

AFRICA

# Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

bayard afrique

**25<sup>th</sup> Week  
in Ordinary  
Time**

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Living with Christ September 2023

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### **Liturgical texts:**

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**On our cover:** The Cross, the Bible and the Candle on a Wooden Table

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# Editorial

September 2023



Rev. Fr. François Nzanzu, a.a. Nairobi-Kenya

## A Church for All

**T**he Church is for all God's children; rich and poor. The greatest concern of the Church must be for those who need the most help, the sick, the poor and even for those who do not adhere to the will of God. Vincent de Paul is a particularly appropriate patron for all Christians today, when hunger has become starvation, and the high living of the rich stands in more and more glaring contrast to the physical and moral degradation in which many of God's children are forced to live.

Vincent de Paul went to many places to visit the sick, the elderly, and the poor. He spent time with them and did what he could to take care of them. He knew it would take more than what he could do on his own to really make a difference. He realized he needed more money and more people to help all those who needed help. He began to ask wealthy people to donate money that he distributed to the sick and poor of his community. In his prayer intention, Pope Francis asks us to pray and support the people of God living on the margins and never consider them as being of lesser importance.



# The Pope's Prayer Intention

***For people living on the margins:*** We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

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



# **The Liturgy of the Eucharist: the Communion Rite**

**T**he communion rite goes from the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) to the Prayer after Communion. The Lord's prayer is very significant in the Holy Mass. Every Eucharistic celebration gathers all the people into one. As stated in the previous focus on the liturgy, the aim of the Eucharist is the building of the community: ***"...grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with the Holy Spirit, may become one body and one Spirit in Christ"***. The Lord's prayer is recited or sung by God's children who are aware of belonging to the same Father. Some theologians sustain that it is the most important prayer of the Eucharistic celebration since it is the Lord himself who taught it to his disciples.

After the Lord's prayer, the liturgy foresees the prayer for peace followed by the sign of peace. It must be in line with the local customs. The sign of peace should not be an occasion for the assembly to shout and move from one place to another, creating confusion in

the liturgy. For this sign to maintain its meaning the faithful must perform it with calmness. Furthermore, it is important to know that the sign of peace is not compulsory. The rubric in the Missal is clear about that: “**«Then, if appropriate, the Deacon, or the Priest, adds»:** let us offer each other the sign of peace”. In some contexts, the sign of peace may be abolished; one of the major reasons being an epidemic or a pandemic like coronavirus. Contamination must be avoided in the Eucharistic celebration.

While offering each other the sign of peace, the faithful sing or recite the Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*). The faithful prepare themselves to have the Body and the Blood of Jesus Christ. We don't deserve to receive such a great gift. That is why there is need for the assembly to ask for forgiveness before receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. In the Catholic Church there are two ways of receiving the Holy Communion: in the hand or on the tongue. But in some circumstances and for some reasons, the episcopal conference of the bishops of a specific country or a bishop of a given diocese may decide to abolish the reception of the Communion on the tongue.

While the celebrant and the other ministers distribute the Holy Communion to the faithful, the choir sings a Communion Antiphon or any other song that is in link with the celebration. After the distribution of the communion, the Missal foresees a sacred silence, or a psalm or other canticle of praise or a hymn. In some African dioceses, the choir sings a thanksgiving song to express gratitude to the Lord for the graces received in the Eucharistic celebration.

The prayer after Communion is the very last element of the Communion rite. In general, this prayer makes a connection between the Eucharistic celebration and life. In fact, liturgy is life. The faithful are invited to put into practice what they hear in the readings and in the homely. They are also invited to become what they receive.

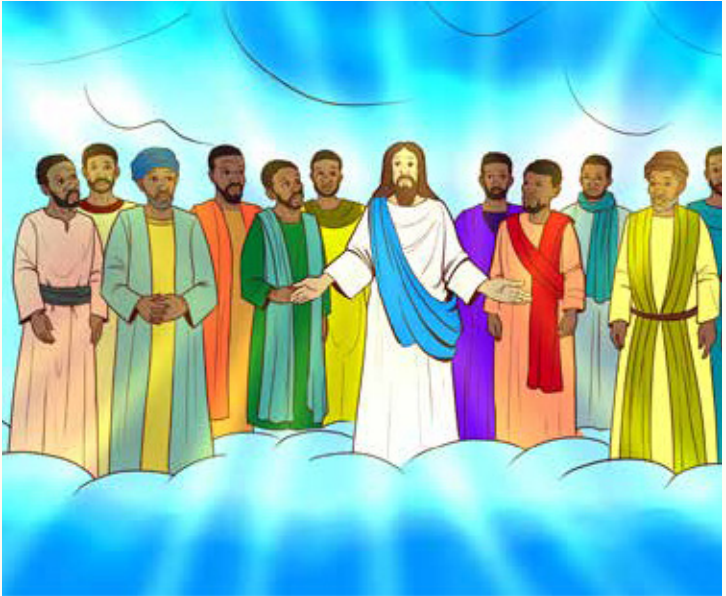
***Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. Kombi,***  
*Kinshasa, D.R. Congo*



