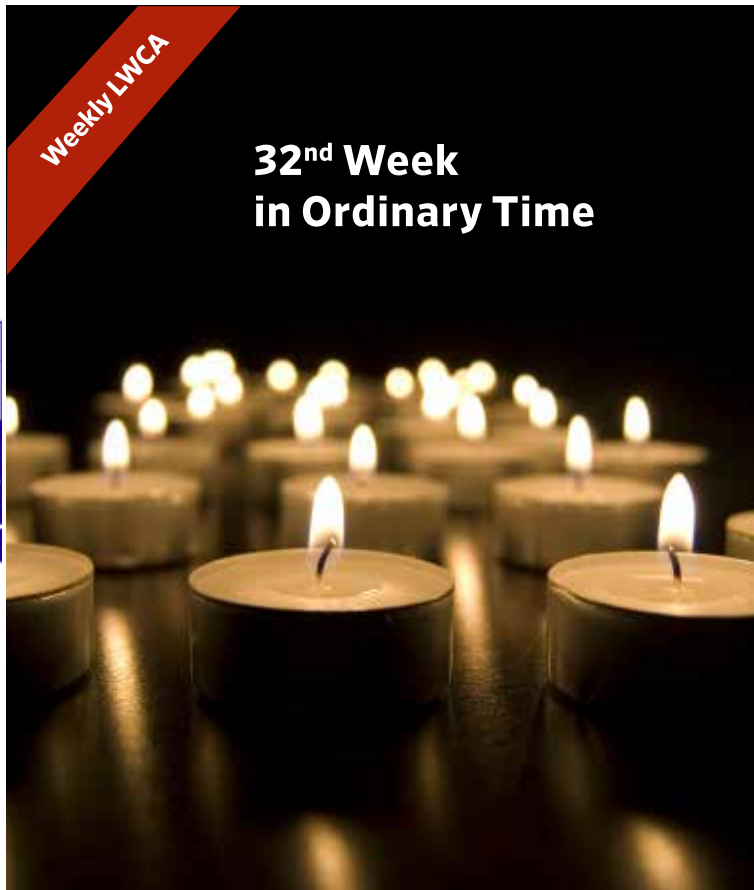


Weekly LWCA

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

bayard africaine



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Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: Lights, symbolizing Christian Awareness

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Editorial

November 2023



Rev. Fr. Walter C. Ihejirika, Nigeria

Like in the Days of Noah and Lot

In one of the gospel readings within this liturgical week, our Lord made allusion to the Old Testament story of the Great Flood (Gen 6:9-22); and the Destruction of the Cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19:1ff). He described these events as the ‘days of Noah’ and ‘days of Lot’. There are remarkable similarities in the lifestyle of those who lived in those days: “... they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, ... buying, selling, planting, building...” (Lk 17:26-37). In summary, they were people given solely to material enjoyment.

In our time, there are still many who live as in the days of Noah and Lot. These are people whose life goals are solely focused on material things. They always seek for power and elevated social status, and are ready to do anything to secure them. Those who live in the days of Noah and Lot are never conscious that there will be a day of judgement.

Dear friends, we are exhorted to enjoy the good things of the earth, but with our minds set on the things of heaven.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

For the Pope We pray for the Holy Father. As he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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

LITURGICAL SYMBOLS (I)

Christian liturgy makes use of many symbols that refer to a greater reality than themselves. In this article we are going to focus on some of them that are used in the Eucharistic celebration. It is important to know that these symbols find their origin in the Bible.

The cross: the cross symbolizes the salvation brought about by Jesus Christ. John 3, 14-15 reads: **“and the son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him”**. By dying on the cross, Jesus Christ sanctified it and changed its meaning. It is no longer an instrument of humiliation and death as it was in ancient times, but it has become the tree by which Christ saved the whole world. At the beginning as well as at the end of the Holy Eucharist, the priest and the assembly sign themselves with the sign of the cross, during the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest signs the bread the wine with the sign of the cross. The Holy Mass is the celebration of our salvation. In the sacrament of

Baptism, the candidates are signed with the sign of the cross by the priest, the parents and godparents.

