2 Pope's Prayer Intention

3-5 Focus on the Holy Mass

The Introductory Rites

Daily Readings and commentaries

6-15 April 9

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord.

16-48 April 10-15

octave of Easter

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: Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb of Jesus

© Yves Boro

Editorial

April 2023



Rev. Fr. Walter C. Ihejirika, Nigeria

We Are Conquerors

Our second week of April begins with Easter Sunday. This is the most important celebration in the Church's liturgical calendar. St Paul rightly stated: "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." (1 Cor. 15:14).

Easter is pre-eminently a celebration of recreation. Just as God created the world at the beginning of time, at Easter, he recreated the fallen man by raising Christ as the first fruit of those who have fallen asleep in death (1 Cor. 15:20). By identifying with the Risen Christ, we believe that God will continue to recreate every aspect of our life, reshaping areas that have been deformed, and remaking us in his image. Easter means rising from the tomb to a better life.

At Easter, the heavy stone was rolled from the mouth of the tomb. We believe that the grace of God will push away all heavy stones, obstructing our spiritual and material progress, and enable us to rise and shine. Indeed, through the Risen Lord, we are conquerors in all things (Rom 8:37).



The Pope's Prayer Intention

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

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

The Introductory Rites

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

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

Focus on the Holy Mass

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

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

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

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

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

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



Sunday April 9

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10: 34a. 37-43 / Psalm 118: 1-2. 16-17. 22-23 / Collossians 3: 1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5: 6b-8/ Sequence Victimae Paschali Laudes/ Jonh 20: 1-9 or Matthew 28: 1-10 or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24: 13-35



“The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message.” Mathew 28:8



Lord's Resurrection

Today we celebrate the Easter Sunday of the Lord's resurrection. Christ has been raised from the dead as he had foretold. His resurrection gives us an unfailing hope in God's Testament of love. Through His resurrection, we escape from the bondage of Satan to the freedom of Christ, from an insecure world to the certainty of the Kingdom of God, from our mortal lives to the abiding presence of God.

One thing we need to remember about this feast is that it is the greatest feast of the year, greater than any religious feast including Christmas. This is because his death on the cross Jesus and His resurrection is the foundation of our Faith. St Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians that if Christ had not been raised, our preaching would be useless and so would our faith (1 Cor 15:14). Christ suffered death on a cross but on the third day he conquered this death when he rose from the dead. This gives us hope that despite our suffering on this earth, if we believe and trust in the Risen Lord, we will find true joy and hope in him. With Christ there is a reason, there is true hope.



Sunday April 9

Every time we are overwhelmed by problems, discouraged by disappointments or besets by worries, we are diminished in some way. But if we believe in the real presence of the risen Christ, we will find that the impossible becomes possible and the unreachable becomes reachable.

Rev. Fr. Dieudonne Tsongo a.a, Nairobi, Kenya

**Entrance Antiphon** (*Ps (138) 139:18.5-6*)

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

Collect

O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (*Acts 10:34a.37-43*)**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said, "You know the word which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses to all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and made him manifest; not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, who ate



Sunday April 9

and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that he is the one ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm (117) 118:1-2.15c-17.22-23)—

This is the day the Lord has made;
let us re - joice and be glad.

R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.

Or Alleluia.

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



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

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

Second Reading (Colossians 3:1-4)_____

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

Brethren: If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Or the following:



Sunday April 9

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 5:6b-8)_____

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

Do you know that a little leaven leavens all the dough? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be new dough, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence

To the Paschal Victim let Christians offer a sacrifice of praise.
The Lamb redeemed the sheep.
Christ, sinless, reconciled sinners to the father.
Death and life were locked together in a unique struggle.
Life's captain died; now he reigns, never more to die.
Tell us, Mary, "What did you see on the way?"
I saw the tomb of the now living Christ.
I saw the glory of Christ, now risen.
"I saw angels who gave witness;
the cloths too which once had covered head and limbs.



“Christ my hope has arisen. He will go before his own into Galilee.”

We know that Christ has indeed risen from the dead. Do you, conqueror and king, have mercy on us.

Amen. Alleluia.

Or poetic text

Or Latin text (*Victimae paschali*)

Acclamation (*1 Corinthians 5:7b.8a*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed; let us, therefore, celebrate the festival in the Lord. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*John 20:1-9*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went



Sunday April 9

towards the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

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

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

℟. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, sign of Christ's continuing presence among us, we pray to the Lord: **℟.**

For peace and reconciliation in the world, we pray to the Lord: **℟.**

For those who have no hope, we pray to the Lord: **℟.**



For all of us here today, called to proclaim Jesus' Resurrection, we pray to the Lord: R.

