

AFRICA

# Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

bayard africaine

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

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### **On our cover:** A coin

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# Editorial

October 2023



Rev. Fr. Walter C. Ihejirika, Nigeria

## ‘I Am not Ashamed of the Gospel’

**I**n one of our readings this week, Saint Paul boldly said: “I am not ashamed of the Gospel, It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: for Jew first, and then Greek.” (Rom 1:16-17) The English word ‘ashamed’ denotes a feeling of embarrassment or guilt deriving from one’s actions, characteristics or associations. A person ashamed of his/her actions or associations feels a sense of remorse, regret and humiliation.

Like Saint Paul, we too are not ashamed of the gospel. We are not afraid to be identified with Jesus Christ for we believe in salvation that comes only from Him. We are not embarrassed when we look awkward because our actions are not in conformity with the thinking of the world (Rom 12:2) We are not afraid to defend our faith, rather we are always prepared to explain with gentleness to anyone who asks the reason of the hope we bear (1 Pt 4:15)

As we confess and profess Christ before men, we are convinced that he, in accordance with his promise, will also confess us before our heavenly Father (Mt 10:33)



# The Pope's Prayer Intention

***For the Synod we pray for the Church:*** that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

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



### **The Concluding Rite**

**A**fter the Communion rite, some brief announcements can be made to the people who are participating in the Holy Mass. The announcements must be done after the *Prayer after Communion*. It is not right to make them before the above prayer because they appear to be part of the Communion rite whereas they are part of the concluding rite according to the Order of Mass of the Roman Missal.

The Parish Priest and the Parish Council will make sure that announcements are meaningful to the Parishioners. In the same context, the introduction of some guests should be brief.

After the announcements, the main celebrant may remind the assembly about the major liturgical theme. It should be brief. Then comes the moment for the main celebrant to impart the final blessing on the assembly. On some occasions, the final blessing is preceded by a

solemn blessing which is in harmony with the event that is being celebrated.

The words that the priest uses to impart the final blessing are different from the words that are used by the bishop. When the final blessing is given by a priest:

**Priest: The Lord be with you**

Assembly: And with your spirit

**Priest: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

Assembly: Amen

When the final blessing is given by a bishop:

**Bishop: The Lord be with you**

Assembly: And with your spirit

**Bishop: Blessed be the name of the Lord**

Assembly: Now and for ever

Bishop: Our help is in the name of the Lord

Assembly: Who made heaven and earth

**Bishop: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

Assembly: Amen

A priest makes the sign of the cross only once over the assembly whereas the bishop makes it three times. After the final blessing, the deacon or the priest pronounces one of the following sentences:

**Go forth, the Mass is ended.**

**Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.**

**Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.**

**Go in peace.**

The assembly replies: **Thanks be to God.**

After this assembly's response, the celebrant kisses the Altar as at the beginning of the Holy Mass. And with the ministers (acolytes, readers, etc.) he makes a profound bow before withdrawing. At that moment, the choir sings the exit song.

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



# Sunday October 15

## 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Isaiah 25: 6-10a / Psalm 23: 1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6 (6cd) / Philippians 4: 12-14. 19-20 / Matthew 22: 1-14*



He said to him, "My friend, how did you get in here without having the wedding garment?" (Matthew 22:12)





## *Salvation: All-inclusive yet exclusive*

**I**n recent times, there has been strong debates as to the nature of salvation: is it all inclusive regardless or it is exclusive for certain categories of people? The offer of salvation is free. It is God who has saved us through Jesus without any effort from us. Everything has been done by God just as the banquet has been prepared by the king. And yet we know that every offer must either be accepted or rejected. This is the response of man. There are two dangers of the spiritual life; for some to think their effort is what justified the invitation and for others to think so far as everything has been prepared, they are saved regardless of what they do (whether they accept the invitation or not). In today's first and gospel reading we clearly see the work of God freely prepared for us and yet he requires us to respond to his invitation. Here, three categories of responses are seen: those who refuse, those who ignore and those who give excuses. Those who refuse are those who say a definite no to God; those who ignore are those who though have not said no to God categorically- they ignore his influence in their lives. Then we have the third group who give excuses and prefer to do other things than respond to God.



