

AFRICA

Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

34th Week
in O. T.

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Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: Christ, King of the Universe

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Editorial

November 2022



Rev. Fr. François Nzanzu, a.a. Nairobi-Kenya

The Church in Heaven and on Earth United

Every year on November 1st, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints. In this solemn celebration, the whole church, both in heaven and on the earth, is united. All of us are called to share in the holiness of God and to live holy lives on earth.

In the same month, the Church celebrates two other major Solemnities: the Solemnity of All Souls and Solemnity of Christ the King which marks the end of the liturgical year whereby the cycle of the Church's liturgical celebrations culminates in the beginning of the new liturgical year. The Solemnity of Christ the King is celebrated on the final Sunday of Ordinary Time. It is also the final Sunday of the liturgical year, the last Sunday before the First Sunday of Advent. This year, the Solemnity of Christ the King will be celebrated on November 20th. Sunday, November 27th will be the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the Liturgical Year A.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

For children who suffer: We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

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

The Sacrament Of Penance

The sacrament of penance is also called sacrament of reconciliation. It was instituted by Jesus Christ. After his resurrection, he appeared to his disciples and gave them the power to remit sins as written in John 20, 23: «If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven».

The sacrament of penance is one of the two sacraments of healing. Sin is a spiritual illness. Sin breaks two fundamental relationships: the relationship between God and the sinner; the relationship between the Church and the sinner. After confession, many people experience inner peace because they can definitely feel the relationship between them and God and they can participate fully in the Eucharist. Therefore, the sacrament of penance heals the penitent bringing them from darkness to Light.

The minister of the sacrament of reconciliation is the priest or the bishop. A deacon or any other minister

Focus on the Sacraments

cannot hear confessions because they are not ordained to the priesthood. It is important to say that the penitent does not confess his sins to the priest, but to God represented by the priest. He is an instrument that God uses to convey his mercy to humankind. God is full of mercy and compassion for his children. He is ready to forgive them whenever they ask for forgiveness.

At the end of the sacrament of confession, the minister (*priest or bishop*) proposes a penance to the penitent. Penance is not punishment meant to humiliate the penitent. It is rather a prayer that the penitent recites to thank the Lord for his mercy and to ask for his grace. It can also be a work of mercy that the penitent is asked to perform during a certain period of time. The minister must be welcoming. His role is not to embarrass but to give hope by showing God's love to the penitent.

The sacrament of Penance is not to be confused with spiritual direction. A spiritual director helps a person or a couple or a family to grow in their human, Christian or religious life. But the sacrament of Penance has to do with the confession of sins. Nevertheless, spiritual direction can lead to confession and confession may lead

to spiritual direction. The sacrament requires human presence. One cannot confess their sins on phone or through social media.

According to the canon Law (can. 989), after having reached the age of discretion, each member of the faithful is obliged to confess faithfully their grave sins at least once a year. The matter of the sacrament of penance is contrition, confession, desire to amend life, and making of reparation by doing what the minister gives as penance. The form is made up of the following words pronounced by the minister: "...N, I absolve you of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit".

In a general way, the sacrament of penance takes place in the confessional, a kind of box where the priest hears the confessions of the penitent. It can be administered elsewhere provided the place is fitting.

Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. Kombi,
Rome-Italy



Sunday November 20

34th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

*2 Samuel 5 :1-3 / Psalm (121) 122 :1-2.4-5 / Colossians 1 :12-20
/ Luke 23 :35-43*



“This is the King of the Jews.” Luke 23:38



The Kingship of Jesus

Today we proclaim the victory, by which Jesus became the King of every age and the Lord of history with the sole power of love, which is the nature of God, his very life that has no end. The Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, is the crown of the Church's liturgical year and comes on the last Sunday. We joyfully share the magnificence of having Jesus as our King. When we say Jesus is a King, we mean a few things. First it is in the First Reading, He is our Shepherd who desires to lead us personally as a loving Father would. He wants to enter our lives personally, intimately, and carefully, always offering Himself as our guide. As King, Jesus desires to lead every aspect of our lives and lead us in all things. He wants us to come to Him for everything and to become dependent upon Him always. But we should know that Jesus will not impose this sort of kingship upon us. So, we must accept it freely and without reservation for He will only govern our lives if we freely surrender our lives to Him. As King, Jesus also calls us to establish His Kingship by making His truth and law respected in the world.