Prayer over the Offerings

Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord, we offer the sacrifice by which your Church is wondrously reborn and nourished. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

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

Prayer after Communion

Look upon your Church, O God, with unfailing love and favour, so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries she may come to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

2 Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia!

R. Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!



Monday April 10

Octave of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

(Ex 13:5.9) **The Lord has led you into a land flowing with milk and honey, that the law of the Lord may always be on your lips, alleluia.**

Or:

The Lord has risen from the dead, as he said; Let us all exult and rejoice, for he reigns for all eternity, alleluia.

The Gloria in excelsis is said.

Collect

O God, who give constant increase to your Church

by new offspring, grant that your servants may hold fast in their lives to the Sacrament they have received in faith. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Acts 2:14.22-23)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

[On the day of Pentecost,] Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. “Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by

God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore, my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, nor let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the

ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' "Brethren, I may say to you confidently of the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and

hear.” The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (15) 16:1-2a and 5.7)
8.910.11)

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

Or: Alleluia.

Preserve me, O God, for
in you I take refuge. I say to
the Lord, “You are my Lord.”
O Lord, it is you who are my
portion and cup; you yourself
who secure my lot. **R.**

I will bless the Lord who
gives me counsel, who even
at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord before me
always; with him at my
right hand, I shall not be
moved. **R.**

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

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

Acclamation
(Psalm (117) 118:24)

Alleluia. Alleluia. This is
the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice in it and be
glad. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(Matthew 28:8-15)

**A reading from the holy Gos-
pel according to Matthew**

At that time: The woman
departed quickly from

the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sum of money to the soldiers and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we

will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So they took the money and did as they were directed; and this story has been spread among the Jews to this day. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept graciously, O Lord, we pray, the offerings of your peoples, that renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism, they may attain unending happiness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Rm 6:9) **Christ, having risen from the dead, dies now no more; death will no longer have dominion over him, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

May the grace of this paschal Sacrament abound in our minds, we pray O Lord and make

those you have set on the way of eternal salvation, worthy of your gifts. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Guard's Report

Commentary

Mathew 28:8-15

In the gospel of today we hear how guards were bribed by the chief priests to tell a lie about the resurrection of Jesus. They were told that if the procurator inquires into the matter, they would invent a story that it was the disciples who stole Jesus' body while they were asleep. Now the question is "how could they know that it was the disciples who stole the body of Jesus for they were asleep when it happened? Pure contradiction. The lesson for today is that even if we deny that Jesus raised from the dead, there are facts and evidence that he rose and appeared to some persons in the history.

Rev. Fr. Dieudonne Tsongo a.a, Nairobi, Kenya



Tuesday April 11

Octave of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

(Sir 15:3-4) **He gave them the water of wisdom to drink; it will be made strong in them and will not be moved; it will raise them up for ever, alleluia.**

Or:

The Lord has risen from the dead, as he said; Let us all exult and rejoice, for he reigns for all eternity, alleluia.

The Gloria in excelsis is said.

Collect

O God, who have bestowed on us paschal remedies,

endow your people with heavenly gifts, so that, possessed of perfect freedom, they may rejoice in heaven over what gladdens them now on earth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading --- *(Acts 2: 36-41)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

[On the day of Pentecost,] Peter said to the Jews, “Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made him both Lord

and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other words and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were

baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽³²⁾ 33:4-5.18-19.20 and 22)

R. His merciful love fills earth.

Or: Alleluia.

The word of the Lord is faithful, and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth. **R.**

Yes, the Lord’s eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls



from death, to keep them alive in famine. *R.*

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. He is our help and our shield. May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope is you, O Lord. *R.*

Acclamation (*Psalm 117*
118:24)

Alleluia. Alleluia. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(John 20:11-18)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the

tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus has lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him

in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father, but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept in compassion, Lord, we pray, the offerings

of your family, that under your protective care they may never lose what they have received, but attain the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Col 3:1-2) **If you have risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God: mind the things that are above, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

Hear us, almighty God, and as you have bestowed on your family the perfect grace of Baptism, so prepare

their hearts for the reward of eternal happiness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Announcing the Good News

Commentary

John 20:11-18

One word is enough for Mary to recognize the Risen Lord when He called her by her name and then reminds her of her mission to announce the good news of His resurrection to His disciples. And her message to them is: "I have seen the Lord!" In the resurrection we also encounter the living Lord who loves us personally and shares his glory with us. Like Mary, after encountering Jesus through our different experiences of life, we are invited to announce the good news about His resurrection to all our brothers and sisters.

Rev. Fr. Dieudonne Tsongo a.a, Nairobi, Kenya



Wednesday April 12

Octave of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

(Mt 25:34) Come, you blessed of my Father; receive the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, alleluia.

The Gloria in excelsis is said.

