

AFRICA

Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

**34th Week
in Ordinary Time**



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Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: Christ, the King of the Universe

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Editorial

November 2023



Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Ghana

Witness until the End

The liturgical year is closing in and our attention is drawn to witnessing to our faith. It is said: “evil thrives when good men do nothing”. Same is true about our faith: faith dies when there is no witness. The word for witness in Greek “marturas” means martyr: one who is ready to die for his faith. This week we are presented with examples of martyrdom, ancestors of our faith who shed their blood for God. They did that in two ways:

The first category (Eleazer and the woman with his sons) did so by standing true to their faith and suffering for it. They were enticed and threatened, yet, they stood their ground. The second category did so by going on the offensive. Sometimes they say that the best way to defend is to attack.

In here lies a lesson for believers; who amid non-believers are afraid to demonstrate their faith. The truth is that we do not always have to wait for an attack before we can witness to the faith. Our daily lives must witness even without words.



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 play 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 26

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe

*Ezekiel 14: 11-12. 15-17/ Psalm 23: 1-2. 2-3. 5-6 (1)/ 1
Corinthians 15: 20-26. 28/ Matthew 25: 31-46*



“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.” (Matthew 25:31)



Become a Member of the Kingdom

Today is the last Sunday of the 11th month of the year. Liturgically, it is the 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time. It is a day that is dedicated to celebrating the Solemnity of Christ the King. Let us ponder over these points:

1. Jesus is a monarch. The Lord is a king. The Kingship of Jesus is expressed in Luke 1: 32, John 1:49, Revelation 19:14-16, Luke 23:42 and John 18:36-37.
2. If Jesus is a king, then He should have a kingdom. The reality is that, the kingdom of Jesus cannot be confined to a specific space or territory because it is universal. Jesus is the King of Africa, the King of Europe, the King of Asia, the King of America, etc.
3. To qualify to be a member of the kingdom of Jesus, the Gospel (Matthew 25:31-46) teaches us what to do: feed the hungry, satisfy the thirsty, hospitality to strangers, clothe the naked, visit the sick and visit the imprisoned.



Sunday November 26

4. Traditionally, every King has a linguist. It is the duty of the linguist to communicate the king's message to the people. If Jesus is King, then by virtue of baptism, we are His linguists. It isn't what we want to say to the people or what they want to hear, but what God wants them to hear. You are called to be Jesus' linguist!

5. The first reading (Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17) expresses how the Lord exercises His kingship. In more than five instances in the text, the words "search, seek and find" are used. As a King, His interest is in His flock. He provides for them. He protects them. He feeds them.

Today's celebration invites us to a life of responsibility. It tells us that if we fail the people of God, Jesus the King will come to their aid.

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah, Ghana



Entrance Antiphon (*Revelation 5:12;1:6*)

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and authority for ever and ever.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe; grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, man render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (*Ezekiel 34:11-12.15-17*)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

“Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when some of his sheep have been scattered abroad, so will I seek out my sheep; and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and

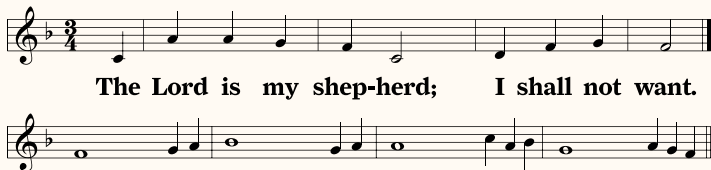


Sunday November 26

the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice. As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, rams and he-goats.”

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

Responsorial Psalm —————
(Psalm (22) 23:1-2a.2b-3.5.6)



R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose. *R.*

Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.
He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name. *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 (1 Corinthians 15:20-26.28) —

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

Brethren: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things under him, that God may be everything to every one.

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



Sunday November 26

Acclamation (*Mark 11:9b.10a*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*Matthew 25:31-46*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. “Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these



my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' "Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

℟. **Lord hear our prayer**

For the Pope, bishops, priests, deacons and catechists, we pray to the Lord. ℟

For our traditional and political leaders in Africa and in the rest of the world, let us cry out to the Lord. ℟

For those threatened and killed for their faith, let us cry out to the Lord our God. ℟



Sunday November 26

For a better governance in Africa and in the world, especially in this pandemic time, let us pray to the Lord. *R.*

For children, old people, the sick and victims of terrorism, hunger and poverty, especially in Africa, let us pray to the Lord. *R.*

Prayer over the Offerings

As we offer you, O Lord, the sacrifice by which the human race is reconciled to you, we humbly pray, that your Son himself may bestow on all nations the gifts of unity and peace. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon (*Ps (28) 29:10-11*)

The Lord sits as King forever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Prayer after Communion

