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CATECHIST AND MARTYR IN AFRICA (18 JUNE 1896)

## **COLLECT: (*Remain Standing*)**

Almighty and everlasting God, who kindled the flame of your love in the heart of your holy martyr Bernard Mizeki: Grant unto us your servants a like faith and power of love, that we, who rejoice in his triumph, may profit by his example; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **First Reading: Numbers 11:1-23 (*Please be seated*)**

Reader: A reading from the book of Numbers.

Now when the people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes, the Lord heard it and his anger was kindled. Then the fire of the Lord burned against them, and consumed some outlying parts of the camp. But the people cried out to Moses; and Moses prayed to the Lord, and the fire abated. So that place was called Taberah, because the fire of the Lord burned against them.

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, 'If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.'

Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its colour was like the colour of gum resin. The people went around and gathered it, ground it in mills or beat it in mortars, then boiled it in pots and made cakes of it; and the taste of it was like the taste of cakes baked with oil. When the dew fell on the camp in the night, the manna would fall with it.

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, 'Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favour in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, "Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child", to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, "Give us meat to eat!" I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favour in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.'

So the Lord said to Moses, 'Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself. And say to the people: Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wailed in the hearing

of the Lord, saying, “If only we had meat to eat! Surely it was better for us in Egypt.” Therefore the Lord will give you meat, and you shall eat. You shall eat not only one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you—because you have rejected the Lord who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, “Why did we ever leave Egypt?” ’ But Moses said, ‘The people I am with number six hundred thousand on foot; and you say, “I will give them meat, that they may eat for a whole month”! Are there enough flocks and herds to slaughter for them? Are there enough fish in the sea to catch for them?’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘Is the Lord’s power limited? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not.’

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**

## Psalm

Reader: Let us pray together the words of **Psalm 78**.

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; \*  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; \*  
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known,  
and what our forefathers have told us, \*  
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come the  
praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, \*  
and the wonderful works he has done.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob  
and established a law for Israel, \*  
which he commanded them to teach their  
children;

6 That the generations to come might know,  
and the children yet unborn; \*  
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7 So that they might put their trust in God, \*  
and not forget the deeds of God,  
but keep his commandments;

8 And not be like their forefathers,  
a stubborn and rebellious generation, \*  
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,  
and whose spirit was not faithful to God.

9 The people of Ephraim, armed with the bow, \*  
turned back in the day of battle;

10 They did not keep the covenant of God, \*  
and refused to walk in his law;

11 They forgot what he had done, \*  
and the wonders he had shown them.

12 He worked marvels in the sight of their  
forefathers, \*  
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 He split open the sea and let them pass  
through; \*  
he made the waters stand up like walls.

14 He led them with a cloud by day, \*  
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness \*  
and gave them drink as from the great deep.

16 He brought streams out of the cliff, \*  
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

17 But they went on sinning against him, \*  
rebellious in the desert against the Most High.

18 They tested God in their hearts, \*  
demanding food for their craving.

19 They railed against God and said, \*  
"Can God set a table in the wilderness?"

20 True, he struck the rock, the waters gushed  
out, and the gullies overflowed; \*  
but is he able to give bread  
or to provide meat for his people?"

21 When the Lord heard this, he was full of wrath; \*  
a fire was kindled against Jacob,  
and his anger mounted against Israel;

22 For they had no faith in God, \*  
nor did they put their trust in his saving power.

23 So he commanded the clouds above \*  
and opened the doors of heaven.

24 He rained down manna upon them to eat \*  
and gave them grain from heaven.

25 So mortals ate the bread of angels; \*  
he provided for them food enough.

26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens \*  
and led out the south wind by his might.

27 He rained down flesh upon them like dust \*  
and wingèd birds like the sand of the sea.

28 He let it fall in the midst of their camp \*  
and round about their dwellings.

29 So they ate and were well filled, \*  
for he gave them what they craved.

30 But they did not stop their craving, \*  
though the food was still in their mouths.

31 So God's anger mounted against them; \*  
he slew their strongest men  
and laid low the youth of Israel.

32 In spite of all this, they went on sinning \*  
and had no faith in his wonderful works.

33 So he brought their days to an end like a  
breath \*  
and their years in sudden terror.

34 Whenever he slew them, they would seek him, \*  
and repent, and diligently search for God.

35 They would remember that God was their  
rock, \*  
and the Most High God their redeemer.

36 But they flattered him with their mouths \*  
and lied to him with their tongues.

37 Their heart was not steadfast toward him, \*  
and they were not faithful to his covenant.

38 But he was so merciful that he forgave their sins  
and did not destroy them; \*  
many times he held back his anger  
and did not permit his wrath to be roused.

39 For he remembered that they were but flesh, \*  
a breath that goes forth and does not return.

## **Romans 1:16-25** (*Please be seated*)

Reader: A reading from the book of Romans.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'The one who is righteous will live by faith.'

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; for though they knew God, they did not honour him as

God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools; and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles.

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the degrading of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever! Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **Matthew 17:22-27** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.' The disciples said to him, 'Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?' Jesus asked them, 'How many loaves have you?' They said, 'Seven, and a few small fish.' Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. Those who had eaten were four thousand men, besides women and children. After sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Christ**