

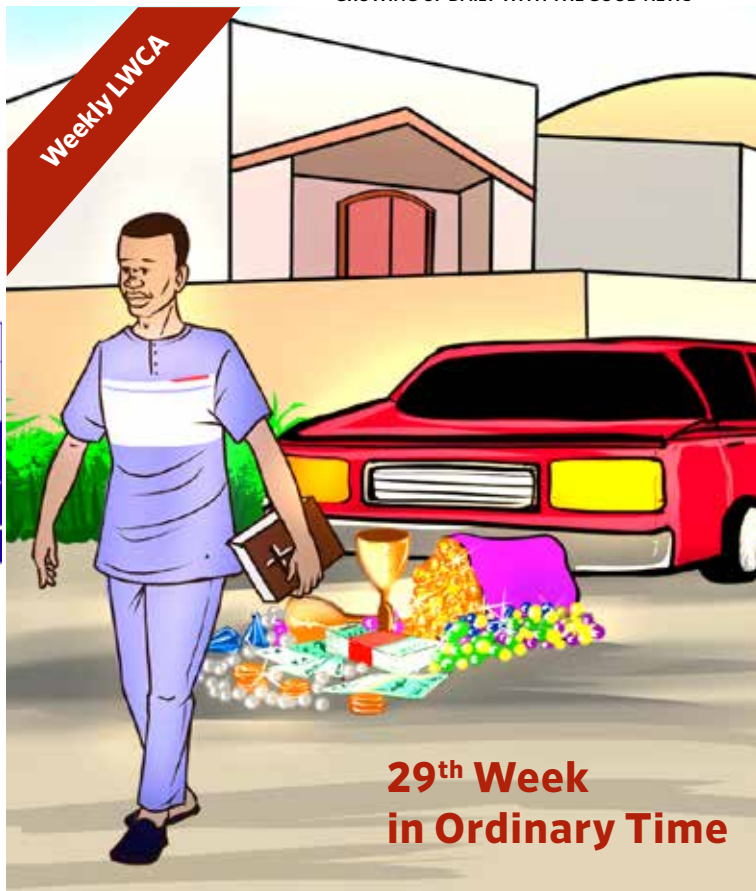
AFRICA

# Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

bayard africain



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

AFRICA ● 22-28 October 2023 ● Digital n°56

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#### **Liturgical texts:**

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**On our cover:** A man walking: symbol of mission

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# Editorial

October 2023



Rev. Fr. Walter C. Ihejirika, Nigeria

## The Will of God

**D**uring this liturgical week, we sang Psalm 40. A salient part of the psalm underlines our Christian calling: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but my ears You have opened. ... Then I said, “Here I am, I have come— it is written about me in the scroll: I delight to do Your will, O my God ...” (Ps 40:6-8) Doing the will of God is the foundation of faith.

To do the will of God has two components: Firstly, it entails complete trust in the love and mercy of God. Thus, we pray in the Lord’s prayer – ‘thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven’. Allowing the will of God to be done in our lives shows our trustful belief that ‘all things work together for the good of those who love God’ (Rom 8:28) We therefore pray that God answers our prayers, not as we will, but as he wills (Mt 26:29). Doing the will of God, secondly, means doing good deeds which will be beneficial for us and for others. Our good deeds in turn merit us more blessings from God for we become like the dutiful and vigilant servants who were ministered to by their master in compensation for their diligence (Lk 12:35-38).

When we live daily with Christ, we will be enabled to abide by the will of God.



## 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 22

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

*Isaiah 45: 1. 4-6 / Psalm 96: 1. 3. 4-5. 7-8. 9-10 (7b) / 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5b / Matthew 22: 15-21*



So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."  
(Matthew 22:21)





## *The Tax Belongs to Caesar but Caesar Belongs to God*

**L**ast Sunday, Jesus described heaven as a banquet to which special guests were invited only for them to turn down the invitation at the last hour. While so many were making their way into God's kingdom, the Jewish religious leaders (the special guests), were looking for how to bring Jesus down by all means. They did not know that they were dealing with God before whom all human wisdom is dust. Jesus used the occasion to teach some important lessons:

1. Be careful when you see rivals working together. The Pharisees were against the payment of taxes because, for them, it was a sign of religious domination by the Romans. Meanwhile, the Herodians were entirely in support of the payment of taxes. If Jesus had simply answered either "Yes" or "No", he would have sparked off either religious sentiments among the Pharisees or civil action by the Herodians. This is the extent to which people are willing to go to pull us down, but in such moments as this, let us remember to call on God for Divine assistance.