# Sunday September 24

## 25<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time

*Isaiah 55: 6-9 / Ps 145: 2-3, 8-9, 17-18 (18a) / Philippians 1: 20c-24, 27a / Matthew 20: 1-16a*



So the last will be first, and the first last. (Matthew 20:16)





## *The Strangeness of God*

**T**he themes that cuts across in today's readings especially, the first reading and the gospel reading is the strangeness of God. The first reading taken from prophet Isaiah, speaks of a God who is incomparable, the radically 'Other;' He is like no other being, even the most exalted. St. Augustine would say, 'interior intimo meo et superior summo meo' (higher than my highest and more inward than my innermost self). The parable in the gospel appears to be against common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work for just an hour or two. Judging from our own understanding of how fairness and equality should be quantified, the landowner is unjust. But this is not the case, since, he paid on the agreed terms. He acted justly, actually, He is not simply just, but rather exceptionally radically just. He has not only paid in full those who worked the whole day, but also a full days wage to those who worked for an hour. God is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that the landowner has made all workers equal. But God's ways of acting and His thoughts are not



**Sunday** September 24

like ours. He is completely the wholly 'Other.' Let us pray for the grace to accept God's radically different ways, and so relate with Him not on our terms.

***Rev. Fr. Francis Mbiu, Tanzania***



## Entrance Antiphon

**I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in my distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.**

## Collect

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## *First Reading (Isaiah 55:6-9)*

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**A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

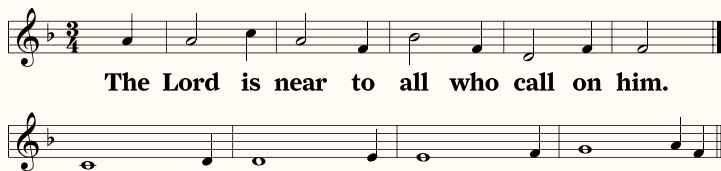
Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your 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.

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



Sunday September 24

**Responsorial Psalm** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Psalm (144) 145:2-3.8-9.17-18)**



**R. The Lord is close to all who call him.**

I will bless you day after day,  
and praise your name forever and ever.  
The Lord is great and highly to be praised;  
his greatness cannot be measured. R.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. R.

The Lord is just in all his ways,  
and holy in all his deeds.



The Lord is close to all who call him,  
who call on him in truth. R.

***Second Reading (Philippians 1:20c-24.27a)*** —————

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the  
Philippians**

Brethren: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If it is to be life in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

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

***Acclamation (Acts 16:14b)***

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may listen to the words of your Son. **Alleluia.**



### ***Gospel (Matthew 20:1-16)***

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#### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

At that time: Jesus told to his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. “Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, “Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ “And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you



no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

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

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

*The following intentions are suggestions only.*

**R. Lord, hear us!**

For our Church in its mission to further the reign of God in the world, we pray to the Lord: R.

For charity, mercy and justice in our communities and societies, we pray to the Lord: R.

For strength and comfort for all who are suffering physically, spiritually or emotionally, we pray to the Lord: R.

For our parish community, challenged to see the face of Christ in everyone, we pray to the Lord: R.



**Sunday** September 24

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Receive with favour, O Lord we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon** (*Psalm (117) 118:4-5*)

**You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept.  
May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this Sacrament, that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





# Monday September 25

25<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## Entrance Antiphon

**I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.**

## Collect

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading

**(Ezra 1:1-6)**

**A reading from the Book of Ezra**

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me



all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel – he is the God who is in Jerusalem; and let each survivor, in whatever place he sojourns, be assisted by the men of his place with silver and gold, with goods and with beats, besides freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.” Then rose up the heads of the fathers’ houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, every one whose spirit God had

stirred go up rebuild the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem; and all who were about them aided them with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, with beats, and with costly wares, besides all that was freely offered.