**Sunday** October 15

Yet another twist of the parable relates to us who believe in God and are Christians. We who if not the sacrifice of Christ were not part of the first invitees (Israel). The door has been widely opened for us. The danger is to think that because God wants everyone to be saved, it does not matter what you do. You would still be included. The man who comes in not properly dressed shows us that even though salvation is all inclusive, it requires a certain response to remain in the kingdom. The kingdom of God is both all-inclusive and exclusive for those who do not respond to its requirement.”

***Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Ghana***



**Entrance Antiphon** (*Ps (129) 130:3-4*)

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

**Collect**

May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after, and make us always determined to carry out good works. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading** (*Isaiah 25:6-10a*)

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**A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

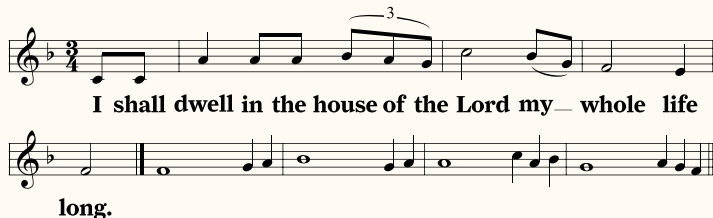
On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things, a feast of choice wines — of fat things full of marrow, of choice wines well refined. And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

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



Sunday October 15

**Responsorial Psalm** —————  
**(Psalm (22) 23:1-3a.3b-4.5.6)**



**R. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for length of days unending.**

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; / he revives my soul. R.

He guides me along the right path, / for the sake of his  
name. Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of  
the death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me. Your  
crook and your staff will give me comfort. R.



You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. *R.*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending. *R.*

***Second Reading (Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20)***————  
**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians**

Brethren: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

***Acclamation (Ephesians 1:17-18)***

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we might know what is the hope to which he has called us. **Alleluia.**



Sunday October 15

## ***Gospel (Matthew 22:1-14)***

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

[Beginning of the short reading] At that time: Again Jesus spoke to the chief of priests and elders of the people, in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servant to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.’ But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burnt their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the streets, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. [End of the short reading]

“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding



garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

*The following intentions are suggestions only.*

**R. Lord, hear our prayer !**

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

For wisdom and selflessness in those committed to public service, 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** October 15

## **Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful with the sacrificial offerings, that, through these acts of devotedness, we may pass over to the glory of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Communion Antiphon** (*Ps (33) 34:11*)

**The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.**

## **Prayer after Communion**

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord, that, as you feed us with the nourishment which comes from the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, so you may make us sharers of his divine nature. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**





# Monday October 16

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

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## ***Ferial***

*Or: St Hedwig or Margaret Mary Alacoque, virgin,  
optional memorial*

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Ps (129) 130:3-4)* **If you,  
O Lord, should mark  
iniquities, Lord, who could  
stand? But with you is  
found forgiveness, O God of  
Israel.**

### **Collect**

May your grace, O Lord, we  
pray, at all times go before  
us and follow after and  
make us always determined  
to carry out good works.  
Through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. **Amen.**

### ***Reading***

***(Romans 1:1-7)***

**The beginning of the  
Letter of Saint Paul to the  
Romans**

Paul, a servant of Jesus  
Christ, called to be an  
apostle, set apart for the  
gospel of God which he  
promised beforehand  
through his prophets in  
the holy Scriptures, the  
gospel concerning his Son,  
who was descended from  
David according to the  
flesh and designated Son



of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**——  
(Psalm 97) 98: 1.2-3ab  
.3cd-4)

R. The Lord has made known his salvation.

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. R.