Collect

O God, who gladden us year by year with the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection, graciously grant, that by celebrating these present festivities, we may merit through

them to reach eternal joys. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading --- *(Acts 3:1-10)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at that gate of the temple which is called Beautiful to ask alms of those who entered the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go

into the temple, he asked for alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, with John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention upon them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise and walk. "And he took him by the right hand raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up he stood and walked and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognised him as the one who sat for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and

amazement at what had happened to him. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (104) 105:1-2.3-4.6-7.8-9)

R. Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.

or: Alleluia.

Give thanks to the Lord; proclaim his name. Make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! **R.**

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. **R.**

O children of Abraham, his servant, O descendants

of the Jacob he chose, he, the Lord, is our God; his judgements are in all the earth. R

He remembers his covenant forever: the promise he ordained for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. R

Acclamation

(Psalm (117) 118:24)

Alleluia. Alleluia. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

(Luke 24:13-35)

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

That very day, [the first day of the week,] two of

the disciples of Jesus were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognising him. And he said to them, “What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, “What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not

know the things that have happened there in these days?” And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he

was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see.” And he said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is towards evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; and he vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the Eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had

happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, we pray, O Lord, the sacrifice which has redeemed the human race, and be pleased to accomplish in us salvation of mind and body. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Lk 24:35) **The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.**

**Prayer after Communion**

We pray, O Lord: that the reverent reception of the Sacrament of your Son may cleanse us from our

old ways, and transform us into a new creation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Appearance on the Road to Emmaus**Commentary**

Luke 24:13-35

Jesus in today's gospel is not recognized by two of His disciples on their way to Emmaus. What makes them difficult to recognize Him? St. Augustine (5th Century Church Father) answered by saying: "They were so disturbed when they saw Him hanging on the cross that they forgot His teaching....," (from: Sermon 235.1). He continued: "Their eyes were obstructed, that they should not recognize Him until the breaking of the bread. Do we recognize the Lord in His Word and in the Breaking of the Bread, the Eucharist?"

Rev. Fr. Dieudonne Tsongo a.a, Nairobi, Kenya



Thursday April 13

Octave of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

(Wis 10:20-21) **They praised in unison your conquering hand, O Lord, for wisdom opened mouths that were mute and gave eloquence to the tongues of infants, alleluia.**

The Gloria in excelsis is said.

Collect

O God, who have united the many nations in confessing your name, grant that those reborn in the font of Baptism may be one in the faith of their hearts and the homage of their

deeds. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(Acts 3: 11-26)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: While the lame man who had been cured clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people, "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him

walk? The God of Abraham and Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Author of the life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name, by faith in his name, has made this man strong whom you see and know; and the faith which is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. "And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But

what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ should suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for establishing all that God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old. Moses said, "The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet from your brethren as he raised me up. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul that does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people."

And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came afterwards, also proclaimed these days. You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God gave to your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your posterity shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’ God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you in turning every one of you from your wickedness.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 8:2ab and 5.6-7a.7b-9)***

**R. O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is your name
through all the earth!
or: Alleluia.**

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name through all the earth! What is man that you should keep him in mind, the son of man that you care for him? R.

Yet you have made him little lower than the angels; with glory and honour you crowned him, gave him power over the works of your hands. R.

You put all things under his feet, all of them, sheep and oxen, yes, even the

cattle of the fields, birds of the air, and fish of the sea that make their way through the waters. *R.*

Acclamation

(Psalm (117) 118:24)

Alleluia. Alleluia. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————

(Luke 24:35-48)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: The two disciples told what had happened on the road to Emmaus and how Jesus was known to them in the breaking of the bread. As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to

you.” But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them. Then he said to them, “These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the

law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Graciously be pleased, O Lord, to accept the sacrificial gifts we offer joyfully both for those who have been reborn, and in hope of your increased help from heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(1 Pt 2:9) **O chosen people, proclaim the mighty works of him, who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

Hear, O Lord, our prayers, that this most holy exchange, by which you have redeemed us, may

bring your help in this present life and ensure for us eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Appearance to the 11 in Jerusalem

Commentary

Luke 24:35-48

In today's gospel passage, Jesus appears to His eleven apostles who thought they were seeing a ghost. Knowing that a ghost cannot eat, He asks for something to eat. Not that in His glorified body, He needs to eat but He eats for the sake of His apostles; when we eat as a family, bonds are strengthened. When we eat with friends, we get closer to them. When Jesus ate with his apostles, He got closer and was fully revealed to them.

Rev. Fr. Dieudonne Tsongo a.a, Nairobi, Kenya



Friday April 14

Octave of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (77) 78:53) **The Lord led his people in hope, while the sea engulfed their foes, alleluia.**

The Gloria in excelsis is said.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who gave us the paschal mystery in the covenant you established for reconciling the human race; so dispose our minds, we pray, that what we celebrate by professing the faith we may express in deeds. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Acts 4: 1-12)
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: As Peter and John were speaking to the people, [after the lame man was healed,] the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.

