Reading for the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

9th November 2026

First reading

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

'I saw water flowing from the Temple, and all to whom this water came were saved.'

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.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46(45):2-3. 5-6. 8-9. ℟5

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

God is for us a refuge and strength, an ever-present help in time of distress:
so we shall not fear though the earth should rock, though the mountains quake to the heart of the sea.
The waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place, the abode of the Most High.
God is in her midst, she cannot be shaken; God will help her at the dawning of the day.
The Lord of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Come and behold the works of the Lord, the awesome deeds he has done on the earth.

Gospel Acclamation

2 Chronicles 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia.
I have chosen and consecrated this house, says the Lord,
that my name may be there for ever.
Alleluia.

Gospel **John 2:13-22**

He was speaking about the temple of his body.

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.

Short reflection on the reading for today

Today we recall the Basilica Saint John of Lateran, the Pope's own church, the Cathedral of Rome. The Lateran was chosen as the Cathedral Rome long before Saint Peter's was built. It is where the papacy was housed for centuries before moving across the Tiber to where Vatican City now stands. The gospel about the purification of the temple of Jerusalem is apt for today's feast. The Jerusalem temple serves as a symbol of the Church of today, in the twenty-first century. It conveys both the idea of the temple's sacredness, and also the need for constant purification of the structures of our Church.

"In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers at their business." Today it is not in our churches that trade, business, and commerce of all kind are conducted; but they take place outside, including on Sundays. Our concentration on material things often makes us forget to go to church. On Sundays, instead of the believers gathering in the church, we see them elsewhere, going about their business. "Zeal for your house will consume me." Can we let ourselves be consumed, like Christ, with enthusiasm for worshiping God? May desire to fill the house of God fill our hearts! May this church where we are gathered be the place of prayer, and not one of trade! May the universal Church which unites all believers be a community of humble worship, led by pastors deeply imbued with the spirit of Christ.