

AFRICA

# Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

bayard africain



31<sup>st</sup> Week  
in Ordinary Time

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#### **Liturgical texts:**

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# Editorial

November 2023



Rev. Fr. Paluku Meso Jean-Marie, Kenya

## November Is the Month of Remembrance

The month of November is very significant in the Catholic community. Traditionally, it is devoted to prayer in memory of departed souls. During the month, we celebrate all Saints in heaven. It also marks the end of the Liturgical Year with a new year starting on the First Sunday of Advent – the four-week period of preparation before Christmas.

In a special way, we remember those who have gone before us and beseech the Lord to grant them new life in heaven and grant our desire to join them there one day. Importantly, we also seek the intercession of the Saints in heaven. We are reminded that Saints were ordinary people who lived an extraordinary life. They were sinners who changed their ways of life to follow Christ and do His will. Saint Teresa of Calcutta once said, “Saints are only sinners who keep trying.” As we mark the end of the Liturgical year and the start of a new year, let us prepare for Christ as we reflect and anticipate the gift of eternal glory after our life here on earth.



## 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 (1)

**C**hristian 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 5

## 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Malachi 1: 14b- 2: 2b. 8-10 / Psalm 131: 1. 2. 3 / 1 Thessalonians 2: 7b-9. 13 / Matthew 23: 1-12*



“For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Matthew 23:12)





## *Displaying Spiritual Superiority*

Jesus observed how the Pharisees and other religious leaders dressed to attract attention by wearing broad phylacteries, and headbands. These bands contained scriptural verses that demonstrated their religiosity. In addition, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for their unnecessary quest for titles of distinction, places of honour, and elaborate salutations. Jesus was not condemning the wearing of religious habits or clothes. The point he was emphasizing was that habit does not necessarily make a monk, but what makes a monk a monk is inner beauty and sanctity, which are known to God and manifested in daily life. They were infected with the holier-than-thou syndrome and saw themselves as gods and not as servants, angels, and not as mere human beings. You and I share in the sin of the Pharisees whenever we put up an attitude that puts other people down. Surely, not only the Pharisees are guilty of displaying titles. Sometimes, many of us in different fields of life like to flaunt our titles and achievements to make other people think that we are more important. The book of Proverbs states that God hates “A proud look” (6:17) and the Letter to the Romans reminds us, “There is none righteous, no, not one” (3:9).



**Sunday** November 5

Are we conscious of our attitudes, choices of words, body language, and actions that display our pride and self-righteousness?

*Rev. Fr. Gerald M. Musa, Nigeria*



**Entrance Antiphon** (*Cf Ps 38:22-23*)

**Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me!  
Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong  
salvation!**

**Collect**

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. Through our Lord... **Amen.**

**First Reading** (*Malachi 1: 14b—2:2b.8- 10*) —————

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

“I am a great King, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared among the nations. now, o priests, this command is for you. if you’ will not listen, if you will not lay it to heart to give glory to my name, says the Lord, of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you. You have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts, and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you have not kept my ways but have shown partiality in your instruction.” Have we not all one father? Has



**Sunday** November 5

not one God created us? Why then are we faith less to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** —————

**(Psalm (130) 131:1.2)**



**R. Keep my soul in peace at your side, O Lord.**

O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor haughty my eyes.  
I have not gone after things too great,  
nor marvels beyond me. R.

Truly, I have set my soul  
in tranquillity and silence.

As a weaned child on its mother, as a weaned child is my  
soul within me. R.

O Israel, wait for the Lord both now and forever. R.

**Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 2:7-9.13)** —————**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians**

Brethren: We were gentle among you, like a nurse taking care of her children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. For you remember our labour and toil, brethren; we worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you, while we preached to you the Gospel of God. And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA** (*Matthew 23:9b.10b*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** You have one Father, who is in heaven; and you have one master, the Christ. **Alleluia.**



Sunday November 5

***Gospel ( Matthew 23:1-12)*** \_\_\_\_\_

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

At that time: Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; so practise and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practise. They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honour at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, and salutations in the market places, and being called rabbi by men. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” 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 the leaders of the Church and the people of God in Africa and the rest of the world, we pray to the Lord: R.

For more charity and more solidarity in the world, especially in Africa, we pray to the Lord: R.

For all whose joy is diminished by suffering in mind or body, especially the sick of coronavirus, we pray to the Lord: R.

For ourselves and for our different kind of projects, we pray to the Lord: R.