Water: water plays different roles during the Eucharistic celebration. On Sundays, especially in Easter time, the sprinkling of water may take place during the Introductory Rite as a reminder of Baptism. In some Parishes, the people who bring the gifts at the Altar are sprinkled with Holy water so that the Good Lord may bless the work of their hands. During the offertory, the priest or the deacon pours wine and a little water into the chalice as he says quietly: ***By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.*** The water symbolises the human nature of Jesus Christ and wine symbolises his divine nature. Moreover, during the Offertory, the priest washes his hands saying: ***Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*** In this regard, water washes away all dirt.

The candles: the lights pay a key role in the sacred liturgy. The light symbolises Jesus Christ. In John 8, 12, **Jesus declares that he is the light of the world and that whoever follows him will not walk in darkness.**

A Christian does not walk in darkness but must follow Jesus who is the Light per excellence. As they share in the divinity of Christ, the faithful must shine in the world. In the Eucharistic celebration, the candles are put on the Altar. When the priest or the deacon goes to the ambo to read the Gospel he is accompanied by the ministers who carry the candles. They symbolise Jesus Christ's presence in the proclamation of the Holy Scriptures. In the sacrament of Baptism, the candidates receive the light. This means that they no longer belong to darkness but they are now God's children and they must be guided by Jesus Christ who is the light of the world.

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



Sunday November 12

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 6: 12-16 / Psalm 63: 2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8 (2b) / 1

Thessalonians 4: 13-18 / Matthew 25: 1-13



““At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.” (Matthew 25:1)



Theme: Be Always Alert and Ready

Our today's readings remind us to always be alert and ready for the Lord. The first reading calls us to be watchful as the key to a faithful religious belief and understanding of wisdom. The Second addresses a practical and doctrinal challenge that the community faces and the Gospel calls us to be ever vigilant and ready in serving God. Here the Lord uses a wedding feast to describe His kingdom. He gives us a story of the ten maidens, who in the parable represent all Christians. The foolish virgins represent Christians who have not sufficiently prepared for the wedding banquet and the wise represent Christians who are always ready to meet Jesus, the bridegroom, and enter eternal life with him. On receiving the sacrament of baptism, we as Christian starts our journey to heaven. We get our invitation to the heavenly wedding but this is only the beginning. So, from the moment we come to our use of reason we are expected to prepare ourselves by living according to the law of God so to help us respond to the call: 'Behold the bridegroom! Come to meet him'. We relate this time with our judgment day as humans. What we need to know is that, we all have the necessary means to get



Sunday November 12

ready. But, like the foolish bridesmaids, some of us may fail to make use of these means and we may realize our folly when it is too late.

The bridesmaids provided themselves with oil which was the duty imposed on them in the parable. As Christian too, we have duties imposed on us and are trivial when equated with the reward offered to us in return: an eternity of happiness in heaven. The question remains, are we like the foolish bridesmaids, dozing and sleeping contentedly holding empty lamps in our hands? We pray for the grace of God to guide us in making our decision on where we want to be on the last day. Is it with the wise bridesmaids or with the foolish?

Rev. Sr. Mary Nzilani, Nairobi



Entrance Antiphon (*Ps (87) 88:3*)

Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

Collect

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (*Wisdom 6:12-16*)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

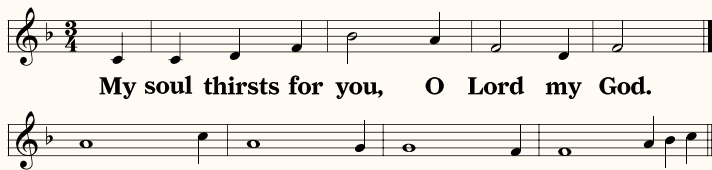
Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. He who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for he will find her sitting at his gates. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and he who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

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



Sunday November 12

Responsorial Psalm _____
(Psalm (62) 63:2.3-4.5-6.7-8)



R. For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting. For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water. R.