Sunday November 20

The Gospel in fact presents the kingship of Jesus as the culmination of his saving work. Jesus as a King appears without power or glory. His reign is truly not of this world, but for this reason, Saint Paul puts it in the Second Reading, we find redemption and forgiveness. For the splendor of his kingdom is not power as in this world, but the love of God is able to heal all things. He lowered himself to us out of this love, he lived our human misery, and he suffered the lowest point of our human condition, for He was betrayal, abandonment, experienced death, the tomb, and hell for our sake. He paved the way with a humble love that forgives all things, hopes for all things, and sustains all things. It is a love that overcame and continues to overcome our worst enemies as sin, death, and fear in life.

Rev. Sr. Mary Wambua Nzilani, Nairobi-Kenya



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, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (*2 Samuel 5:1-3*)

A reading from the second Book of Samuel

In those days: All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, “Behold, we are your bone and flesh. In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you that led out and brought in Israel ; and the Lord said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.’” So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron ; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel.

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



Sunday November 20

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm (121) 122:1-2.4-5) —



Let us go re - joic - ing to the house of the Lord.



R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. R.

It is there that the tribes go up, / the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel’s witness, it is / to praise the name of the Lord.
There were set the thrones for judgment,
the thrones of the house of David. R.

***Second Reading (Colossians 1 :12-20)***

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brethren : We give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation ; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities- all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the Church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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



Sunday November 20

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 (*Luke 23:35-43*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time : The rulers scoffed at Jesus, saying, “He saved others ; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One !” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar, and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself !” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ ? Save yourself and us !” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation ? And we indeed justly ; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds ; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingly power.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

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

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 communities, challenged to see the face of Christ in everyone, we pray to the Lord: R.



Sunday November 20

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 our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Preface : Christ, King of the Universe.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For you anointed your Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, with the oil of gladness as eternal Priest and King of all creation, so that, by offering himself on the altar of the Cross as a spotless sacrifice to bring us peace, he might accomplish the mysteries of human redemption and making all created things subject to his rule, he might present to the immensity of your majesty an eternal and universal kingdom, a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace. And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, as we sing the hymn of your glory without end we acclaim : Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...



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

The Lord sits as King for ever. 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 21

34th Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Entrance Antiphon

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King who rules heaven and earth forever.

Collect

As we venerate the glorious memory of the most holy Virgin Mary, grant, we pray, O Lord, through her intercession, that we, too, may merit to receive of the fullness of your grace.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reading

(Revelation 14:1-3.4b-5)

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the

sound of harpists playing on their harps and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who had been redeemed from the earth. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes; these have been redeemed from mankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are spotless. The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm—
(Psalm (23) 24:1-2.3-4ab.5-6)

R. These are the people who seek your face, O Lord.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world, and all who dwell in it. It is he who set on the seas; on the rivers he made it firm. R.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The clean of hands and pure of heart, whose soul is not set on vain things. R.

Blessings from the Lord shall he receive, and right reward from the God who saves him. Such are the people who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. 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 21:1-4)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus looked up he 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 Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, we ask, the prayers of your people with the sacrificial offerings, that, through the intercession of Blessed Mary, the Mother of your Son, no petition may go unanswered, no request be made in vain. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Cf. Luke 11:27) **Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary, which bore the Son of the eternal Father.**

Prayer after Communion

As we receive this heavenly Sacrament, we beseech, O Lord, your mercy, that we, who rejoice in

commemorating the Blessed Virgin Mary, may by imitating her, serve the mystery of our redemption. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Commentary

Doing “Great” Things

Luke 21:1-4

The Gospel passage reveals to us how God sees our giving compared to the worldly view. But what are we to give? We might not be able to do “great things” from a worldly perspective. Thus, God is calling us to give our time and talents to Him for the love of others and spreading the Good News. He sees all our daily acts of love we do in the littlest way. For example, embracing our daily duty, loving our family members, and praying for them are the treasures we can offer to God. Thus, He is encouraging us today to do small things with great love and God will always bless us.

Rev. Sr. Mary Wambua Nzilani, Nairobi-Kenya



Tuesday November 22

34th Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Cecilia, virgin and martyr

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (84) 85:9) **Behold, now she follows the Lamb who was crucified for us, powerful in virginity, modesty her offering, a sacrifice on the altar of chastity.**

Collect

O God, who gladden us each year with the feast day of your handmaid Saint Cecilia, grant, we pray, that what has been devoutly handed down concerning this handmaid of yours may offer us examples to imitate

and proclaim the wonders worked in his servants by Christ your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reading --- *(Revelation 14:14-19)*

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

I, John, looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a

sharp sickle in his hand. And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat upon the cloud, “Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.” So he who sat upon the cloud swung his sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Then another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has power over fire, and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, “Put in your sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.” So the angel swung his sickle on

the earth and gathered the vintage of the earth, and threw it into the great wine press of the wrath of God. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (95) 96:10.11-12.13)***