But many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to about five thousand. On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas, the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed

done to a cripple, by what means this man has been healed, be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man is standing before you well. This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, but which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —
*(Psalm (117) 118:1-2 and
4.22-24.25-27)*

R. The stone which the
builders rejected has
become the cornerstone.
or: Alleluia.

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

The stone that the
builders rejected has
become the cornerstone.
By the Lord has this been
done, a marvel in our eyes.
This is the day the Lord has
made; let us rejoice in it
and be glad. **R.**

O Lord, grant salvation;
O Lord, grant success. Blest
is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. We bless
you from the house of the
Lord; the Lord is God, and
has given us light. **R.**

Acclamation
(Psalm (117) 118:24)

Alleluia. Alleluia. This is
the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in
it. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(John 21:1-14)

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

At that time: Jesus revealed
himself again to the
disciples by the Sea of
Tiberias; and he revealed
himself in this way. Simon

Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat; but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any fish?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they not able to haul it in, for the quantity of the fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the

Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and sprang into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread, Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?”

They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Perfect, O Lord, within us, we pray the solemn exchange brought about these paschal offerings,

that we may be drawn from earthly desires to a longing for the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 21:12-13) **Jesus said to his disciples: Come and eat. And he took the bread and gave it to them, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

Keep safe, O Lord, we pray, those whom you have saved

by your kindness, that, in his Resurrection. Who redeemed by the Passion of lives and reigns forever your Son, they may rejoice and ever. **Amen.**

The Appearance to the Seven Disciples

Commentary

John 21:1-14

Jesus appears to His disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. In their ordinary job, after a big disappointment, of not catching even a small fish the whole night. But the disciples did not recognize him. Having Jesus standing with them in their work, they miraculously caught an unexpected big number of fish. A way of reminding us that whenever we involve Jesus in our daily works we enjoy His blessings.

Rev. Fr. Dieudonne Tsongo a.a, Nairobi, Kenya



Saturday April 15

Octave of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (104) 105:43) **The Lord brought out his people with joy, his chosen ones with shouts of rejoicing, alleluia.**

The Gloria in excelsis is said.

Collect

O God, who by the abundance of your grace give increase to the peoples who believe in you, look with favour on those you have chosen and clothe with blessed immortality those reborn through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading _____
(Acts 4: 13-21)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: When the rulers and elders and scribes saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they wondered; and they recognised that they had been with Jesus. But seeing the man that had been healed standing beside them, they had nothing to

say in opposition. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred with one another, saying, “What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is manifest to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to any one in this name.” So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” And when they had further threatened them,

they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people; for all men praised God for what had happened. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹¹⁷⁾ 118:1 and
14-15ab.15c-18.19-21)***

**R. I will thank you, Lord,
for you have answered me.
or: Alleluia.**

Give praise to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever. The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and salvation in the tents of the just. R.

“The Lord’s right hand has done mighty deeds; his right hand his exalted. The Lord’s right hand has done mighty deeds.” I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord punished me, punished me severely, but did not hand me over to death. R.

Open to me the gates of justice: I will enter and thank the Lord. This is the Lord’s own gate, where the just enter. I will thank you, for you have answered, and you are my saviour. R.

Acclamation

(Psalm (117) 118:24)

Alleluia. Alleluia. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ————— *(Mark 16:9-15)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Afterwards he appeared to the Eleven themselves as they sat at table; and he

upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,

so that the renewal constantly at work within us may be the cause of our unending joy.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Galatians 3:27) **All of you who have been baptised in Christ have put on Christ, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord, and

grant, we pray that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the

incorruptible glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

You Give what You Posses

Commentary

Mark 16:9-15

Today's gospel passage contains only seven verses but it mentions 'faith' four times. Jesus appearing to his apostles rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they had not believed those who saw him after he had been raised. He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." In order to go to the world witnessing and passing the gospel to others we need to believe first in the gospel. Believe first then preach to others. You cannot give what you do not have.

Rev. Fr. Dieudonne Tsongo a.a, Nairobi, Kenya



Publisher: Pierre LANGLOIS

Publishing & Development Manager

Editor in Chief: Rev. Fr. François NZANZU a.a.

Assistant: Rev. Fr. Jean-Claude DIWEDIGA a.a.

Editorial Secretary: 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. Dieudonne Kathembo TSONGO.

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](https://www.whatsapp.com/chat?phone=2250594797568)

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

 Facebook : [Living with Christ Africa](https://www.facebook.com/LivingwithChristAfrica)

 Tiktok

 YouTube

Growing up Daily with the Good News