I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise. R.

I will bless you all my life;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you. R.



When I remember you upon my bed,
I muse on you through the watches of the night.
For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. R.

Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)—————

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

[Beginning of the short reading] We would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. [End of the short reading] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort



one another with these words. The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Acclamation (*Matthew 24:42a.44*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Watch, therefore, and be ready; the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
Alleluia.

Gospel (*Matthew 25:1-13*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus told to his disciples this parable; “The kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten maidens who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ “Then all those maidens rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ “But the wise replied, ‘Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ “And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage



feast; and the door was shut. Afterward the other maidens came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

℟. **Lord, listen to our prayer!**

For religious, political and traditional leaders in Africa and in other parts of the world, let us pray to the Lord our God. ℟.

For a closer relationship and personal experience with Christ, let us pray to the Lord our God. ℟.

For those who still do not believe in Christ, for our salvation and the salvation of the world, let us pray to the Lord our God. ℟.

For peace, food security, employment and mutual assistance in the world, especially in Africa. ℟.



Sunday November 12

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord, upon the sacrificial gifts offered here, that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son, we may honour it with loving devotion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon (*Ps (22) 23:1-2*)

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord, we give you thanks and beseech your mercy, that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit, the grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Monday November 13

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: St Frances Xavier Cabrini, virgin, optional memorial

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (87) 88:3) **Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.**

Collect

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Wisdom 1:1-7)

The beginning of the Book of Wisdom

Love righteousness, you rulers of the earth, think of the Lord with uprightness, and seek him with sincerity of heart; because he is found by those who do not put him to the test, and manifests himself to those who do not distrust him. For perverse thoughts separate men from God, and when his power is tested, it convicts the foolish; because wisdom



Monday November 13

will not enter a deceitful soul, nor dwell in a body enslaved to sin. For a holy and disciplined spirit will flee from deceit, and will rise and depart from foolish thoughts, and will be ashamed at the approach of unrighteousness. For wisdom is a kindly spirit and will not free a blasphemer from the guilt of his words; because God is witness of his inmost feelings, and a true observer of his heart, and a hearer of his tongue. Because the Spirit of the Lord has filled the world, and that which holds all things together knows what is said.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm ⁽¹³⁸⁾ 139:1-3. 4-6. 7-8. 9-10)

R. Lead me, Lord, in the way everlasting.

O Lord, you search me and you know me. You yourself know my resting and my rising; you discern my thoughts from afar. You mark when I walk or lie down; you know all my ways through and through. R.

Before ever a word is on my tongue, you know it, O Lord, through and through. Behind and before, you besiege me, your hand ever laid upon me. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge; too high, beyond my reach. R.



O where can I go from your spirit, or where can I flee from your face? If I climb the heavens, you are there. If lie in the grave, you are there. R.

If I take the wings of the dawn or dwell at the sea's furthest end, even there your hand would lead me; your right hand would hold me fast. R.

Acclamation

(Philippians 2:15d.16a)

Alleluia. Alleluia. You will shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life.
Alleluia.

Gospel ————— *(Luke 17:1-6)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come; but woe to him by whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung round his neck and he were cast into the sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Take heed to yourselves; if your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him; and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, and says, 'I repent,' you must forgive him." The apostles said to the Lord,



Monday November 13

“Increase our faith!” And the Lord said, “If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this sycamine tree, ‘Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord, upon the sacrificial gifts offered here, that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son, we may honour it with loving

devotion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (22) 23:1-2) **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.**

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord, we give you thanks and beseech your mercy, that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit, the



grace of integrity may entered. Through Christ
endure in those your our Lord. **Amen.**
heavenly power has

Sin, Faith and Duty

Commentary

Luke 17:1-6

Jesus in the Gospel reminds us of living in a society that is full of sin. Thus, with our good intents to live a holy life, we often fall short of the glory of God. So, we need to abide in Jesus for us not to go astray. He cautions us to be aware of our words and actions so to have a positive shape on others than to lead them to sin. We ask Him to increase our faith and to strengthen our resolve to avoid all events of sin.

