

Sunday Readings

9 November 2025

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, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12

In those days: The angel brought me back to the door of the Temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the Temple towards the east (for the Temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the Temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me round on the outside to the outer gate that faces towards the east; and behold, the water was trickling out on the south side.

And he said to me, 'This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh. And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.'

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 45:2-3,5-6,8-9. R/. v.5

**R/. 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

A reading from the first letter of St Paul
to the Corinthians 3:9-11,16-17

Brothers and Sisters: You are God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

2 Chron 7:16

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

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the Temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, 'Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'

So the Jews said to him, 'What sign do you show us for doing these things?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Lectionary Year A

The word of God

saint of the Week

Tuesday 11 November 2025

St Martin of Tours

(c.316 - 397)

Today we celebrate the dedication of the basilica of St John Lateran in Rome. Why celebrate the dedication of a church in far away Rome, you may ask. It is to remind us of the importance of the church building as sacred space set apart for personal and collective encounter with God.

Historically, the basilica of St John Lateran is the oldest church of Rome and the highest ranking church in the world, followed by St Peter's basilica in the Vatican. As such it is the mother of all churches. When we celebrate its dedication to God, therefore, we celebrate the mystery of God's special presence and indwelling in buildings set apart for divine worship, including our own parish church.

We know that God is everywhere. Yet when the people of God erect a building and dedicate it totally to God's service, God's glory comes to dwell in that building in such a way that the building can now be called the house of God. Solomon recalls this mystery in his prayer of dedication of the temple in Jerusalem: *"Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built!"* (1 Kings 8:27). So, while we celebrate God's special indwelling in a temple, we must remind ourselves that God's presence is not confined in the temple. God is still everywhere. But God manifests His glory in a special way in some persons, places, and things. A temple or church is one such place.

Today many Christians seem have lost the sense of the church as a sacred place, to the point that the comportment of many worshippers in our churches today borders on irreverence. Many Christians have altogether abandoned traditional practices that were meant to remind us that we are in God's presence when we enter the church. These include such little things as dressing in a decent manner for church, signing oneself with holy water on entering the church, genuflecting or bowing to the altar or the tabernacle before taking one's seat or before leaving the church, not chatting in church, and lowering one's voice when one has cause to talk in church.

The loss of the sense of the sacred in church buildings and church worship might be one reason why young people are no longer keen on church attendance. If they come to church thinking it to be another social gathering, no wonder they find it so boring. But when we realize that the church is a holy place, a place of encounter with God, with one another and with oneself, then we bring a certain disposition of mind and body to church service which helps make worship an uplifting rather than boring experience. Today's celebration of the dedication of St John Lateran invites us to renew our faith in the church as a house of prayer and to cultivate habits and practices that make it easy for God to encounter us whenever we go to church.



St Martin of Tours is one of our "soldier saints" depicted in the east window above the High Altar.

He was born in the Roman province of Pannonia (approximating to the western half of modern Hungary) in about 316 and was educated at Pavia in Italy. He was baptized, left the army and after spending some time as a hermit on an island off the Ligurian coast, founded a monastery at Ligugé in western France, where he lived a monastic life guided by St Hilary. Later he was ordained priest and became bishop of Tours. In his actions he gave an example of what a good shepherd should be. He founded other monasteries, educated the clergy, and preached the Gospel to the poor. He died in 397.

The famous story about St Martin is that while a soldier in Amiens he gave half of his military cloak to a beggar and later had a dream in which the beggar revealed himself as Christ.

Prayer of the Week

A Prayer for Peace

Eternal God,
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace
proceed: kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all,
the true love of peace and guide with your
pure and peaceable wisdom those who take
counsel for the nations of the earth
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go
forward, till the earth is filled with the
knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