**Sunday** October 22

2. Avoid persons who flatter you. By praising Jesus, they were hoping to get him in a relaxed mood so that he would speak without first thinking thoroughly. We must be cautious of those who praise us. “It is not all that glitters that is gold.”

3. Worshipping God does not mean we should disrespect civil authorities. As Jesus puts it, “Render to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s,” meaning that as long as we render to God the worship that is due to Him, it is not a sin to pay taxes. For Jesus, even though He had no business paying taxes as the Son of God, there was no need to offend. We learn from Jesus to obey civil authorities.

4. Even Caesar belongs to God. When we respect civil authorities, we are also giving respect to God by whose power these persons got into such positions. This is precisely the message contained in our first reading today. Isaiah describes Cyrus as God’s anointed.

*Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria*



**Entrance Antiphon** (*Ps (16) 17:6.8*)

**To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.**

**Collect**

Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading** (*Isaiah 45:1.4-6*)

**A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and uncover the loins of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: “For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I clothe, though you do not know me, that men may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.

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



Sunday October 22

**Responsorial Psalm** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Psalm (95) 96:1 and 3.4-5.7-8.9-10a and c)**



**R.** Give the Lord glory and power.

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Tell among the nations his glory,  
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

For the Lord is great and highly to be praised,  
to be feared above all gods.  
For the gods of the nations are naught.  
It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**



Worship the Lord in holy splendour.  
O tremble before him, all the earth.  
Say to the nations, "The Lord is king."  
He will judge the peoples in fairness. R.

***Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b)*** —————

**The beginning of the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the Church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brethren beloved by God, that he has chosen you; for our Gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Sunday October 22

**Acclamation** (*Philippians 2:15d-16a*)

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

**Gospel** (*Matthew 22:15-21*)

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

At that time: The Pharisees went and took counsel how to entangle Jesus in his talk. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true, and teach the way of God truthfully, and care for no man; for you do not regard the position of men. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the money for the tax.” And they brought him a coin. And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are to God’s.”

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.

## Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Sunday October 22

**Communion Antiphon** (*Ps (32) 33:18-19*)

**Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that, benefitting from participation in heavenly things, we may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





# Monday October 23

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

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## **Ferial**

or: **St John of Capistrano, priest**, *optional memorial*

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Ps (16) 17:6.8)* **To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.**

### **Collect**

Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord... **Amen.**

### **Reading** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Romans 4:20-25)**

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

Brethren: No distrust made Abraham waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was “reckoned to him as righteousness.” But the



words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him that raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

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

***Responsorial Psalm***—  
***(Luke 1:69-70.71-72.73-75)***

**R. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited his people**

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us. In the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth

of his holy prophets from of old. **R.**

That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all who hate us; to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant. **R.**

The oath which he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life. **R.**

### **Acclamation**

***(Matthew 5:3)***

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **Alleluia.**



***Gospel*** —————  
***(Luke 12:13-21)***

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

At that time: One of the multitude said to Jesus, “Teacher, bid my brother divide the inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or divider over you?” And he said to them, “Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull

down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.’ “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

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

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Grant us, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed



**Monday** October 23

by the very mysteries we serve. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (29) 33:18-19)* **Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue**

**their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.**

*Or*

*Mk 10:45*

**The Son of Man has come to give his life as a ransom for many.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things, we may be helped

by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Danger  
of Covetousness****Commentary**

Luke 12:13-21

To be covetous is to live in a world of me and myself, like the rich man in the parable who thought only about himself. He said: "What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops? ... I will do this: pull down my barns and build larger ones...." Pulling down his barns, he was willing to waste forgetting that so many people cannot afford what he want to throw away. What is the cure for covetousness? Faith to remember that when we give to others, we are not losing anything but storing up treasures for ourselves. We need strong faith to know that no one ever became poor by giving to needy people.

**Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria**



# Tuesday October 24

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

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## **Ferial**

or: **St Anthony Mary Claret**, *optional memorial*

### **Entrance Antiphon**

(Ps (16) 17:6.8) **To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.**

### **Collect**

Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord... **Amen.**

### **Reading**

(Romans 5:12.15b. 17-19.20b-21)

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

Brethren: As sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. If,

because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous. Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness to eternal

life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**Responsorial Psalm —  
 (Psalm (39) 40:7-8a.8b-  
 9.10.17)**

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

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

In the scroll of the book it stands written of me: "I delight to do your will, O my God; your instruction lies deep within me." R.

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have

not sealed; You know it, O Lord. R.

O let there be rejoicing and gladness for all who seek you. Let them ever say, "The Lord is great," who long for your salvation. R.

### **Acclamation**

*(Luke 21:36)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Watch at all times, praying that you may be able to stand before the Son of man.  
**Alleluia.**

### **Gospel**

*(Luke 12:35-38)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, and be like men

who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes; truly, I say to you, he will put on his apron and have them sit at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those servants!"  
The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Grant us, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed



by the very mysteries we serve. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (32) 33:18-19)* **Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls**

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

*Or:*

*Mk 10:45*

**The Son of Man has come to give his life as a ransom for many.**

### Prayer after Communion

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things, we may be helped

by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Social Character of Sin

### Commentary

Luke 12:36-38

Just as oil spreads, likewise, sin spreads. Jesus warns us against sin. Sin affects us and how we relate with others and God. Just as sin destroys man, being good (obeying God's commandments) brings blessings to man. Jesus tells us: "Be dressed for action and have your lamps burning." (Luke 12:35-37). In other words, "let your light shine at all times." Live your life as if every day is your last.

*Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria*



# Wednesday October 25

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

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## Entrance Antiphon

*(Ps (16) 17:6.8)* **To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.**

## Collect

Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading --- *(Romans 6: 12-18)*

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

Brethren: Let not sin reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not yield your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but yield yourselves to God as men who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under

law but under grace. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you yield yourselves to any one as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

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

**Responsorial Psalm —**  
**(Psalm (123) 124:1-3.4-6.7-8)**

**R. Our help is in the name of the Lord**

“If the Lord had not been on our side,” let Israel say - “If the Lord had not been on our side when men rose against us, then would they have swallowed us alive when their anger was kindled.” R.

Then would the waters have engulfed us, the torrent gone over us; over our head would have swept the raging waters.” Blest be the Lord who did not give us a prey to their teeth! R.

Our life, like a bird, has escaped from the snare of the fowler. Indeed, the snare has been broken, and

we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. *R.*

**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** —————  
(*Luke 12:39-48*)

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

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “Know this, that if the householder had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would have been awake and would not have left his

house to be broken into. You also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?” And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise steward, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing. Truly I tell you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he

does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will punish him, and put him with the unfaithful. And that servant who knew his master's will, but did not make ready or act according to his will, shall receive a severe beating. But he who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, shall receive a light beating. Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more."

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Grant us, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the

purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (32) 33:18-19)* **Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.**

*Or:*

*Mk 10:45*

**The Son of Man has come to give his life as a ransom for many.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly



things, we may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared

for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Do not Become a Slave to Sin

## Commentary

Roman 6: 12-18,  
Luke 12:39-48

Slavery is not just the condition of being held against one's will but also the condition of lacking the capacity to do what is right. Many Christians regret their sinful actions but they find themselves committing the same sin. The key to freedom from the slavery of sin is surrender to God. Saint Paul says: "Do not yield your members to sin as an instrument, but yield yourselves to God." In today's Gospel passage, Jesus says we should become stewards waiting for our master's arrival.

**Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria**



# Thursday October 26

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

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## Entrance Antiphon

*(Ps (16) 17:6.8)* **To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.**

## Collect

Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord... **Amen.**

## Reading ---

***(Romans 6:19-23)***

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

Brethren: I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those



things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm 1:1-2.3.4and6)***

**R. Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.**

Blessed indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the path with sinners, nor abides in the company of scorners, but whose delight

is the law of the Lord, and who ponders his law day and night. **R.**

He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, that yields its fruit in due season, and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that he does shall prosper. **R.**

Not so are the wicked, not so! For they, like winnowed chaff, shall be driven away by the wind. For the Lord knows the way of the just, but the way of the wicked will perish. **R.**

**Acclamation**  
*(Philippians 3:8-9a)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** I count everything as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him. **Alleluia.**