Rev. Sr. Mary Nzilani, Nairobi



Tuesday November 14

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (87) 88:3) **Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.**

Collect

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Wisdom 2:23-3:9)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

God created man for incorruption, and made him in the image of his own eternity, but through the devil's envy death entered the world, and those who belong to his party experience it. But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be an affliction, and their



going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his elect, and

he watches over his holy ones. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (33) 34:2-3. 16-17. 18-19)

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

I will bless the Lord at all times, praise of him is always in my mouth. In the Lord my soul shall make its boast; the humble shall hear and be glad. *R.*

The Lord turns his eyes to the just, and his ears are open to their cry. The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. *R.*

When the just cry out, the Lord hears, and rescues them in all their distress. The

Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. R

Acclamation (*John 14:23*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. If a man loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(*Luke 17:7-10*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said, “Will any one of you, who has a servant ploughing or keeping sheep, say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down at table’? Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and put on your apron and serve me, till I eat

and drink; and afterward you shall eat and drink’? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord, upon the sacrificial gifts offered here, that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son, we may honour it with loving devotion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(*Ps (22) 23:1-2*) **The Lord is my shepherd; there is**

nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord, we give you

thanks and beseech your mercy, that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit, the grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Dutiful Servant

Commentary

Luke 17: 7-10

Jesus in today's Gospel teach us about the ideal attitude that we should have in serving God. He is using an example from every day life to communicate to his disciples of His way of leading as different from of this world with unjust rewards and privileges. Jesus hints that, serving others is a privilege in itself and no reward is necessary. The question remains; When I am serving others do I seek rewards? We pray today that God may teach us how to serve.

Rev. Sr. Mary Nzilani, Nairobi



Wednesday November 15

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: St Albert the Great, optional memorial

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (87) 88:3) Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

Collect

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Wisdom 6:1-11)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

Listen, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and boast of many nations. For your dominion was given you from the Lord, and your sovereignty from the Most High, who will search out your works and inquire into your plans. Because as servants of his kingdom you



did not rule rightly, nor keep the law, nor walk according to the purpose of God, he will come upon you terribly and swiftly, because severe judgement falls on those in high places. For the lowliest man may be pardoned in mercy, but mighty men will be mightily tested. For the Lord of all will not stand in awe of any one, nor show deference to greatness; because he himself made both small and great, and he takes thought for all alike. But a strict inquiry is in store for the mighty. To you then, O monarchs, my words are directed, that you may learn wisdom and not transgress. For they will be made holy who observe holy things in holiness, and those who

have been taught them will find a defence. Therefore set your desire on my words; long for them, and you will be instructed. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (81) 82:3-4.6-7)***

R. Arise, O God; judge the earth!

“Do justice for the weak and the orphan; give justice to the poor and afflicted. Rescue the weak and the needy; set them free from the hand of the wicked.” R.

I have said to you, “You are gods, and all of you, sons of the Most High. And yet, like

men you shall die; you shall fall, like any of the princes.” R

Acclamation

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
Alleluia.

Gospel

(Luke 17:11-19)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.”

And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord, upon the sacrificial gifts offered here, that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son, we



may honour it with loving devotion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (22) 23:1-2) **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives**

me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

Or

(Cf. Lk 24:35)

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord, we give you

thanks and beseech your mercy, that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit, the grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving

Commentary

Luke 17: 11-19

The Gospel reminds us of how we should learn to always thank Jesus. The story of the grateful Samaritan offers us another image of who and what matters to Jesus as well as to us. It draws attention to two crucial themes: Jesus' care for the marginalized and the suitable response to Jesus which is of faithful recognition and gratitude. What Jesus wants is gratitude that displays our true faith in him. We pray that He may give us a heart to thank him always.

Rev. Sr. Mary Nzilani, Nairobi



Thursday November 16

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: St Margaret of Scotland, optional memory

Or: St Gertrude the Great, optional memory

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (87) 88:3) Let my prayer
come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry
for help, O Lord.