Having received the food of immortality, we ask, O Lord, that glorying in obedience to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe, we may live with him eternally in his heavenly kingdom. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Monday November 27

34th week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 85:9) **The Lord speaks of peace to his people and his holy ones and to those who turn to him.**

Collect

Stir up the will of your faithful, we pray, O Lord, that, striving more eagerly to bring your divine work to fruitful completion, they may receive in greater measure the healing remedies your kindness bestows. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reading

(Daniel 1 1 6 8 20)

The beginning of the Book of the Prophet Daniel

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. Then the king commanded Ashpenaz,



his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, handsome and skilful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to serve in the king's palace, and to teach them the letters and language of the Chaldeans. The king assigned them a daily portion of the rich food which the king ate, and of the wine which, he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. But Daniel resolved that he would not defile

himself with the king's rich food, or with the wine which he drank; therefore, he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. And God gave Daniel favour and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs; and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear lest my lord the king, who appointed your food and your drink, should see that you were in poorer condition than the youths who are of your own age. So you would endanger my head with the king." Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given



vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's rich food be observed by you, and according to what you see deal with your servants." So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. At 'the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's rich food. So the steward took away their rich food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables. As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all letters and wisdom; and Daniel

had understanding in all visions and dreams. At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. And the king spoke with them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they stood before the king. And in every matter of wisdom and understanding concerning which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



***Responsorial Psalm——
(Daniel 3:29-30.31.
3332.34)***

**R. You are to be praised
and highly exalted for ever**

Blessed are you, O Lord,
God of our fathers, and
to be praised and highly
exalted for ever; And
blessed is your glorious,
holy name and to be highly
praised and highly exalted
for ever. R.

Blessed are you in the
temple of your holy glory
and to be extolled and
highly glorified for ever. R.

Blessed are you upon the
throne of your kingdom
and to be extolled and
highly exalted for ever. R.

Blessed are you who sit
upon cherubim and look
upon the deeps, and to be

praised and highly exalted
for ever. R.

Blessed are you in the
firmament of heaven and
to be sung and glorified for
ever. R.

ALLELUIA

(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 21:1-4)***

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

At that time: Jesus looked
up and saw the rich putting
their gifts into the treasury;
and he saw a poor widow
put in two copper coins.
And he said, 'Truly I tell you,



this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she had.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the sacred offerings which at your bidding we dedicate to your name and, in order that through these gifts we may become worthy of your love, grant us

unfailing obedience to your commands. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 117:1.2) **O praise the Lord, all you nations, for his merciful love towards us is great.**

Or: Mt 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, says the Lord.



Prayer after Communion

We pray, almighty God,
that those to whom you
give the joy of participating

in divine mysteries may
never be parted from you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**The Blessing
Of Giving****Commentary****Luke 21:1-4**

Everything we have is a gift from God. It is the Lord who has freely given us. In giving to God, we are not doing Him any favour, but simply presenting to Him a fraction of what He has already given us.

Today, let us imitate this unnamed poor widow who gave her all to the Lord (Luke 21:1-4). She tells us that giving must be generous, loving, sacrificial and from the heart. Anne Frank has this to say: **NO ONE HAS EVER BECOME POOR BY GIVING.**

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah, Ghana



Tuesday November 28

34th week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm 85:9) **The Lord speaks of peace to his people and his holy ones and to those who turn to him.**

Collect

Stir up the will of your faithful, we pray, O Lord, that, striving more eagerly to bring your divine work to fruitful completion, they may receive in greater measure the healing remedies your kindness bestows. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Reading ————— *(Daniel 2:31-45)*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

In those days: Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar, “You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of this image was of fine gold, its breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron,



its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces; then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. "This was the dream; now we will tell the king its interpretation. You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and

the might, and the glory, and into whose hand he has, given, wherever they dwell, the sons of men, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the air, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold. After you shall arise another kingdom inferior to you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things; and like iron which crushes, it shall break and crush all these. And as you saw the feet and toes partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom; but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as



you saw iron mixed with the miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. As you saw the iron mixed with miry clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand for ever; just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and

that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be hereafter. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Daniel 3:35.37.36.38.39)***

***R. Sing praise to him and
highly exalt him for ever.***

Bless the Lord all works of the Lord sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. *R.*

Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. *R.*

Bless the Lord, you heavens, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord, all waters above the heaven, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord, all powers sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

ALLELUIA

(Revelation 2:10c)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Be faithful unto death, says the Lord, and I will give you the crown of life. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

(Luke 21:5-11)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: As some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, Jesus said, "As for these things which you see, the days will come when there shall not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." And they asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign when this is about to take place?" And he said, "Take heed that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified; for this must first take place, but the end will not be at once." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation,

and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences; and there will be tenors and great signs from heaven.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the sacred offerings which at your bidding we dedicate to your name and, in order that through these gifts we may become worthy

of your love, grant us unfailing obedience to your commands. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 117:1.2) **O praise the Lord, all you nations, for his merciful love towards us is great.**

Or: Mt 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

We pray, almighty God,
that those to whom you
give the joy of participating

in divine mysteries may
never be parted from you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

You Are Warned**Commentary****Luke 21:5-11**

"Take care not to be deceived."