The Lord has made known his salvation, has shown his deliverance to the nations. He has remembered his merciful love and his truth for the house of Israel. R.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song, and sing out your praise. R.

**Acclamation**

(Ps. (94) 95:7d.8a)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Today, harden not your hearts, but listen to the voice of the Lord. **Alleluia.**



## **Gospel** ————— **(Luke 11:29-32)**

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

At that time: When the crowds were increasing, Jesus began to say, “This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah became a sign to the men of Nineveh, so will the Son of man be to this generation. The queen of the South will arise at the judgement with the men of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh will arise

at the judgement with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful with the sacrificial offerings, that, through these acts of devotedness, we may pass over to the glory of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Cf. Ps (33) 34:1)* **The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.**



**Monday** October 16

Or

**1 Jn. 3:2**

**When the Lord appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord, that,

as you feed us with the nourishment which comes from the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, so you may make us sharers of his divine nature. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The most Important Sign**

## **Commentary**

**Luke 11: 29-32**

Very often, we seek signs from God to feel His presence. But the absence of signs doesn't mean God is not present. Like finding a hospital without signage, signs make it easier to sense God, yet His reality remains. Today, God asks for a sign from us: repentance. In Jonah's time, God saw their efforts of repentance and relented. In this light, what Jesus invites us to with the reference to the sign of Jonah is the effort we ought to put in for people who claim to have repented.

***Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Ghana***



# Tuesday October 17

28<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time

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## Memorial

**Saint Ignatius of Antioch, bishop**

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Gal 2:19-20)* **With Christ I am nailed to the cross, yet I am alive, though it is no longer I, but Christ who is alive in me. I live by faith in the son of God who loved me, and gave himself up for me.**

### Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who adorn the sacred body of your Church with the confessions of holy Martyrs, grant, we pray, that, just as the glorious passion of Saint Ignatius of Antioch which we celebrate today, brought

him eternal splendour, so may it be for us unending protection. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Reading

***(Romans 1:16-25)***

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

Brethren: I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for

faith; as it is written, “He who through faith is righteous shall live.” For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men who by their wickedness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse; for although they knew God they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the

immortal God for images resembling mortal man or birds or animals or reptiles. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonouring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever! The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm (18) 19:2-3,4-5)***

**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**

*(Hebrews 4:12)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** The word of the Lord is living and active, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **Alleluia.**

### **Gospel**

*(Luke 11:37-41)*

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

At that time: While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with

him; so he went in and sat at table. The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. And the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of extortion and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

May this oblation and our homage be pleasing to you, O Lord, just as you accepted Saint Ignatius, the wheat of Christ, made pure bread through his martyrdom and

passion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (33) 34:11)* **I am the wheat of Christ to be ground by the teeth of beasts, that I may be found to be pure bread.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

May the heavenly Bread we have received on Saint Ignatius' day, O Lord, renew us, we pray, and make us Christians in name and in deed. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Replacing God**

## **Commentary**

**Romans 1: 16-25**

Sometimes, humans reject God, replacing Him with themselves or things like science. The modern man thinks that belief in God is primitive. Ironically, great scientists like Copernicus and Newton were Christians. As the first reading reminds us: "Since creation, God's invisible qualities can be understood and perceived in what he has made." Nature reveals God's attributes, leading to the discovery of truth. Studying the design for the writer of the book of Romans would lead us to the designer if we are humble.

***Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Ghana***





# Wednesday October 18

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

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## **Feast**

**Saint Luke, evangelist**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Is 52:7)* **How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings of peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation!**

### **Collect**

Lord God, who chose Saint Luke to reveal by his preaching and writings the mystery of your love for the poor, grant that those who already glory in your name may persevere as one heart and one

soul, and that all nations may merit to see your salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Reading** ————— **(2 Timothy 4:10-17ab)**

**A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy**

Beloved: Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus

to Dalmatia. Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you; for he is very useful in serving me. Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defence no one took my part; all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength to proclaim the word fully, that all the Gentiles might hear it.

