

The Lateran Basilica in Rome, the only church building whose dedication is celebrated as a feast, is an enduring symbol of the universal church. Inscribed on its façade is “*omnium urbis et orbis ecclesiarum mater et caput*,” meaning, “mother and head of all the churches of the city and of the world.” Originally completed in 324 CE, soon after Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity, the Lateran Basilica is a sign of the triumph of the faithful who survived underground for generations when Christians were persecuted. Although we likely are gathered in a much humbler setting today, we are nonetheless inextricably linked to this historic church—our mother church.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith p. 140

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*bow as we say*) **and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.** For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Introductory Rite:

Greeting:

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

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

Penitential Rite: p. 10

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

**I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Opening Prayer:

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, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading p. 122

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

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

The angel brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water flowing out from beneath the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the façade of the temple was toward the east; the water flowed down from the southern side of the temple, south of the altar. He led me outside by the north gate, and around to the outer gate facing the east, where I saw water trickling from the southern side. He said to me,

"This water flows into the eastern district down upon the Arabah, and empties into the sea, the salt waters, which it makes fresh. Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live, and there shall be abundant fish, for wherever this water comes the sea shall be made fresh. Along both banks of the river, fruit trees of every kind shall grow; their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail. Every month they shall bear fresh fruit, for they shall be watered by the flow from the sanctuary. Their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for medicine."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**Responsorial Psalm*Psalm 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9*

R/. The waters of the river gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High!

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God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in distress.

Therefore, we fear not, though the earth be shaken and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea. **R/.**

There is a stream whose runlets gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High.

God is in its midst; it shall not be disturbed; God will help it at the break of dawn. **R/.**

The LORD of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of Jacob.

Come! behold the deeds of the LORD, the astounding things he has wrought on earth. **R/.**Second Reading

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

*1 Corinthians 3: 9c-11, 16-17*

Brothers and sisters:

You are God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**Gospel*John 2:13-22*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord**

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money-changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, *Zeal for your house will consume me.*

At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his Body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Reflection on the Word:

- It is unlikely that there is an actual stream of water flowing out from the place we worship in. If there is, we may need to look for a busted pipe! But as we leave this celebration of the Eucharist today, we can be that life-giving water flowing from this building. Since the Spirit of God dwells in us, we are able to bring the presence of God from this gathering to whomever we encounter throughout the week. On this day when we celebrate the dedication of the mother church built in Rome, we rededicate ourselves to building up the kingdom of God here in the shadow of our community, aware that both celebrate their foundation in Jesus Christ.
- At this time in our country, shifting demographics, shrinking Mass attendance, and other factors have led to many church buildings closing or consolidating. This has been emotionally difficult for many faithful. Today's feast can remind us of two things. First of all, no matter what building we gather in, we are still part of the universal church, a Church that began with no buildings at all and lasted centuries before members could worship publicly. Secondly, as Saint Paul reminds us, we are God's building. We are each a temple of God, with a foundation in Jesus Christ and the Spirit of God dwelling in us. May we see in both ourselves and our neighbor that holiness that comes from God's presence within.
- In today's Gospel, Jesus refers to his body as a temple, confusing the authorities because they assume that he is speaking of destroying the Jewish temple. But keep in mind that this dialogue occurs after another action of Jesus': the cleansing of the temple of whatever didn't belong. We too must clean the temples of our bodies from whatever doesn't belong, for instance the "marketplace" of our secular culture, which judges everything by its material worth. Since this way of thinking can unconsciously seep into our lives, we are challenged today to cleanse ourselves of making financial matters our overriding priority. After all, if we are temples of God, we should not have "marketplaces" within us.

**Question of the Week**

This coming week, how can I let God's grace flow through me to bring life to someone who's parched or empty in some way?

Prayer of the Faithful:

We give voice to our needs and the needs of our neighbors, trusting that God's grace ever flows from the holy dwelling of the Most High, bringing life to the world.

- For the Church, that we may continually commit to carrying out Christ's mission, and channel God's grace like a flowing stream to the entire world, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That those in leadership positions in government may work to build a society in which the hungry are fed, the stranger is welcomed, and the forgotten are cared for, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those who have served in the armed forces in times of war, that they may be treated with respect and dignity all their lives, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those who design and construct church buildings, and all those who care for them from generation to generation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For the members of this faith community, that we may gain strength by our connection to Catholic faith communities near and far, all part of the universal church, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of all, you bring life to the world, fruitful and rich, like rivers flowing from the temple. Answer our prayers, and send your grace flowing to every corner of the world, revealing your love and mercy, through your Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

#### Communion Rite

##### The Lord's Prayer: p. 174

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

**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.**

##### Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

##### Communion:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

##### Prayer after Communion:

O God, who chose to foreshadow for us the heavenly Jerusalem through the sign of your Church on earth, grant, we pray, that by our partaking of this Sacrament, we may be made the temple of your grace and may enter the dwelling place of your glory.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

##### Concluding Rite:

##### Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us, ✠ protect us from all evil and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**