

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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. 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.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The angel brought me to the entrance of the Temple, where a stream came out from under the Temple threshold and flowed eastwards, since the Temple faced east. The water flowed from under the right side of the Temple, south of the altar. He took me out by the north gate and led me right round outside as far as the outer east gate where the water flowed out on the right-hand side. The man went to the east holding his measuring line and measures off a thousand cubits; he then made me wade across the stream; the water reached my ankles. He measured off another thousand and made me wade across the stream again; the water reached my knees. He measured off another thousand and made me wade across again; the water reached my waist. He measured off another thousand; it was a river which I could not cross; the stream had swollen and was now deep water, a river impossible to cross. He then said, "Do you see, son of man?" He took me further, then brought me back to the bank of the river. When I got back, there were many trees on each bank of the river. He said, "This water flows east down to the Arabah and to the sea; and flowing into the sea it makes its waters wholesome. Wherever the river flows, all living creatures teeming in it will live. Fish will be very plentiful, for wherever the water goes it brings health, and life teems wherever the river flows.

Along the river, on either bank, will grow every kind of fruit tree with leaves that never wither and fruit that never fails; they will bear new fruit every month, because this water comes from the sanctuary. And their fruit will be good to eat and the leaves medicinal.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 45:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

Response:

The waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

- God is for us a refuge and strength, a helper close at hand, in time of distress, so we shall not fear though the earth should rock, though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea. (R.)
- The waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place where the Most High dwells. 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, consider the works of the Lord the redoubtable deeds he has done on the earth. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

You are God's building. By the grace God gave me, I succeeded as an architect and laid the foundations, on which someone else is doing the building. Everyone doing the building must work carefully. For the foundation, nobody can lay any other than the one which has already been laid, that is Jesus Christ.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I have chosen and consecrated this house, says the Lord, for my name to be there forever. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 2:13-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary:

are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored

and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

Be built up like living stones, into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood.

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

Sunday Message

DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

THE WORD

Year C • 9 November 2025 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 4

MOTHER CHURCH

JOHN 2:13-22



Today is the feast of the dedication of the Lateran Basilica which is located in Rome. We might think that St Peter's is the pope's main church in Rome but, in fact, that distinction goes to the Basilica of St John Lateran.

St John Lateran is the pope's main church because it is the cathedral church of the Diocese of Rome, which has the pope as its bishop. It is the seat of papal authority and therefore is, in a sense, the parish church of Catholics throughout the world.

Every year, on 9 November, the anniversary of its dedication is celebrated by Catholics everywhere as a way of expressing the unity of the whole Church with the Bishop of Rome.

It is an opportunity for us to reflect on the universal nature of the Church, and what it means to be a member of it. ■

REFLECT

Today we celebrate the feast of the dedication of a particular church in Rome, but the readings remind us that what is really important is not bricks and mortar but rather our relationship with God and one another.

In the Gospel, Jesus drives out the money changers who had turned the Temple into a marketplace rather than a house of worship. He then refers to his own body as a sanctuary, a theme taken up by St Paul in today's second reading.

The Greek word for Church is *ekkleisia*, which means a community of believers, people who come together in faith. When St Paul tells the people at Corinth that they are God's building, he is speaking of the community that they have become. Each of them has become a new person because God's Spirit lives in and among them. They are the holy temple in whom God resides.

This is an extraordinary statement when you think about it. We are God's building. We are God's temple because God dwells in us.

This knowledge has clear implications for how we see and relate to our physical bodies, and for how we see and relate to each other. I must treat my physical body as a sacred vessel, taking good care of it, respecting and treasuring it. I must treat every person's body in the same way. Imagine how different our world would be if we all tried to do just that. ■

SAY

"Lord, I thank you for the gift of the ecclesial community of which I am part. Help me to do my part to build it up. Amen."

DO

Through baptism you are a member of the Church. Think about what it means for you to be a member of the Church.

LEARN

The Emperor Constantine built the Lateran Basilica in the fourth century on land that had belonged to the Laterani family (hence the name 'Lateran'). It has had a rather unfortunate history. The original building, dedicated to the Saviour, was sacked by barbarian invaders and restored in the fifth century, ruined by an earthquake in the eighth century and rebuilt in the ninth, twice burnt down in the 14th century and then restored. It was the residence of the popes until 1308. Pope Innocent X commissioned the present structure in 1646.

'Basilica' is the word given to an early form of building used for Christian worship. It was modelled on the Roman Basilica - a building used as a law court and a commercial exchange. At first the name 'basilica' was used of churches which resembled the Roman building, but now the title of 'basilica' is given by the pope to certain privileged churches both in Rome and throughout the world.

The dedication of churches can be traced back to the Jewish practice of dedicating the Temple in Jerusalem to God. Once the Temple had been dedicated, there was a feast each year to celebrate the anniversary of the dedication. This feast was celebrated not only in Jerusalem but in every synagogue as well. Similarly, every Western Catholic church observes the dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome.

PRAY

Pray for our Holy Father. Ask the Lord's blessing on his ministry of leadership and service as Bishop of Rome and our bishop too.