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

***Responsorial Psalm——***  
***(Psalm (125) 126)***

**R. What great deeds the Lord has worked for us!**

When the Lord brought back the exiles of Sion, we thought we were dreaming. Then was our mouth filled with laughter; on our tongues, songs of joy. R.

Then the nations themselves said, “What



great deeds the Lord worked for them:” What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad. R.

Bring back our exiles, O Lord, as streams in the south. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. R.

They go out, they go out, full of tears, bearing seed for the sowing; they come back with a song, bearing their sheaves. R.

### **Acclamation** (*Matthew 5:16*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father. **Alleluia.**

### **Gospel** ————— (*Luke 8:16-18*)

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

At that time: Jesus said to the crowds, “No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a vessel, or puts under a bed but puts it on a stand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hidden that shall not be made manifest, nor anything secret that shall not be known and come to light. Take heed then how you hear; for to him who has will more be given, and from him who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



**Monday** September 25

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Receive with favour, O Lord we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Psalm (117) 118:45)* **You have laid down your precepts to be carefully**

**kept. May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.**

**or:**

*(John 10:14)*

**I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew



with this sacrament; that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and at the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Light to the World

### Commentary

Luke 8:16-18

The gospel of today is challenging us to examine our Christian life and its impact especially on our darkened world. Pope Francis once said, "All of us who have received Baptism, should carry forward, the light we have received freely, that light of God that does so much good, the light of friendship, meekness, faith, hope, patience, and goodness." Saint Chrysostom in the same vein wrote, "Christ has left us in this world to be like lamp, to act like leaven, to become seed, to bear fruit." What impact do I have on the world as a christian?

***Rev. Fr. Francis Mbiu, Tanzania***



# Tuesday September 26

25<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## *Ferial*

*Or: Saints Cosmas and Damian, martyrs, optional memorial*

### **Entrance Antiphon**

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.

### **Collect**

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Reading**

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**(Ezra 6:7-8.12b.14-20)**

**A reading from the Book of Ezra**

In those days: Darius the king wrote to the governors of the province Beyond the River, "Let the work on this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews rebuild this house of God on its site. Moreover I make a decree regarding what you shall do for these elders of the Jews for the rebuilding of



this house of God; the cost is to be paid to these men in full and without delay from the royal revenue, the tribute of the province from Beyond the River. I Darius make a decree; let it be done with all diligence.” And the elders of the Jews built and prospered, through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo. They finished their building by command of the God of Israel and by decree of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxes, king of Persia; and this house was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king. And the sons of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the rest of the returned

exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy. They offered at the dedication of this house of God one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel twelve he-goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. And they set the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God at Jerusalem, as it is written in the book of Moses. On the fourteenth day of the first month the returned exiles kept the Passover. For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together; all of them were clean. So they killed the Passover lamb for the returned exiles, for

their fellow priests, and for themselves.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm (121) 122)***

***R. Let us go rejoicing to  
the house of the Lord.***

I rejoiced when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.” And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. *R.*

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. *R.*

For Israel’s witness it is to praise the name of the Lord. There were set the

thrones for Judgment, the thrones of the house of David. *R.*

***Acclamation***

*(Luke 11:28)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Blessed are those who fear the word of God, and keep it. **Alleluia.**

***Gospel*** \_\_\_\_\_

***(Luke 8:19-21)***

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

At that time: His mother and his brethren came to Jesus, but they could not reach him for the crowd. And he was told, “Your mother and your brethren are standing outside, desiring to see you” But he said to them “my mother and my brethren are those



who hear the word of God and do it.

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Receive with favour, O Lord we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Psalm (117) 118:45)* **You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept. May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.**

*or:*

*(John 10:14)*

**I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this sacrament; that we may come to possess

your redemption both in mystery and at the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Total Commitment****Commentary****Luke 8:19-21**

By our baptism, we become children of God, we become members of God's family. But, often we lose this membership. The gospel reading offers us a simple requirement from us to remain and become members of God's family; "hear the word of God and put it into practice." Our fidelity to His word is the only basis for our identity. Our discipleship is highly determined by our total commitment to the Gospel. Jesus is inviting us to His family, His close relations. We are to make His story and His words our own.

***Rev. Fr. Francis Mbiu, Tanzania***



# Wednesday September 27

25<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## **Memorial**

**Saint Vincent de Paul, priest**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me and sent me to preach the good news to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted.

Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Reading** ————— **(Ezra 9:5-9)**

**A reading from the Book of Ezra**

### **Collect**

O God, who for the relief of the poor and the formation of the clergy endowed the Priest Saint Vincent de Paul with apostolic virtues, grant, we pray, that afire with the same spirit, we may love what he loved and put into practice what he taught.

