CELEBRATING AT HOME

DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

A living temple (John 2:13-22)

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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.
We are gathered with the whole Church in this moment of prayer.

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,
you are our Way.

Lord Jesus,
you are our Truth.

Lord Jesus,
you are our Life.

Scripture Reading *(John 2:13-22)*

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After 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.

Reflection - *A living temple*

Today's feast celebrates the dedication of the Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist in Rome. This cathedral is often referred to as the 'Lateran' because it is built on the site of a palace once belonging to the Laterani family. This palace served as the official residence of the Popes from the 4th to the 14th centuries. It is the cathedral church of the diocese of Rome of which the Pope is the local bishop.

We celebrate the dedication of this cathedral as the mother church of the whole Catholic community. Cathedrals, like all churches, are physical signs of God's presence and the gathering place of the people of Christ. It is the living Body of Christ, which gathers to celebrate and witness, which becomes the living temple of God's presence on earth.

The readings take up these themes. The first reading is taken from Ezekiel's vision of a new Temple in Jerusalem. The old one had been totally destroyed. Interestingly, the reading does not focus on the glory of the building, but on the 'life-giving water' which flows out of the building.

In the second reading, St Paul makes the point that we are God's building among whom the Spirit of God is living.

The Gospel is the story of Jesus cleansing the Temple in Jerusalem. This passage always reminds us of the need not to be distracted from our true purpose to be the living Church of God. It also reminds us that the new and true temple is Jesus.

We, who are baptised in Christ, are the living stones in the Temple of God.

Our feast is a celebration of Christ, the one in whom we are built into the true temple of God on earth; the ones through whom the living water of God's Spirit finds its way into the world to bring growth, goodness and healing.

Prayers of Intercession

May the blessing and the power of the Spirit
continue to fill our church and its leaders.

As we carry new life from our church to our world,
strengthen our resolve for justice and peace,

May our prayer together
strengthen us to be the living witness of love in the world to all who are in need.

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Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Closing Prayer

Lord God,
make us more fully
the living temple of your presence
and the dwelling place of your Spirit.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of God be among us,
and remain with us for ever. Amen.

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.

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