

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

November 9, 2025

Water flowing out.

You are a temple of God.

I will raise it up.

-rvb.

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome.

“To dedicate or consecrate” a place to God is a ritual that is found in every religion. To “reserve” a place to God is an act of recognizing His glory and honor.

When the Emperor Constantine granted full liberty to Christians in 313, they did not spare to construct places for the Lord – numerous are the churches constructed at that time. Constantine himself also constructed churches, one of which was a magnificent basilica on the Caelian Hill in Rome, over the ancient Lateran Palace, which Pope Sylvester I dedicated to Christ the Savior (318 or 324). A chapel dedicated to Saint John the Baptist was built inside it which served as the baptistry. This moved Pope Sergius III to dedicate it to Saint John the Baptist as well. Lastly, Pope Lucius II also dedicated it to Saint John the Evangelist in the 12th century. Thus, the name of this Papal Basilica is the Basilica of the Most Holy Savior and of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist in the Lateran. Christians consider the Basilica to be the mother church of all churches in the world.

The church was destroyed several times over the centuries and always rebuilt. The final reconstruction took place under the pontificate of Benedict XIII. The church was rededicated in 1724. It was at that time that

the feast celebrated today was established and extended to the universal Church. -Internet.

Tuesday, 11/11 – Veterans Day - A prayer for our Veterans.

Oh God, our heavenly Father, You have blessed us with brave men and women who are willing to defend our freedom. May your protection and grace surround them each day. Let your healing hand be upon those who suffer wounds and injuries. May those who have made the ultimate sacrifice rest forever in your holy presence. Comfort the families who mourn and are left to remember the previous lives of their loved ones. Help us to honor and support them. Let us ever be mindful of each sacrifice made on behalf of the American people by our sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, and friends. Amen.

“It is in Jesus that we live, move, and have our being.” -Acts 17:28.

Roger J. Vanden Busch

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Reading 1

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

The angel brought me
back to the entrance of the temple,
and I saw **water flowing out**
from beneath the threshold of the temple toward the east,
for the façade of the temple was toward the east;
the **water flowed down** from the southern side of the temple,
south of the altar.
He led me outside by the north gate,
and around to the outer gate facing the east,
where I saw **water trickling from the southern side.**
He said to me,
trickling from the southern side. "This **water flows** into the eastern district down upon
the Arabah,
and empties into the sea, the salt **waters,** which it makes fresh.
Wherever the river flows,
every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live,
and there shall be abundant fish,
for wherever this **water** comes the sea shall be made fresh.
Along both banks of the river, fruit trees of every kind shall grow;
their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail.
Every month they shall bear fresh fruit,
for they shall be **watered by the flow from the sanctuary.**
Their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for medicine."

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

In this reading from Ezekiel, he must have been thirsty for water is mentioned seven times and river two times. The famous quote "Water, water, everywhere, not any drop to drink" from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," comes to mind. The poem highlights the irony of being surrounded by undrinkable water. In today's reading from Ezekiel, his perspective on water is

exactly the opposite as he says, “This water flows into the eastern
district down upon the Arabah,
and empties into the sea, the salt waters, which it makes fresh.
Wherever the river flows,
every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live,
and there shall be abundant fish,
for wherever this water comes the sea shall be made fresh.”

The “book for lectors’ summarizes this water phenomenon as “water flowing from the temple symbolizing God’s power to engender fruitfulness, nourishment, and healing. Thus, God’s dwelling in the temple merges with the life-giving power that flows from it. This, Ezekiel claims, is the destiny of chastised and restored Israel in the renewed land.”

A story is told about a seeker who asked a Christian, “How can I find God?” The Christian replied, “Follow me.” He led him down to the waters flowing from the Temple and immersed his head in the waters three times. Then he asked him, “What did you desire more than anything else when your head was under water?” “Air,” replied the seeker. “When you desire God as much as you desired air, you will find him,” said the Christian.

Psalm

Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

R. (5) The waters of the river gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High!

God is our refuge and our strength,
an ever-present help in distress.

Therefore, we fear not, though the earth be shaken
and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea.

R. The waters of the river gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High!

There is a stream whose runlets gladden the city of God,
the holy dwelling of the Most High.

God is in its midst; it shall not be disturbed;

God will help it at the break of dawn.

R. The waters of the river gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High!

The LORD of hosts is with us;

our stronghold is the God of Jacob.

Come! behold the deeds of the LORD,
the astounding things he has wrought on earth.

R. The waters of the river gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Highest!

Reading 2

1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17

Brothers and sisters:

You are God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me,
like a wise master builder I laid a foundation,
and another is building upon it.