At that time: Jesus called the Twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, “Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor

bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.” And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

***Responsorial Psalm —***  
***(Tobit 13:1b-2.3-4aefgh.6ij.8)***

**R. Blessed is God, who lives forever.**

Blessed is God who lives forever, and blessed is his

kingdom. For he afflicts, and he shows mercy; he leads down to Hades, and brings up again, and there is no one who escape his hand. **R.**

Acknowledge him before the nations, O sons of Israel; for he has scattered us among them. Make his greatness known there. **R.**

But see what he will do with you; give thanks to him with your full voice. Praise the Lord of righteousness, and exalt the King of the ages. **R.**

**Acclamation (Mark 1:15)**  
**Alleluia. Alleluia.** The kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in Gospel. **Alleluia.**



## **Gospel** **(Luke 9:1-6)**

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

At that time: Jesus called the Twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." And they departed and went through the villages,

preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

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

## **Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who enabled Saint Vincent to imitate what he celebrated in the divine mysteries, grant that by the power of this sacrifice we, too, may be transformed into an oblation acceptable to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Communion Antiphon**

*(Psalm (106) 107:8-9)* **Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he has satisfied the thirsty soul, and the hungry he has filled with goods things.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Renewed by this heavenly Sacrament, O Lord, we implore, that just as we are prompted by Saint Vincent's example to

imitate your Son in his preaching of the Gospel to the poor, so, too, we may be sustained by his prayers. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Mission of Christ****Commentary****Luke 9:1-6**

What is the basis of our Christian life? There are those who exercise their faith with aims far removed and alien from that of fulfilling the mission of God. God's mission and the mission He entrusts to the church is geared towards proclaiming the Good News to other people. It is all about serving God and His people. It is about getting and leaving our comfort zones so as to participate in the lives of other people. It is ultimately about bringing these same people to a relationship with God.

***Rev. Fr. Francis Mbiu, Tanzania***



# Thursday September 28

25<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## **Ferial**

or: **Sts Wenceslaus, Lawrence Ruiz and companions,  
Martyrs**, *optional memorial*

### **Entrance Antiphon**

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.

Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Reading** ————— **(Haggai 1:1-8)**

**The beginning of the Book  
of the Prophet Haggai**

### **Collect**

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life.

In the second year of Darius the king, the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the

son of Jehozadak, the high priest, “Thus says the Lord of hosts: This people say the time has not yet come by Haggai the prophet, “Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your panelled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider how you have fared. You have sown much, and harvested little; you eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages hosts: Consider how you have fared. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may appear in my glory, says the Lord.

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

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm (148) 149)***

***R.* The Lord takes delight  
in his people.  
or: Alleluia.**

Sing a new song to the Lord, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel rejoice in its Maker; let Sion's children exult in their king. *R.*

Let them praise his name with dancing, and make music with timbrel and harp. For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the poor with salvation. *R.*

Let the faithful exult in glory, and rejoice as they





take their rest. Let the praise of God be in their mouths. This is an honour for all his faithful. R.

## Acclamation

*(John 14:6)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, but by me. **Alleluia.**

## Gospel

*(Luke 9:7-9)*

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

At that time: Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by Jesus, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by

others that one of the old prophets had risen. Herod said, "John I beheaded; but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he sought to see him.

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

## Prayer over the Offerings

Receive with favour, O Lord we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Communion Antiphon

*(Psalm (117) 118:45)* **You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept. May my ways be**

**firm in keeping your statutes.**

*or:*

*(John 10:14)*

**I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this sacrament; that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and at the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Encountering Jesus**

### **Commentary**

**Luke 9:7-9**

Christianity is not simply knowing about Jesus from what others say, but it is from actually knowing Jesus personally. The gospel of today clarifies this two notions. Herod heard of Jesus, but he was anxious and curious to see Him. In our Christian life are we anxious and curious to know Jesus better and better? Are we anxious to see Him today, and to see Him with our hearts? It is by seeing Him with our hearts that we encounter the person of Jesus. Are we trying to see Jesus at work in our lives?

