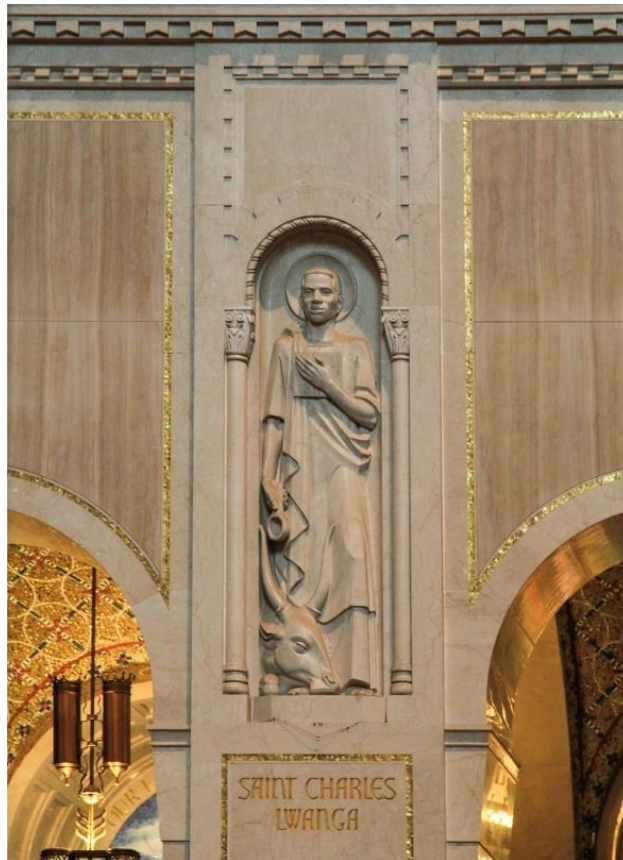


# SAINT CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS

(Martyrs)  
3 June



## About Saint Charles Lwanga (1860/1865-1886)

Saint Charles Lwanga (1860/1865-1886) along with twenty-two companions is considered to be a proto-martyr and is one of the first African martyrs. Saint Charles served the Ugandan king (kababka) as master of pages. This job mainly involved training young people for military service. He carried out this job during the reign of Mwanga who was anti-Christian. Saint Charles (who had recently converted to the Catholic faith) felt compelled to catechize the young pages in his charge in the ways of Christianity, which led to several baptisms. These baptisms sadly did not please king Mwanga and he asked Saint Charles and his companions to renounce the faith but they refused. They remained faithful to Christ. Saint Charles and his companions were arrested and sentenced to death.

### **Bibliography**

Sourcebook 2017: © Liturgy Training Publications 2017

## What can we learn from Saint Charles Lwanga?

Firstly, that Saint Charles was able to live out his faith in Christ no matter where he was. He didn't let his work interfere with his faith, but he lived out the faith in practical ways. The same can be said for us. People aren't asking for us to give them a theology or doctrine lesson - that won't necessarily win them over to Christ. If we live out the faith sincerely, joyfully and meaningfully and with love others will know that it is important to us and that it offers people hope in a world that is full of doom and gloom.

## Prayer Resources

### COLLECT

O God, who have made the blood of Martyrs  
the seed of Christians,  
mercifully grant that the field which is your Church,  
watered by the blood  
shed by Saints Charles Lwanga and his companions,  
may be fertile and always yield you an abundant harvest.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### GOSPEL

**Matthew 5:1-12**

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill.  
There he sat down and was joined by his disciples.  
Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:  
‘How happy are the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.  
Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.  
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:  
they shall be satisfied.  
Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.  
Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.  
Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God.  
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you  
and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account.  
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven:  
this is how they persecuted the prophets before you.’

**Communion Antiphon**

Ps 115:15

How precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his holy ones.

**Copyright Acknowledgements**

Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL). All rights reserved.

The Scripture Readings are taken from the Jerusalem Bible © 1966, 1967, 1968 Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Co. Inc. Used by permission of the publishers.

## **Hymn for the Memorial of Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions**

1. Saint Charles Lwanga and his friends  
were faithful to God 'til the end,  
proclaiming Christ as Lord and King,  
which King Mwanga did offend.

2. They taught the youth about the Lord  
and how to live life in His way;  
baptizing them into Christ's fold  
so they could serve him day by day.

3. May we proclaim that Christ is King  
and tell the world about His Name;  
then living witness shall we be  
to Christ with pride and not with shame.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono  
Tune: WINCHESTER NEW LM 88.88

# St Charles Lwanga and Companions

(3 June)

Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

WINCHESTER NEW LM 88.88

Voice

1. Saint Charles L - wan - ga and his friends were  
2. They taught the youth a - bout the Lord and  
3. May we pro - claim that Christ is King and

Organ

3

Voice

1. faith - ful to live God 'til the end, pro -  
2. how to live life in His Way; bap -  
3. tell the world a - bout His Name; then

Org.

5

Voice

1. claim - ing Christ as Lord and King, which  
2. ti - sing them in - Lord to Christ's fold so  
3. li - ving wit - ness shall we be to

Org.

7

Voice

1. King M - wan - ga did of - fend.  
2. they could serve Him day by day.  
3. Christ with pride and not with shame.

Org.

7