

# The Living Word

**Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**

**9 November 2025**

## First Reading Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

*I see water flowing from the temple and all who were touched by it were saved.*

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 measured 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 now 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.'

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 45:2-3, 5-6, 8-9. R. v.5**

**(R.) The waters of the river gladden the city of God.**

1. 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.)
2. 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.)
3. 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 Cor 3:9-11, 16-17

*You are the temple of God.*

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.

## Gospel Acclamation 2 Chr 7:16

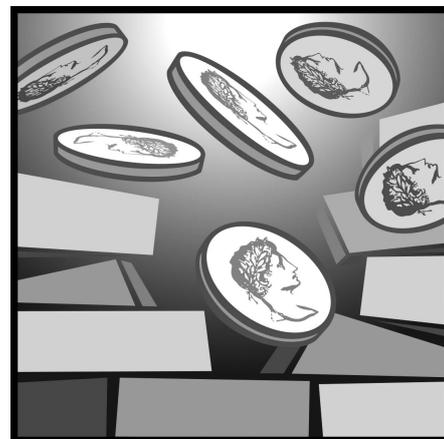
**Alleluia, alleluia!**

***I have chosen and sanctified this house,  
says the Lord,  
that my name may remain in it for all time.  
Alleluia!***

## Gospel Jn 2:13-22

*He spoke about the temple of his own body.*

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.



## Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The basilica of St John Lateran is the cathedral of Rome, the mother church of all Roman Catholic churches.

The temple was the place on earth where God dwelt amid the people. It was God's presence, not the worship performed there, that made it a sacred site. There is something incarnational about this presence of God. It is manifested in the concrete, in something with shape and character. Still, as important as the temple may be, it is only a building. Paul insists that we are the temple of God; we are the manifestation of God in the world today. The Spirit of God dwells in us, making the believing community the living temple of God.

Today's readings offer us two pictures of the temple of God, two characterisations of the community of believers. In one, the temple has become a marketplace, and the community is preoccupied with the business of the world. In Ezekiel, we see water from the temple transforming everything in its path. As water flowed from the temple in Ezekiel's vision, so grace flows from the temple that is the people of God. Which image more closely characterises the community of which we are a part? Are we able to transform the wilderness of our world into a place that is teeming with life? Is the community truly the presence of God in the world today? Or is the temple simply a place where ritual is performed but the concerns of God take second place to the affairs of the world?

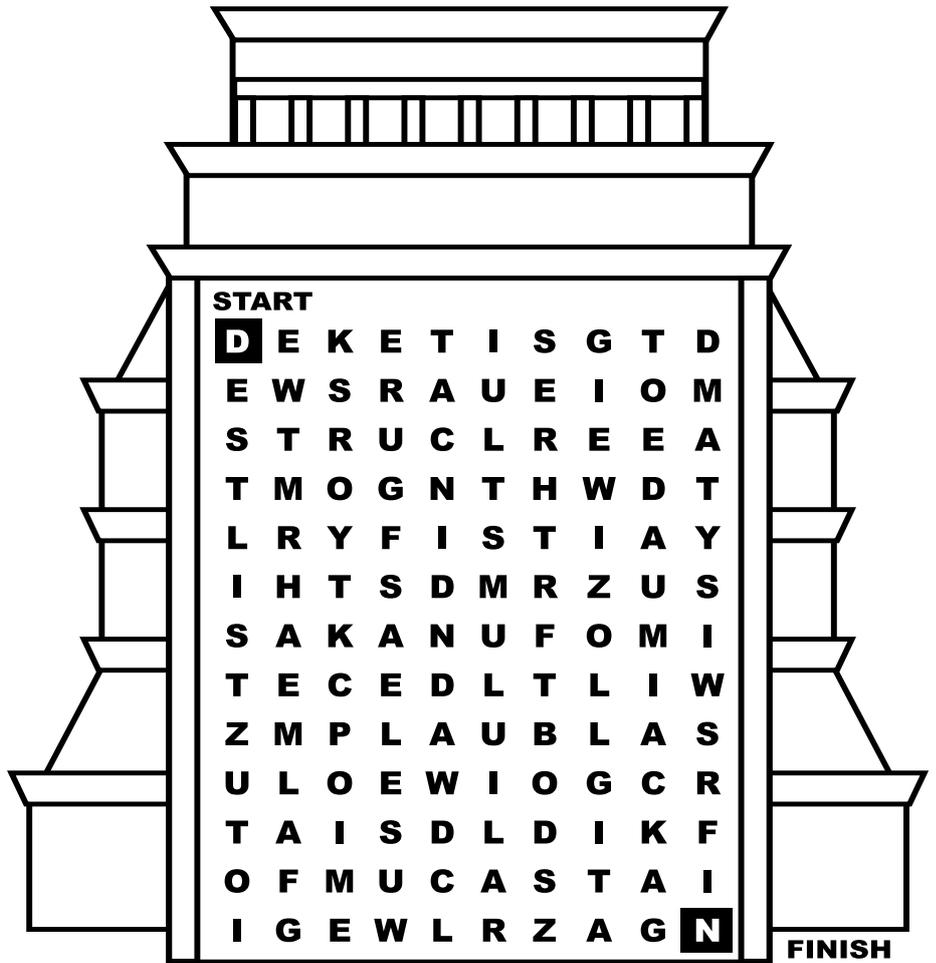
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**S**t Martin of Tours was born the son of a soldier, circa 315 AD. Born in present day Hungary, he was brought up in Pavia, Italy. As a young officer he encountered a naked beggar, and having nothing to give but the clothes off his own back, he cut his military cloak in two and gave half to the beggar. Later he had a vision of Christ wearing his cloak and soon after he was baptised. Before a battle, St Martin asked to be discharged from the army, stating that as Christ's soldier he was not permitted to fight. When accused of cowardice he offered to stand unarmed on the battlefield between the two opposing armies. After his release, St Martin founded a monastery at Liguage – the first in France – and was made the bishop of Tours in 370 AD. He was also an active missionary in rural France and spoke in defence of those being executed by the Emperor for practising magic and other heresies. He was one of the first non-martyrs to be made a saint.

## COMPLETE THE TEXT MAZE

“Destroy this temple and in three days I will build it again”



## Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



- coins
- disciples
- house
- Jerusalem
- marketplace
- Passover
- sheep
- stop
- tables
- temple
- three
- year

O	L	E	S	F	P	V	W	F	K	X	P	W	M	N	D
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