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

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm <sup>(144)</sup> 145: 10-  
11.12-13ab.17-18)***

**R. Your saints, O Lord,  
make known the glory of  
your reign**

All your works shall thank you, O Lord, and all your faithful ones bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your reign, and declare your mighty deeds. R.

To make known your might to the children of men, and the glorious splendour of your reign. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your rule endures for all generations. 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.

## Acclamation

*(2 Thessalonians 2:13)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** I chose you from the world that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, says the Lord.  
**Alleluia.**

## Gospel

*(Luke 10:1-9)*

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

At that time: The Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;

pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and salute no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you; heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Grant through your heavenly gifts that we may serve you in freedom of heart, we pray, O Lord, so that the offerings we make on the feast day of Saint Luke may bring us

healing and give us glory.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Lk 10:1.9)* **The Lord sent out disciples to proclaim throughout the towns: The kingdom of God is at hand for you.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that what we have received from your holy altar may sanctify us and

make us strong in the faith of the Gospel which Saint Luke proclaimed. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Preparing for Christ's Visit****Commentary****Luke 10: 1-9**

Today we celebrate Saint Luke the evangelist, writer of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. Luke was a disciple of Paul. In the Gospel, Jesus sends the seventy-two ahead of Himself to prepare places He intends to visit. As Christians, we are also sent to prepare people for God's visitation. Luke did this through preaching, his life, and leaving us the words of Jesus. Reading his Gospel helps us encounter Christ personally as He visits us through His words.

***Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Ghana***





# Thursday October 19

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

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## ***Ferial***

***Or: Sts Isaac Jogues and John de Brebeuf and companions, martyrs, optional memorial***

## **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Ps (129) 130:3-4)* **If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.**

## **Collect**

May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out good works. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## ***Reading*** --- ***(Romans 3:21-30)***

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

Brethren: Now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from law, although the law and the prophets bear witness to it, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction; since all have sinned and

fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as an expiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies him who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On the principle of works? No, but on the principle of faith. For we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since

God is one; and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of their faith and the uncircumcised through their faith.

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

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm (129) 130:1-2.3-4.5-6ab)***

***R. With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.***

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the sound of my pleading. *R.*

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is

found forgiveness, that you may be revered. *R.*

I long for you, O Lord, my soul longs for his word. My soul hopes in the Lord more than watchmen for daybreak. *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 11:47-54*)

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

At that time: Jesus said, “Woe to you! for you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. So you are witnesses and consent to the deeds of

your fathers; for they killed them, and you build their tombs. Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’ that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it shall be required of this generation. Woe to you lawyers! for you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering.” As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began





to press him hard, and to provoke him to speak of many things, lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

May this oblation and our homage be pleasing to you, O Lord, just as you accepted Saint Ignatius, the wheat of

Christ, made pure bread through his martyrdom and passion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

**I am the wheat of Christ to be ground by the teeth of beasts, that I may be found to be pure bread.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

May the heavenly Bread we have received on

Saint Ignatius' day, O Lord, renew us, we pray, and make us Christians in name and in deed. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Faith and Works

## Commentary

**Romans 3: 21-30/  
Ps 130: 1b-2. 3-4. 5-6ab**

Saint Paul addresses a fundamental struggle since apostolic times between faith and works. He states clearly today that: "For we consider that a person is justified by faith apart from works of the law" (Rom 3:27). God's works are not based on the law, or else no one would be saved (cf. Psalm 130:3). Our salvation is solely based on God's righteousness and benevolence, not our own actions. We are saved through believing in God's act of salvation made possible by His grace.

***Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Ghana***



# Friday October 20

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

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## **Ferial**

*or: St Paul of the Cross, priest, optional memorial*

### **Entrance Antiphon**

(Psalm 130:3-4) **If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.**

### **Collect**

May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after, and make us always determined to carry out good works. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Reading** ————— **(Romans 4:1-8)**

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

Brethren: What shall we say about Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. Now to one who works his

wages are not reckoned as a gift but as his due. And to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness. So also David pronounces a blessing upon the man to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not reckon his sin." The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm <sup>(31)</sup> 32:1-2.5.11)***

***R. You are a hiding place  
for me***

You surround me with deliverance. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is remitted. Blessed the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. *R.*

To you I have acknowledged my sin; my guilt I did not hide. I said, "I will confess my transgression to the Lord." And you have forgiven the guilt of my sin. *R.*

Rejoice in the Lord exult you just Ring out your joy all you upright of heart! *R.*

**Acclamation** (*Psalm 33:22*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————  
(*Luke 12:1-7*)

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

At that time: When so many thousands of the multitude had gathered together that they trod upon one another, Jesus began to say to his disciples first, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you

have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops. “I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful with the sacrificial offerings, that,

through these acts of devotedness, we may pass over to the glory of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Cf. Ps 34:11)* **The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing**

*Or: 1 Jn 3:2*

**When the Lord appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord, that, as you feed us with the nourishment which comes from the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, so



you may make us sharers of his divine nature. Who lives and reigns for ever

and ever. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Abraham a Symbol of Faith

### Commentary

**Romans 4: 1-8**

Abraham becomes an example in Paul's argument that man has not merited God's saving act. He states that, if Abraham did something to merit his call, he could boast, but he did nothing. He was called from "nothingness," just like creation. No one should think they can work to merit the grace of God. Our works should result from the freely received grace. Paul emphasizes the primacy of grace, and our good works come from the grace we've received."

***Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Ghana***



# Saturday October 21

28<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time

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## **Ferial**

or Saturday Mass of B.V. Mary

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Ps (129) 130:3-4)* If you,  
O Lord, should mark  
iniquities, Lord, who  
could stand? But with you  
is found forgiveness,  
O God of Israel.

### **Collect**

May your grace, O Lord,  
we pray, at all times go  
before us and follow  
after, and make us always  
determined to carry out  
good works. Through  
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Reading**

***(Romans 4:13.16-18)***

A reading from the Letter  
of Saint Paul to the  
Romans

Brethren: The promise  
to Abraham and his  
descendants, that they  
should inherit the world,  
did not come through  
the law but through the  
righteousness of faith. That  
is why it depends on faith,  
in order that the promise  
may rest on grace and  
be guaranteed to all his



descendants — not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham, for he is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations” — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations; as he had been told, “So shall your descendants be.”

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

***Responsorial Psalm —***  
***(Psalm (104) 105:6-7.8-9.42-43)***

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant forever.**

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

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**

*(Matthew 11:25)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** The Spirit of truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord; and you also are witnesses. **Alleluia.**

### **Gospel** ————— *(Luke 12:8-12)*

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

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of man also will acknowledge before the angels of God; but he who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

And every one who speaks a word against the Son of man will be forgiven; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how or what you are to answer or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful with the sacrificial offerings, that, through these acts of devotedness, we may pass over to the glory of heaven.



Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (33) 34:11)* **The rich  
suffer want and go  
hungry, but those who  
seek the Lord lack no  
blessing.**

*Or*

*1Jn. 3:2*

**When the Lord appears,  
we shall be like him, for  
we shall see him as he is.**

**Prayer after Communion**

We entreat your majesty  
most humbly, O Lord, that,  
as you feed us with the  
nourishment which comes  
from the most holy Body

and Blood of your Son, so you may make us sharers of his divine nature. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Faith Produces Works

### Commentary

**Romans 4: 13. 16-18**

Abraham's faith wasn't mere intellectual belief, but a living and tangible faith. He was willing to give up everything for the Lord. Although he didn't earn God's call through his actions, his response to the gift made him the father of many nations. Saint James' words, "Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works," doesn't contradict Saint Paul. Both emphasize the primacy of faith, adds that this faith is not just an intellectual accent but one that produces fruits.

***Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Ghana***



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