These are the words of Jesus in today's Gospel (Luke 21:5-11). These are words of admonition.

Today, Jesus continues to warn us. An example is this scenario: Woman sells her house because her pastor tells her that the house is possessed by a demon. Pastor collects the money from the woman and absconds only to be arrested and sentenced for deception (Namibia, 2016).

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah, Ghana



Wednesday November 29

34th week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 85:9) **The Lord speaks of peace to his people and his holy ones and to those who turn to him.**

Collect

Stir up the will of your faithful, we pray, O Lord, that, striving more eagerly to bring your divine work to fruitful completion, they may receive in greater measure the healing remedies your kindness bestows. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Reading —————
(Daniel 5:1-6; 13-14.16-17.23-28)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

In those days: King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in front of the thousand. Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of

the temple in Jerusalem be bought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. Then they brought in the golden and silver vessels which had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. Immediately the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lamp stand; and the king saw the hand as it wrote. Then the king's colour changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way,

and his knees knocked together. Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king said to Daniel," You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah. I have heard of you that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. "I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple, and have a chain of gold about your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom." Then Daniel answered before

the king, “Let your gifts be for yourself and give your rewards to another; nevertheless I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation.” You have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven, and the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honoured. “Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing

was inscribed. And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN. This is the interpretation of the matter: mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; TEKEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; PERES, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Daniel 3:40.41.42.43.44
.45)***

***℟. Sing praise to him and
highly exalt him for ever.***

Bless the Lord, sun and moon, sing praise to him

and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord, stars of heaven, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord, all rain and dew, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord, all winds, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord, fire and heat, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord, winter cold and summer heat, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

ALLELUIA

(Revelation 2:10c)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Be faithful unto death, says the Lord, and I will give

you the crown of life.
Alleluia.

Gospel ————— *(Luke 21:12-19)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “They will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake. This will be a time for you to bear testimony. Settle it therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be



delivered up even by parents and brothers and kinsmen and friends, and some of you they will put to death; you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the sacred offerings which at your bidding we dedicate to

your name and, in order that through these gifts we may become worthy of your love, grant us unflinching obedience to your commands. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm 117:1.2) **O praise the Lord, all you nations, for his merciful love towards us is great.**

Or: (Mt 28:20)

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

We pray, almighty God,
that those to whom you
give the joy of participating

in divine mysteries may
never be parted from you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Commentary**The Prize of the Gospel****Luke 21:12-19**

"They will lay their hands on you and persecute you."

These are the words of Jesus in today's Gospel (Luke 21:12-19). These are words that are addressed to us today. Nothing has changed. The content is the same. What comes to your mind with respect to the above? The reality of the Christian life! Persecution! Suffering! Pain! This is the prize of the Gospel. It is the result of following Jesus.

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah, Ghana



Thursday November 30

34th week in Ordinary Time

Feast

Saint Andrew, apostle

Entrance Antiphon

(Mt 4:18-19) **Beside the Sea of Galilee, the Lord saw two brothers, Peter and Andrew, and he said to them: Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.**

The Gloria in excelsis

(Glory to God in the highest) **is said**

Collect

We humbly implore your majesty, O Lord, that just as the blessed Apostle Andrew was for your Church a

preacher and pastor, so he may be for us a constant intercessor before you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading

(Romans 10:9-18)

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

Brethren: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes

with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved. The Scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him. For, “every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!” But they have not all heeded the gospel;

for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed, they have; for “Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

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

(Matthew 4:19)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of men. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

(Matthew 4:18-22)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew

his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they are fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

The Gospel of Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, almighty God, that through these offerings; which we bring

on the feast day of Saint Andrew, we may please you by what we have brought and be given life by what you have accepted. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 1:41-42) **Andrew told his brother Simon: We**

have found the Messiah, the Christ, and he brought him to Jesus.

Prayer after Communion

May communion in your Sacrament strengthen us, O Lord, so that, by the example of the blessed Apostle Andrew, we who

carry in our body the Death of Christ, may merit to live with him in glory.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Proclaim the Word

Commentary

Matthew 4:18-22

We celebrate today the Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle. This is a man who preached the Gospel in Asia Minor, Armenia, Scythia (southern Russia), Greece, among other places.