Collect

Almighty and merciful
God, graciously keep
from us all adversity, so
that, unhindered in mind
and body alike, we may
pursue in freedom of heart
the things that are yours.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading _____ *(Wisdom 7:22-8:1)*

**A reading from the Book
of Wisdom**

For in wisdom there is a
spirit that is intelligent, holy,
unique, manifold, subtle,
mobile, clear, unpolluted,
distinct, invulnerable,
loving the good, keen,
irresistible, beneficent,
humane, steadfast, sure,
free from anxiety, all-
powerful, overseeing all,
and penetrating through all



spirits that are intelligent and pure and most subtle. For wisdom is more mobile than any motion; because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things. For she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing deified gains entrance into her. For she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. Though she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; for God loves nothing so much as the man who lives with wisdom. For

she is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared with the light she is found to be superior, for it is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail. She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹¹⁸⁾ 119:89. 90.
91. 130. 135. 175)***

R. For ever is your word, O Lord.

For ever is your word, O Lord, standing firm in the heavens. R.



From age to age is your truth; like the earth, it stands firm. *R*

Your judgements endure to this day, for all things are your servants. *R*

The unfolding of your word gives light, and understanding to the simple. *R*

Let your face shine forth on your servant, and teach me your decrees. *R*

My soul shall live and praise you. Your judgements give me help. *R*

Acclamation (*John 15:5*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I am the vine, you are the branches says the Lord. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(*Luke 17:20-25*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, Jesus answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Behold, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst." And he said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, 'Behold, there!' or 'Behold, here!' Do not go, do not follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from

one side to the other, so will the Son of man be in his day. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord, upon the sacrificial gifts offered here, that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son, we may honour it with loving

devotion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (22) 23:1-2) **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.**

Or:

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



Prayer after Communion

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord, we give you thanks and beseech your mercy, that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit, the

grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thy Kingdom Come

Commentary

Luke 17: 20-25

The Pharisees in the Gospel ask Jesus when the kingdom of God was to come, and said, it is already here. It was already present in and through His ministry, preaching among others. What we need to know is that, the kingdom is not only a future reality but something that is present now and will be fully revealed later in the future. Jesus' response to the Pharisees' query invites us to be heedful to the signs of God's kingdom that are already among us.

Rev. Sr. Mary Nzilani, Nairobi



Friday November 17

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, religious

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Mt 25:34.36.40) **Come, you blessed of my Father, says the Lord: I was sick, and you visited me. Amen I say to you: whatever you did for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me.**

needy and those afflicted.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading ————— (Wisdom 13:1-9)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

Collect

O God, by whose gift Saint Elizabeth of Hungary recognised and revered Christ in the poor, grant, through her intercession, that we may serve with unfailing charity the

All men who were ignorant of God were foolish by nature; and they were unable from the good things that are seen to know him who exists, nor did they recognize the craftsman while paying

heed to his works; but they supposed that either fire or wind or swift air, or the circle of the stars, or turbulent water, or the luminaries of heaven were the gods that rule the world. If through delight in the beauty of these things men assumed them to be gods, let them know how much better than these is their Lord, for the author of beauty created them. And if men were amazed at their power and working, let them perceive from them how much more powerful is he who formed them. For from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator. Yet these men are little to be blamed, for perhaps they

go astray while seeking God and desiring to find him. For as they live among his works they keep searching, and they trust in what they see, because the things that are seen are beautiful. Yet again, not even they are to be excused; for if they had the power to know so much that they could investigate the world, how did they fail to find sooner the Lord of these things? The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (18) 19:2-3.4-5ab)***

R. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the

firmament proclaims the work of his hands. Day unto day conveys the message, and night unto night imparts the knowledge. R

No speech, no word, whose voice goes unheeded; their sound goes forth through all the earth, their message to the utmost bounds of the world. R