R. The Lord comes to judge the earth.

Say to the nations, “The Lord is king.” The world he made firm in its place. He will judge the people in fairness. **R.**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad; let the sea and all within it thunder praise. Let the land and all it bears rejoice. **R.**

Then will all the trees of the wood shout for joy. At the presence of the Lord,

for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice; he will govern the peoples with his truth. *R.*

Acclamation

(Revelation 2:10c)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Be faithful unto death, says the Lord, and I will give you the crown of the 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 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 terrors and great signs from heaven.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

May the offerings we bring in celebration of blessed Cecilia win your gracious acceptance, O Lord, we pray, just as the struggle of her suffering and passion was pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Revelation 7:17) **The Lamb who is at the centre of the throne will lead them to the springs of the waters of life.**

Prayer after Communion

O God, who bestowed on blessed Cecilia a crown among the Saints for her twofold triumph of virginity and martyrdom, grant, we pray, through the

power of this Sacrament, that bravely overcoming every evil, we may attain the glory of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Commentary

The Signs of the End

Luke 21:5-11

In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us an important message on how there is an end to everything, no matter how beautiful or appealing material things may be. The day of Judgement is something that only God truly knows. However, we are reminded not to be terrified of the devastating signs of such events that would come to the world. We should be more dedicated to keeping our faith in the Lord amid persecutions, false prophets, and temptations, which will challenge and question our faith. Despite all the tribulations that we may encounter, as long as we remain steadfast in our faith, God will always be with us for He is love.

Rev. Sr. Mary Wambua Nzilani, Nairobi-Kenya



Wednesday November 23

34th Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

or **Saint Clement I, pope and martyr**

or **Saint Columban, abbot**

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (84) 85:9) **The Lord speaks of peace to his people and his holy ones and to those who turn to him.**

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.**

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

Reading ————— *(Revelation 15:1-4)*

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw another sign in heaven, great and wonderful, seven angels with

the seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is ended. And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and wonderful are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the ages! Who shall not fear and glorify your name, O Lord? For you alone are holy. All the nations shall come and worship before

you, for your judgments have been revealed.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (97) 98:1.2-3ab.7-8.9)

Great and wonderful are your deeds,

O Lord God Almighty!

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.*

Let the sea and all within it thunder; the world, and those who dwell in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, and the hills ring out their joy. At the presence of the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. *R.*

He will judge the world with justice, and the people with fairness. *R.*

Acclamation

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

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (116) 117:1.2) **O praise the Lord, all you nations, for his merciful love towards us is great.**

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.**

Persecution and

Endurance of Christians

Commentary

Luke 21:12-19

Today's Gospel is a continuation of yesterday's message about future events. Jesus speaks of great suffering for those who follow Him. An example is in the early years of the Church when there were so many martyrs. Many today are suffering because of a lack of freedom to live their faith. Jesus is not only depicting what we, His followers, will have to endure, but He also offers assurance that He will support us and make us strong. Thus, it is important to hold firm to prayer and pray for ourselves, for the entire Church, and for those who find it difficult to believe in a God of love. For God's Love conquers all.

Rev. Sr. Mary Wambua Nzilani, Nairobi-Kenya



Thursday November 24

34th Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saints Andrew Dung-Lac, priest, and Companions, martyrs

Entrance Antiphon

(Galatians 6:14; 1 Corinthians 1:18) **Far be it from us to boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the word of the Cross is the power of God to us who have been saved.**

Collect

O God, source and origin of all fatherhood, who kept the Martyrs Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions faithful to the Cross of your Son, even to the shedding of their blood, grant, through their intercession, that,

spreading your love among our brothers and sisters, we may be your children both in name and in truth. Through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(Revelation 18:1-2.21-23;19:1-3.9a)

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority; and the earth was made bright with his splendour.

And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! It has become a dwelling place of demons, a haunt of every foul spirit, a haunt of every foul and hateful bird.” Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So shall Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and shall be found no more; and the sound of harpists and minstrels, of flute players and trumpeters, shall be heard in you no more; and a craftsman of any craft shall be found in you no more; and the sound of the millstone shall be heard in you no more; and the light of a lamp shall shine in you no more; and the voice of bridegroom and bribe shall

be heard in you no more; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.” After this I heard what seemed to be the mighty voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just; he has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and he has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” Once more they cried, “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.” And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (99) 100:1-2.3.4.5)

R. Blessed are those who
are invited to the marriage
supper of the Lamb

Cry out with joy to the
Lord, all the earth. Serve
the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing
for joy. **R.**

Know that he, the Lord,
is God, He made us; we
belong to him. We are his
people, the sheep of his
flock. **R.**

Enter his gates with
thanksgiving, and his
courts with songs of
praise. Give thanks to him,
and bless his name. **R.**

