

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Cycle C

November 09, 2025

1st Reading: Ezekiel 47:1 – 2, 8 – 9, 12.

I saw water flowing from the temple, and all who were touched by it were saved.

Psalm 46:2 – 3, 5 – 6, 8 – 9.

The waters of the river gladden the city of God.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:9c – 11, 16 – 17.

You are God's Temple.

Gospel: John 2:13 – 22; L671C.

Jesus was speaking about the temple of his body.

God is good, All the time; All the time, God is good.”

Friends, today our readings are kind of our mission statement! This gives us a break for the second week in a row from the Sundays in ordinary time. However, it does not give us a break from God's mission for us; as Paul clearly says we are “God's building,” hear temple. We are called to be “holy” as God, who created us in God's very own image, is” Holy!”

Why the Basilica of St. John Lateran? Why not St. Peter's? Because it was the first, built on a hill in Rome, and it is the Pope's cathedral (the place where his chair is). So, this is a feast in which we remember the dedication of all our Churches, and it is not about brick and mortar but us. We are God's temple! We are holy because God, through the Holy Spirit abides and resides in our hearts.

Ezekiel gives us such a vivid picture of the “new” Jerusalem temple. The sanctuary faces East as all Church sanctuaries used to do, even ours here when we were upstairs before Fr. Taylor moved the altar to the center of the space. What comes out of the sanctuary? Water that brings life to everything it touches. It even brings life to the dead sea which it emptied into and created a clean life-giving body of water for both living beings and vegetation around it. What we witness in this vision is the saving power of God that flows out from the temple in a series of concentric circles: 1st the water from the sanctuary itself; then whatever the water touches; and finally, the fruit produced by that which the water touched. The power of the presence of God radiates throughout all of creation.

So, this is not about brick and mortar! It is about us being called to be transformative in our daily encounters and bring about that power of God that radiates in our world. As Mother Teresa claimed we are the arms, the legs, the hands of God in our world. Paul says we are the body of Christ. We are called to be Holy and to stay holy: free of all evil to the best of our ability. When we fail, we need to overturn the changing tables and start over. What a great break from Ordinary time we get here, reminding us of who we are and whose we are! Ready for a mission trip?