Acclamation

(Luke 21:28)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____

(Luke 17:26-37)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of man. They ate, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was in the days of Lot— they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and brimstone rained from heaven and destroyed them all— so will it be on the day when the Son of man is revealed. On that day, let him who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away; and likewise let him

who is in the field not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. There will be two women grinding together; one will be taken and the other left." And they said to him, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "Where the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, the offerings of your people,

and grant that we, who celebrate your Son's work of boundless charity, may, by the example of blessed Elizabeth of Hungary, be confirmed in love of you and of our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 15:13) **Greater love has no one, says the Lord, than to lay down his life for his friends.**

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we who are renewed by these sacred mysteries, may follow the example of blessed Elizabeth of Hungary, who honoured

you with tireless devotion and, by surpassing charity, was of service to your people. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Our Choice in Life

Commentary

Luke 17: 26-37

The Gospel begins with Jesus saying to his disciples: “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the Son of Man.” He talks about Lot and people working together where one is taken, one left. What was he trying to tell his hearers and us today? That, every day we have a choice and so, we should recall that the most vital thing in our life is to be happy and contented by living our life to the fullest.

Rev. Sr. Mary Nzilani, Nairobi



Saturday November 18

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: Dedication of the Churches of Sts Peter and Paul,
optional memorial

Or: Rose Philippine Duchesne, religious, *optional memorial*

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (87) 88:3) **Let my prayer
come into your presence.**

**Incline your ear to my cry
for help, O Lord.**

yours. Through Christ our
Lord... **Amen.**

Reading

(Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9)

**A reading from the Book
of Wisdom**

Collect

Almighty and merciful
God, graciously keep
from us all adversity, so
that, unhindered in mind
and body alike, we may
pursue in freedom of
heart the things that are

While gentle silence
enveloped all things, and
night in its swift course
was now half gone, your
all-powerful word leaped
from heaven, from the royal

throne, into the midst of the land that was doomed, a stern warrior carrying the sharp sword of your authentic command, and stood and filled all things with death, and touched heaven while standing on the earth. For the whole creation in its nature was fashioned anew, complying with your commands, that your children might be kept unharmed. The cloud was seen overshadowing the camp, and dry land emerging where water had stood before, an unhindered way out of the Red Sea, and a grassy plain out of the raging waves, where those protected by your hand passed through as one nation, after gazing on marvellous wonders. For they ranged like horses,

and leaped like lambs, praising you, O Lord, who delivered them.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹⁰⁴⁾ 105:2-3.36-37.42-43)***

***R. Remember the
wonders the Lord has
done.***

or: Alleluia.

O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. *R.*

He struck all the firstborn in their land, the first fruit of all their strength. He led out Israel with silver and gold. In



his tribes were none who stumbled. R.

For he remembered his holy word, spoken to Abraham his servant. So he brought out his people with joy, his chosen ones with shouts of rejoicing. R.

Acclamation

(2 Thessalonians 2:14)

Alleluia. Alleluia. God has called us through the Gospel, to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

(Luke 18:1-8)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable, to the effect that they ought

always to pray and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor regarded man; and there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Vindicate me against my adversary.' "For a while he refused; but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will vindicate her, or she will wear me out by her continual coming.' " And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily.

Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, we pray,
O Lord, upon the sacrificial
gifts offered here, that,
celebrating in mystery the
Passion of your Son, we
may honour it with loving
devotion. Through Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (22) 23:1-2) **The Lord
is my shepherd; there
is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the
pastures where he gives
me repose, near restful
waters he leads me.**

Or

(Cf. Lk 24:35)

**The disciples recognised
the Lord Jesus in the
breaking of bread.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord, we give you thanks and beseech your mercy, that, by the pouring

forth of your Spirit, the grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Persistence in Prayer**Commentary****Luke Lk 18: 1-8**

Today, Jesus provides us with a parable about the necessity of persistent prayer. He teaches his disciples that justice has its source in God. Though many barriers exist in the world that prevent us from receiving justice, this parable is encouraging us as Christians to persevere in our faith against all odds for it is only God who can bring about justice in our corrupt world. We pray that God may help us to pray with persistent trust in him.

Rev. Sr. Mary Nzilani, Nairobi



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