## Prayer over the Offerings

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, become for you a pure oblation, and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



**Sunday** November 5

**Communion Antiphon** *(Cf. Ps 16:11)*

**You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.**

*Or: Jn6:58*

**Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me shall have life because of me, says the Lord.**

**Prayer after Communion**

May the working of your power, O Lord, increase in us; we pray, so that, renewed by these heavenly Sacraments, we may be prepared by your gift for receiving what they promise. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





# Monday November 6

31<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## Memorial

All Saints of Africa

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Ps (91) 92:13-14)* **The righteous will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.**

### Collect

God, our Father, who raised up in the Church of Africa many men and women outstanding in holiness; grant us, we beseech you, the gift of grace, that we may follow their example in order to be, one day, their fellow-citizens in heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Reading

***(Romans 11:29-36)***

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

Brethren: The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may receive mercy. For God has consigned all men to



disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all. O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?” “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

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

***Responsorial Psalm***——  
***(Psalm (68) 69:30-31. 33-34. 36-37)***

*R.* In your great mercy,  
answer me, O Lord.

As for me in my poverty and pain, let your salvation, O God, raise me up. Then I will praise God’s name with a song; I will glorify him with thanksgiving. *R.*

The poor when they see it will be glad, and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy, and does not spurn his own in their chains. *R.*

For God will bring salvation to Sion, and rebuild the cities of Judah, and they shall dwell there in possession. The children of his servants shall inherit it; those who love his name shall dwell there. *R.*

**Acclamation**  
*(John 8:31b-32)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** If you continue in my word, you



are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, says the Lord. **Alleluia.**

***Gospel*** —————  
***(Luke 14:12-14)***

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

At that time, Jesus said to the ruler who belonged to the Pharisees, who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you.

You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”  
The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Father of love and mercy, receive our prayers and gifts on this feast of the Saints of Africa; may this celebration bring us closer to you, the source of life and holiness, and give us renewed vigour in living our baptismal call. Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon**

*(Mt 25:34)* **Come, you whom my Father has blessed. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**



Monday November 6

### Prayer after Communion

Father of life, who have nourished us at the table of the Word and of the Eucharist; strengthened by these gifts, and sustained by

the example and prayer of the Saints of Africa, may we work for the spreading of your Kingdom in holiness and love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Commentary

### Motive for Kindness

Luke 14:12-14

Conventional wisdom says, “One good turn deserves another.” So, we easily engage in a transactional relationship. Jesus instructs us to transform our minds and rise above transactional relationships where our kindness is limited only to the people who can repay us in some ways. He says, “But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous” (Luke 14:13-14).

**Rev. Fr. Gerald M. Musa, Nigeria**



# Tuesday November 7

31<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (37) 38:22-23) Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

## Collect

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. Through Christ our Lord...  
**Amen.**

## Reading --- *(Romans 12:5-16a)*

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

Brethren: We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal;

he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practise hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** —  
*(Psalm (130) 131:1.2.3)*

**R. Keep my soul in peace at your side, O Lord. who could stand?**

O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor haughty my eyes. I have not gone after things too great, nor marvels beyond me. R.

Truly, I have set my soul In tranquillity and silence. As a weaned child on its mother, as a weaned child is my soul within me. R.

O Israel, wait for the Lord, both now and for ever. R.

**Acclamation**  
*(Matthew 11:28)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will

give you rest, says the Lord.  
**Alleluia.**

***Gospel*** \_\_\_\_\_  
***(Luke 14:15-24)***

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

At that time: One of those who sat at table with Jesus said to him, “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!” But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready?’ “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; please, have me excused.’

“And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; please, have me excused.’ “And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ “So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ “And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ “And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those

men who were invited shall taste my banquet.”

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, become for you a pure oblation, and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Psalm (15) 16:11)* **You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.**

**Or**

*(Jn. 6:58)*

**Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me shall have life because of me, says the Lord.**



### Prayer after Communion

May the working of your power, O Lord, increase in us, we pray, so that, renewed by these heavenly

Sacraments, we may be prepared by your gift for receiving what they promise. Through Christ our Lord... **Amen.**

## Generous Invitation

### Commentary

Luke 14:15-24

This parable of the banquet shows how God invites everyone to a feast, but not everyone responds. These are people who have misplaced their scale of priority by placing their material needs far over and above their spiritual needs. God always desires the happiness of his people and so he invites them to a banquet where they will enjoy the best meals and where he will wipe away the tears from every face. Our happiness depends on our response to this free, open and generous invitation.