***Gospel*** \_\_\_\_\_  
***(Luke 12:49-53)***

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

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptised with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division; for henceforth in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against her mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

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

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Grant us, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (32) 33:18-19)* **Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.**

*Or*



*Mk 10:45*

**The Son of Man has come to give his life as a ransom for many.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Grant, O Lord, we pray,  
that, benefiting from

participation in heavenly things, we may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **For the Wages of Sin is Death**

### **Commentary**

**Luke 12:49-53**

When a doctor tells us to avoid a particular type of food for our health, our love for that food dies, and we begin to see it as poison. In the same way, we must be able to tell ourselves that: "Sin is poison. Sin kills. Sin destroys." Jesus says in our Gospel passage that He has not come to bring peace on earth but rather division. In our struggle against sin, we must remember we cannot afford to be friends with everyone especially when they lead us astray.

***Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria***



# Friday October 27

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

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## Entrance Antiphon

*(Ps (16) 17:6.8)* **To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.**

## Collect

Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading

***(Romans 7:18-25a)***

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

Brethren: I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inmost self,

but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin which dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** —  
*(Psalm (118) 119:66*  
*.68.76.77.93.94)*

*R.* Teach me your statutes,  
**O Lord.**

Teach me good judgement and knowledge, for I trust in your commands. *R.*

You are good, and you do what is good; teach me your statutes. *R.*

Let your merciful love console me by your promise to your servant. *R.*

Show me compassion that I may live, for your law is my delight. *R.*

I will never forget your precepts, for with them you give me life. *R.*

Save me, I am yours, for I seek your precepts. *R.*

**Acclamation**  
*(Matthew 11:25)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————  
*(Luke 12:54-59)*

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

At that time: Jesus said to the multitudes, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming’; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky; but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? “And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out till you have paid the very last copper.”

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Grant us, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (32) 33:18-19)* **Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.**

*Or*

*Mk 10:45*

**The Son of Man has come to give his life as a ransom for many.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things, we may be helped

by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Power of God's  
Grace****Commentary****Romans 7:16-2**

By saying the flesh is weak, Saint Paul teaches that to win the war against sin; we must run to Jesus. Saint Francis De Sales explains: "As soon as you find yourself in any temptations, do as little children do when they see danger; straightway, they run to the arms of their father or mother. As much as asking for God's grace in fighting temptations is essential, we must never forget that grace builds on nature. God wants you to make an effort to try to avoid danger and be wise.

**Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria**



# Saturday October 28

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

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## *Feast*

**Saint Simon and Jude, apostles**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

**These are the holy men whom the Lord chose in his own sheer love; and he gave them eternal glory.**

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

### **Collect**

O God, who by the blessed Apostles have brought us to acknowledge your name, grant graciously, through the intercession of Saints Simon and Jude, that the Church may constantly

grow by increase of the peoples who believe in you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Reading** —————  
*(Ephesians 2:19-22)*

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

Brethren: You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the



foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm*** —  
***(Psalm (18) 19:1-2.3-4ab)***

***R.*** Their sound goes forth through all the earth.

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**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as the Lord; the glorious band of apostles sings your praise, O Lord! **Alleluia.**

***Gospel*** —————  
***(Luke 6:12-19)***

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

In these days Jesus went out into the hills to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when it was day; he called his disciples,

and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles; Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd

sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all.

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

As we venerate the perpetual glory of the holy Apostles Simon and Jude, O Lord, we ask that you receive our prayers and lead us to worthy celebration of the sacred mysteries. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Jn 14:23)* **Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our home with him.**



### Prayer after Communion

Having received this Sacrament, O Lord, we humbly implore you in the Holy Spirit, that what we do to honour the glorious

passion of the Apostles Simon and Jude, may keep us ever in your love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Your Life Is not a Mistake

### Commentary

Ephesians 2:19-22 /  
Ps. 19:2-5 / Luke 6:12-16

As we celebrate the Feast of apostles, Simon and Jude, our readings challenge us to reflect on the concept of our election and choice before God. Jesus spent a whole night in prayer, consulting with God who has plans, before making his choice. Saint Paul tells us in today's first reading that we are not just strangers or foreigners to God; we are his children. When we sin we reject the will of God. God does not force us. Simon and Jude cooperated with God. They proclaimed the Gospel to millions.

**Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria**



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## Digital

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