But each one must be careful how he builds upon it,
for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there,
namely, Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God,
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

If anyone destroys God's temple,

God will destroy that person;

for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

In this reading from 1 Corinthians there is no doubt as to its theological theme and focus since you and I are God's temple mentioned three times, and the spiritual processes we create by (building, builder, and builds) is mentioned four times. The act of building or creating is more important than the finished product. The community of believers is the edifice or the temple. As Church (Ekklesia=gathering of the faithful), we are co-creators and servants of God's kingdom. Jesus is the foundation of our lives. The presence of the Holy Spirit graces our lives with holiness. Abraham Heschel agrees: "Just to Be is blessed, and to Live is holy."

"Be careful not to destroy God's Temple," says Paul. We are to avoid petty rivalries and factions. From chapter 1:10 to 6:8, Paul wrestles and strives to resolve various and potentially divisive "Church Disorders." As the saying goes, people do not get odd, they tend to get "Odd-er." As builders, we are to be on guard against three possibilities: 1. To lay the wrong foundation; 2. To build unworthily upon a right foundation – This is the greatest treason, to do the right intention for the wrong reason; and 3. We can damage what we have built. As servants we are

to genuinely and authentically be faithful to our calling, pleasing God always and to simply do good. We are to live, labor, and pray for eternity's values and virtues as the cement which strengthens our foundation and holy Temple. Thus, we will not crumble or fall to pieces like 'Humpty-Dumpty.' "In vain do we labor unless we build our house upon the Lord."

Alleluia

[2 Chronicles 7:16](#)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I have chosen and consecrated this house, says the Lord,
that my name may be there forever.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

[John 2:13-22](#)

Since the Passover of the Jews was near,
Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves,
as well as the money-changers seated there.

He made a whip out of cords

and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen,
and spilled the coins of the money-changers

and overturned their tables,

and to those who sold doves he said,

"Take these out of here,

and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

His disciples recalled the words of Scripture,

Zeal for your house will consume me.

At this the Jews answered and said to him,
"What sign can you show us for doing this?"
Jesus answered and said to them,
"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."
The Jews said,
"This temple has been under construction for forty-six years,
and you will raise it up in three days?"
But he was speaking about the temple of his Body.
Therefore, when he was raised from the dead,
his disciples remembered that he had said this,
and they came to believe the Scripture
and the word Jesus had spoken.

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

In today's Gospel we have a dramatic display of moral courage and conviction. Jesus symbolically cleanses the temple in this verse, which was a physical place of worship in Jerusalem. He is foreshadowing his own body as the ultimate temple by doing so. This act carries a deep spiritual meaning, indicating that the rightful place of worship and connection with God is not a physical building, but within us. Jesus is showing that he is the new temple, the ultimate connection between humanity and God. Have you ever thought about the significance of Jesus referring to himself as the temple? It is a powerful reminder that God's presence is not confined to a specific location but rather resides within each one of us. When we understand this concept, we realize that true worship is more than just

rituals and traditions; it is about recognizing and honoring the divine spark within ourselves and others. Jesus cleansing the temple is a profound symbol of purity and renewal, inviting us to reflect on our own inner temples and how we can keep them pure and holy.

Just as Jesus cleansed the temple with urgency and zeal, it is time to clear out the clutter in your heart. Strip away distractions and focus on what truly matters to honor and glorify God. Make your inner space a sanctuary, pure and dedicated. What steps will you take today to give God the respect and space He deserves in your life?

Here are some suggestions:

1. Live more closely to the rhythms of nature.
2. Live an ordered, yet flexible life.
3. Live a balanced life and in moderation.
4. Begin and end the day with reflective practice.
5. Live each day mindfully, practicing the presence of God.
6. Slow down, find some leisure activity.
7. Exercise the whole person – PIESSE = physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual. Maturity, morality, and holiness are intricately connected to a balanced and healthy life.
8. Work in a tranquil and focused way. “To work is to pray”-St. Benedict.

9. Balance your day with play, leisure, and work. “Play becomes a holy action, where a spiritual awakening takes place. The individual becomes swept up in the action around her; she floats through the performance, drawing on forces she has never previously been aware of.” -Patsy Neal – Sport and Identity.

10. Take a fresh look at celebrating the Eucharist:

- a. Because it is not good to be alone.
- b. To take my rightful place humbly within the human family.
- c. Because God calls me there.
- d. To dispel my fantasies about myself.
- e. Because ten thousand saints have told me so.
- f. To help others carry their pathologies and to have them help carry mine.
- g. To dream with others.
- h. To practice for heaven.
- i. For the pure joy of it...because it is heaven.

-Ronald Rolheiser, *The Holy Longing*, pp. 134ff.

Final Prayer. The glory of your presence, God, is manifested in this holy place through the presence of Jesus in word, sacrament, and our everyday ordinary lives. Come Holy Spirit! Gift us with a sense of wonder and awe as worthy temples of your holy and blessed presence. Amen.