Indeed, how good is the
Lord, eternal his merciful
love. He is faithful from
age to age. **R.**

Acclamation
(Luke 21:28)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Look up
and raise your heads, be-
cause your redemption is
drawing near. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(Luke 21:20-28)

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

At that time: Jesus said to
his disciples, “When you see
Jerusalem surrounded by
armies, then know that its
desolation has come near.
Then let those who are in
Judea flee to the mountains,
and let those who are inside
the city depart, and let not
those who are out in the
country enter it; for these
are days of vengeance, to
fulfil all that is written.
Alas for those who are with

children and for those who are nursing in those days! For great distress shall be upon the earth and wrath upon this people; they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led captive among all nations; and Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, look up and

raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O holy Father, the offerings we bring as we venerate the passion of the holy Martyrs, so that amid the trials of his life, we may always be found faithful and may offer ourselves to you as an acceptable sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Mt 5:10) **Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Prayer after Communion

Renewed by the one Bread as we commemorate the holy Martyrs, we humbly beseech you, O Lord,

that, abiding as one in your love, we may merit by endurance an eternal prize. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Tribulation

Commentary

Luke 21:20-28

Jesus today continues his warnings of what is to come. He is emphasizing the faithlessness and corruption of so many for which destruction was the inescapable outcome. With these, He invites us to stand up straight and raise our heads, for our redemption is near at hand. We need to live by the values of the Gospel, seek and find Jesus in all people and events of our lives, and have an intimate dialogue with Him, which will lead us to liberation. Thus, no more sorrow, hardships, disappointments, but love, peace, joy, and consolation. Are we prepared to seek and find Jesus?

Rev. Sr. Mary Wambua Nzilani, Nairobi-Kenya



Friday November 25

34th Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

or **Saint Catherine of Alexandria, virgin and martyr**

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (84) 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 —————
(Revelation 20:1-4.11-21:2)

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thou-

sand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years were ended. After that he must be let out for a little while. Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom judgement was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony to Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life, and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Then I saw a great white throne and him who sat upon it; from his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for

them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, by what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead in them, and all were judged by what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; and if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jeru-

salem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (83) 84:3.4.5-6a
and 8a)***

R. Behold, the dwelling of
God is with men.

My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh cry out to the living God. *R.*

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself in which she sets her young, at your

altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God. *R.*

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, forever singing your praise. Blessed is the man whose strength is in you. They walk with ever-growing strength. *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 unflinching obedience to your commands. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (116) 117:1.2) **O praise the Lord, all you nations, for his merciful love towards us is great.**

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 Lesson of the Fig Tree

Commentary

Luke 21:29-33

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples of the parable of the fig tree. He uses the metaphor of nature to help us understand his teaching by saying that, created things will pass away, but his words will never pass away. As we know from our own experience, life can change quickly and the change may be positive or negative and painful. For example, a family member may get seriously ill or financial troubles may create great distress and fear which may be a disaster for all. However, Jesus is assuring us that He will always be with us.

Rev. Sr. Mary Wambua Nzilani, Nairobi-Kenya



Saturday November 26

34th Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (84) 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 Christ 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 --- *(Revelation 22:1-7)*

A reading from the Book of Revelation

Then the angel of the Lord showed me, John, the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city ; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month ; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There shall no more be

anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall worship him ; they shall see his face, and his name shall be on their foreheads. And night shall be no more ; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light and they shall reign for ever and ever. And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place. And behold, I am coming soon.” Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (94) 95:1-2,3-5,6-7abc)

℟. Maranatha ! Come, Lord Jesus!

Come, let us ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come into his presence, giving thanks; let us hail him with a song of praise. ℟

A mighty God is the Lord, a great king above all gods. In his hands are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his. To him belongs the sea, for he made it, and the dry land that he shaped by his hands. ℟

O come; let us bow and bend low. Let us kneel before the God who made us, for he is our God and

we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. 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 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 unflinching obedience to your commands. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(*Psalm (116) 117:1.2*) **O praise the Lord, all you nations, for his merciful love towards us is great.**



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.**

An Exhortation to be Vigilant

Commentary

Luke 21:34-36

Today's Gospel is a reminder of how we must be living our daily lives. Jesus says; "Be vigilant". Most of us are fixed in the roughness of our everyday lives and forget to understand what Jesus is truly asking from us. We need to remember that, there are innumerable temptations that can turn us away from the path that God has surfaced for us. Thus, the Gospel message is a revelation to us that we should not let ourselves be eaten up by the glamorous aspects of life. Instead, we must ask and pray for courage and strength to withdraw ourselves from temptations and evil acts.

Rev. Sr. Mary Wambua Nzilani, Nairobi-Kenya



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