***Rev. Fr. Gerald M. Musa, Nigeria***



# Wednesday November 8

31<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## Entrance Antiphon

*(Cf Ps 3 8:22-23)* **Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!**

## Collect

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. Through our Lord... **Amen.**

## Reading --- **(Romans 13:8-10)**

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

Brethren: Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbour has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling



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

**Responsorial Psalm** —  
*(Psalm 112:1b-2.4-5.9 (R. 5a))*

**R.** It goes well for the man who deals generously and lends.

*Or: Alleluia.*

Blessed the man who fears the Lord, who takes great delight in his commandments. His descendants shall be powerful on earth; the generation of the upright will be blest. **R.**

A light rises in the darkness for the upright; he is generous, merciful and just. It goes well for the man who deals generously

and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice. **R.**

Open-handed, he gives to the poor; his justice stands firm forever. His might shall be exalted in glory. **R.**

**Acclamation**

*(1 Peter 4:14)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** If you are reproached for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of God rests upon you. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————

*(Luke 14:25-33)*

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

At that time: Great multitudes accompanied Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "If any one comes to me and does not hate

his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build, and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet

a great way off, he sends an embassy and asks terms of peace. So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, become for you a pure oblation, and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Cf. Ps 16:11)* **You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.**

*Or: Jn6:58*

**Just as the living Father sent me and I have life**



**because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me shall have life because of me, says the Lord.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

May the working of your power, O Lord, increase in us;

we pray, so that, renewed by these heavenly Sacraments, we may be prepared by your gift for receiving what they promise. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Cost of Discipleship**

### **Commentary**

**Luke 14:25-33**

Today Jesus speaks to us about the cost of discipleship. What he says is shocking: “If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26). The word ‘hate’ here means to love less. In other words, if we wish to be true disciples of Jesus, we must love God over and above all persons. Mother Theresa says, “For love to be real, it must cost, it must hurt, it must empty us of self.”

***Rev. Fr. Gerald M. Musa, Nigeria***



# Thursday November 9

31<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## *Feast*

### The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

#### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Cf. Rev 21:2)* I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### **First Reading** ————— *(Ezekiel 47:1-2.8-9.12)*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

#### **Collect**

O God, who from living and chosen stones prepare an eternal dwelling for your majesty, increase in your Church the spirit of grace you have bestowed, so that by new growth your faithful people may build up the heavenly Jerusalem.

In those days: The angel brought me back to the door of the temple; and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple towards the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the right side of the threshold of the

temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me round on the outside to the outer gate, that faces towards the east; and the water was coming out on the right side. And he said to me, "This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the stagnant waters of the sea, the water will become fresh. And wherever the river goes, every living creature which swarms will live, and there will be very many fish; for this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. "And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not

wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

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

***Responsorial Psalm —***  
***(Psalm (45) 46:2-3.5-6.8-9)***

***R. The waters of a river  
give joy to God's city, the  
holy place, the dwelling of  
the Most High.***

God is for us a refuge and strength, an ever-present help in time of distress: so we shall not fear though the earth should rock, though the mountains quake to the heart of the sea. *R.*

The waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place, the dwelling of the Most High. God is within, it cannot be shaken; God will help it at the dawning of the day. *R.*

The Lord of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Come and behold the works of the Lord, the awesome deeds he has done on the earth. *R.*

***Second Reading*** ———  
***(1 Corinthians 3:9c-11.16-17)***

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

Brethren: You are God's building. According to the commission of God given

to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

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

***Acclamation***  
***(2 Chronicles 7:16)***

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** I have chosen and consecrated this house, says the Lord, that my name may be there for ever. **Alleluia.**



***Gospel*** \_\_\_\_\_  
***(John 2:13-22)***

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

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen, sheep, and pigeons, and the money-changers at their business. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all, with the sheep and oxen, out of the temple; and he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons “Take these things away; you shall not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” His disciples

remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then said to him, “What sign have you to show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he spoke of the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept, we pray, O Lord, the offering made here, and grant that by it those who seek your favour may receive in this place the power of the Sacraments and the answer to their prayers. Through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(1 Pt 2:5)* **Be built up like living stones, into a spiritual house, a holy priest-hood.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

O God, who chose to foreshadow for us the heavenly Jerusalem through the sign of your

Church on earth, grant, we pray, that, by our partaking of this Sacrament, we may be made the temple of your grace and may enter

the dwelling place of your glory. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Commentary

### You Are God's Temple

John 2:13-22

As we celebrate this great edifice, we also recall that Jesus teaches us a new concept of the temple and Church. He referred to his body as the temple that will be destroyed and rebuilt in three days (John 2:19). Therefore, the Church, as the body of Christ consists of people and not only a physical building. St. Paul writes to the followers of Christ saying, "Brethren, you are God's building" and "You are the temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 3:9; 6:19). This means that the Spirit of God does not only dwell in the physical place of worship but also dwells in each person.