***Rev. Fr. Francis Mbiu, Tanzania***



# Friday September 29

25<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## Feast

**Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels**

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Psalm (102) 103:20)* **Bless the Lord, all you his angels, mighty in power, fulfilling his word, and heeding his voice.**

### The Gloria is said.

### Collect

O God, who dispose in marvellous order ministries both angelic and human, graciously grant, that our life on earth may be defended by those who watch over us as they minister perpetually to

you in heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Reading ————— *(Daniel 7:9-10.13-14)*

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel**

As I looked, thrones were placed and one that was ancient of days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, its wheels were burning fire. A stream

of fire issued and came forth from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousands stood before him; the court sat in judgement, and the books were opened. I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

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

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm <sup>(137)</sup> 138:1-2a.  
2bcd-3.4-5)***

***R. In the presence of the  
angels I praise you, O Lord.***

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart; you have heard the words of my mouth.

In the presence of the angels I praise you. I bow down towards your holy temple. *R.*

I give thanks to your name for your merciful love and your faithfulness. You have exalted your name and your promise over all. *R.*

On the day I called, you answered me; you increased the strength of my soul. *R.*

All earth's kings shall thank you, O Lord, when they hear the words of your



mouth. They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, "How great is the glory of the Lord!" R.

## Acclamation

*(Psalm 102) 103:21)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, his ministers that do his will. **Alleluia.**

## Gospel

*(John 1:47-51)*

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

At that time: Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under

the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Prayer over the Offerings

We offer you a sacrifice of praise, O Lord, humbly entreating, that as these gifts are borne by the ministry of Angels into the presence of your majesty, so you may receive them

favourably and make them profitable for our salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Psalm (137) 138:1)* **I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart; in the presence**

**of the angels I will sing your praise.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Having been nourished upon heavenly Bread, we beseech you humbly, O Lord, that, drawing from it new strength, under the

faithful protection of your Angels, we may advance boldly along the way of salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## God knows us

## Commentary

John 1:47-51

Today we keep the feast of the archangels; Michael (Who is like God), Gabriel (Strength of God) and Raphael (God heals). This feast with its readings reminds us of the angels and their role in our lives. In the gospel reading, Jesus meets Nathanael, and one thing stands out from their dialogue; that, God knows who we are, even the hidden parts of us 'under the fig tree.' These hidden and secret aspects, even our brokenness, our smallness and our insignificance is of value before the eyes of God.

***Rev. Fr. Francis Mbiu, Tanzania***



# Saturday September 30

25<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## Memorial

Saint Jerome, priest and Doctor of the church

### Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm 1:2-3) **Blessed indeed is the man who ponders the law of the Lord day and night: he will yield his fruit in due season.**

### Collect

O God, who gave the Priest Saint Jerome a living and tender love for Sacred Scripture, grant that your people may be ever more fruitfully nourished by your Word and find in it the fount of life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Reading

**(Zechariah 2:1-5.10-11)**

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zechariah**

I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand! Then I said, "Where are you going?" And he said to me, "To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its breadth and what is its length." And behold, the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him,





and said to him, “Run, say to that young man, ‘Jerusalem shall be inhabited as villages without walls, because of the multitude of men and cattle in it. For I will be to her a wall of fire round about, says the Lord, and I will be the glory within her.’ “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion; for behold, I come and I will dwell in the midst of you, says the Lord. And many nations shall join themselves to the Lord, in that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in the midst of you. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Jeremiah 31:10.11-12ab.13)***

***R. The Lord will keep us, as  
a shepherd keeps his flock.***

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the islands afar off; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.” *R.*

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Sion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord. *R.*

Then shall the maidens rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn

their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. R

### **Acclamation**

*(2 Timothy 1:10)*

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

### **Gospel** —————

*(Luke 9:43b-45)*

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

At that time: While all were marvelling at everything Jesus did, he said to his disciples, "Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men." But they did not understand this

saying, and it was concealed from them, that they should not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Grant us, O Lord, that having meditated on your Word, following the example of Saint Jerome, we may more eagerly draw near to offer your majesty the sacrifice of salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Jeremiah 15:16)* **Lord God, your words were found and I consumed them; your word became the joy and the happiness of my heart.**



### Prayer after Communion

May these holy gifts we have received, O Lord, as we rejoice in celebrating Saint Jerome, stir up the hearts of your faithful so that, attentive to

sacred teachings, they may understand the path they are to follow and, by following it, obtain life everlasting. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Word of God

### Commentary

Luke 9:43b-45

How do we approach the word of God? We often find ourselves going to those parts of the scriptures that are favorite and go well with us, those that are of significance to our lives, those that are of 'admiration.' The reading challenges us to go to those parts of the scriptures and parts of Jesus' life that we don't like 'His suffering, death and crucifixion', and let ourselves be engaged with them. May we approach the scriptures whole and entire.

***Rev. Fr. Francis Mbiu, Tanzania***



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