Advent is a call to proclaim the Word. If you make Jesus known to humanity, He'll also make you known to the Father and the Holy Spirit. You need not be a Priest, Religious, Seminarian, before you make Jesus known. As a married person, unmarried person, youth, child, you can proclaim Jesus.

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah, Ghana



Friday December 1

34th Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

or **Blessed Clementine Anuarite, virgin and martyr**

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm 85:9) **The Lord speaks of peace to his people and his holy ones and to those who turn to him.**

Collect

Stir up the will of your faithful, we pray, O Lord, that, striving more eagerly to bring your divine work to fruitful completion, they may receive in greater measure the healing remedies your kindness bestows. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who

lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reading ————— **(Daniel 7:2-14)**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

“I [Daniel saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. The

first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand upon two feet like a man; and the mind of a man was given to it. And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised on one side; it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.' After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back; and the beast had four heads; and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong; and it had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke

in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots; and behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things. As I looked, thrones were placed and one that was ancient of days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came forth from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand

times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgement, and the books were opened. I looked then because of the sound of the great words which the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given over to be burnt with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is

an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Daniel 3:75.76.77.78.79.
80.81 (R 53b)***

***R. Sing praise to him and
highly exalt him for ever.***

Bless the Lord mountains and hills sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. *R.*

Bless the Lord, all things that grow on the earth, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. *R.*

Bless the Lord, you springs, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. *R.*



Bless the Lord, seas and rivers, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord, you whales and all creatures that move in the waters, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord, all birds of the air, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord, all beasts and cattle, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Acclamation (*Luke 21:28*)

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

Gospel —————
(*Luke 21:29-33*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees; as soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the sacred offerings which at your bidding we dedicate to your name and, in order that through these gifts we may become worthy of your love, grant us unfailing obedience to your commands. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 117:1.2) **O praise the Lord, all you nations, for his merciful love towards us is great.**

Or: Mt 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, says the Lord.

**Prayer after Communion**

We pray, almighty God, that those to whom you give the joy of participating in divine

mysteries may never be parted from you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen. Amen.**

The Word Of God**Commentary**

Today, the Church invites you to make the Word of God your way of life. Your actions should show how God's Word is influencing your life. Instead of chasing after material things which are temporary, you should rather focus on the Word of God which is everlasting. This is expressed in today's Gospel (Luke 21:29-33), "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah, Ghana



Saturday December 2

34th Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 85:9) **The Lord speaks of peace to his people and his holy ones and to those who turn to him.**

Collect

Stir up the will of your faithful, we pray, O Lord, that, striving more eagerly to bring your divine work to fruitful completion, they may receive in greater measure the healing remedies your kindness bestows. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Daniel 7:15-27)*

A reading from the Book of Prophet Daniel

“As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious and the visions of my head alarmed me. I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the, truth concerning all this. So he told me, and made known to me the interpretation of the things. “These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the

kingdom for ever, for ever and ever.’ “Then I desired to know the truth concerning the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest exceedingly terrifying with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze and which devoured and broke in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet; and concerning the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up and before which three of them fell, the horn which had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and which seemed greater than its fellows. As I looked, this horn made war with the saints, and prevailed over them, until the Ancient of Days came, and judgement was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints

received the kingdom. “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, two times, and half a time. But the court shall sit in judgement, and his dominion shall be

taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Daniel 3:82.83.84.85.86.
87 (R. 60b))***

**R. Sing praise to him and
highly exalt him for ever.**

Bless the Lord, you sons of men, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord O Israel, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord, you priests of the Lord, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord, you servants of the Lord, praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord spirits and souls of the righteous sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Bless the Lord, you who are holy and humble in heart, sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. R.

Acclamation

(See 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 21:34-36)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “Take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a snare; for it will come upon all who dwell upon the face of the whole earth. But watch at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of man.” The Gospel

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the sacred offerings which at your bidding we dedicate to your name and, in order that through these gifts we may become worthy of your love, grant us unfailing obedience to your commands. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

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Prayer after Communion

We pray, almighty God,
that those to whom you
give the joy of participating

in divine mysteries may
never be parted from you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**Prepare For
The Special Day****Commentary**

On his second coming, Jesus says "... and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap" (Luke 21:34-36). He invites us to reflect on the balance between worldly pursuits and spiritual awareness, to manage life's anxieties through faith and prayer, and to be prepared for the challenges that may come our way. Thus, our faith serves as a guiding light in our lives. To prepare for this unknown day, I propose these:

Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah, Ghana



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