**Rev. Fr. Gerald M. Musa, Nigeria**



# Friday November 10

31<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## Memorial

**Saint Leo the Great, pope and doctor**

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Sir 45:30)* **The Lord established for him a covenant of peace, and made him the prince, that he might have the dignity of the priesthood forever.**

### Collect

O God, who never allow the gates of hell to prevail against your Church, firmly founded on the apostolic rock, grant her, we pray, that through the intercession of Pope Saint Leo, she may stand firm in your truth, and know the protection

of lasting peace. Through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

### Reading ————— *(Romans 15:14-21)*

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

I myself am satisfied about you, my brethren, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God to be

a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has wrought through me to win obedience from the Gentiles, by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that from Jerusalem and as far round as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ, thus making it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on another man's foundation, but as it is

written, "They shall see who have never been told of him, and they shall understand who have never heard of him."

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

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

**R. The Lord has shown his deliverance to the nations.**

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** (*1 John 2:5*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Whoever keeps Christ's word, in him truly love for God is perfected.

**Alleluia.**

### **Gospel** ————— (*Luke 16:1-8*)

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

At that time: Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a steward, and charges were

brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' "And the steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the stewardship away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that people may receive me into their houses when I am put out of the stewardship.' "So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' "He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' "And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty'

“Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ “He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ “He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ “The master commended the dishonest steward for his prudence; for the sons of this world are wiser in their own generation than the sons of light.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Through the offerings made here, we pray, O Lord, graciously shed light on your Church, so that

your flock may everywhere prosper and that, under your governance, the shepherds may become pleasing to your name. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Mt 16:16.18)* **Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Be pleased, O Lord, we pray, to govern the Church you have nourished by this

holy meal, so that, firmly directed, she may enjoy ever greater freedom and preserve in integrity of religion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Commentary

### Wisdom of Foresight

Luke 16:1-8

Jesus calls on Christians to think and plan beyond this momentary material world and prepare for eternal life after death. Jesus says the children of this world are more astute than the children of light. By this, he means many people are enterprising and have economic and political foresight but, only a few wise people have spiritual foresight. The message of Jesus is clear: use all that you have wisely in working for the life hereafter.

***Rev. Fr. Gerald M. Musa, Nigeria***





# Saturday November 11

31<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## **Memorial**

**Saint Martin of Tours, bishop**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Cf. 1Sm 2:35)* I shall raise up for myself a faithful priest who will act in accord with my heart and my mind, says the Lord.

### **Collect**

O God, who are glorified in the Bishop Saint Martin, both by his life and death, make new, we pray, the wonders of your grace in our hearts, that neither death nor life may separate us from your love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Reading**

***(Romans 16:3-9.16.22-27)***

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

Brethren: Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I but also all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks; greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert in Asia for Christ. Greet Mary, who has worked hard among

you. Greet Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners; they are men of note among the apostles, and they were in Christ before me. Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you. I Tertius, the writer of this letter, greet you in the Lord. Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole Church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you. Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret

for long ages but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — to the only wise God be glory for evermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm 145:2-3.4-5.10-11  
(R. see 1))***

**R. I will bless your name  
forever, my king and my  
God.**

I will bless you day after day, and praise your name forever and ever. The Lord is great and highly to



be praised; his greatness cannot be measured. *R.*

Age to age shall proclaim your works, shall declare your mighty deeds. They will tell of your great glory and splendour, and recount your wonderful works. *R.*

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.*

### **Acclamation**

*(2 Corinthians 8:9)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Though Jesus Christ was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. **Alleluia.**

### **Gospel** ————— *(Luke 16:9-15)*

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

At that Jesus said to his disciples, “Make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitations.” He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for either he will

hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” The Pharisees who were lovers of money, heard all this, and they scoffed at him. But he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts; for what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Sanctify these offerings, we pray, Lord God, which we joyfully present in honour of Saint Martin, so that through them our life may always be directed whether in tribulation or in prosperity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Cf. Mt 25:40)* **Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me, says the Lord.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Grant to us who have been restored by this Sacrament



of unity, O Lord, perfect harmony in all things with your will, that, just as Saint Martin submitted himself

entirely to you, so we, too, may glory in being truly yours. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Wise Use of Money

### Commentary

Luke 16:9-15

Jesus does not condemn wealth but sees it as a source of distraction. However, we can use money wisely to carry out charitable works and to support the work of evangelization. We can also use our wealth in supporting projects for the common good of people such as the construction of hospitals and care of the sick; building of schools and funding the education of the poorest of the poor, among others. What is our attitude towards money and do we use our money wisely to support people in need?

***Rev. Fr. Gerald M. Musa, Nigeria***



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