

Fr. Martin's Reflection – November 9, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Becoming the Living Temple of God

This weekend's readings all circle around one powerful image: the Temple — the place where God dwells. But as we listen carefully, we realize that Scripture isn't just talking about a building made of stone. It's about something much closer to home: the living temple God is building within each of us.

In Ezekiel's vision, water flows out from the Temple, first as a trickle and then as a river so deep and wide that it brings life everywhere it goes. Trees flourish, fruit multiply, and even the salt sea turns fresh. This image of flowing water is beautiful and hopeful. It reminds us that when God's presence fills our lives, His grace doesn't stay put — it moves, heals, and transforms everything it touches. God's life is dynamic, not static. He wants His Spirit to flow through us into our families, workplaces, and communities, renewing what may feel dry or lifeless.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, we hear that *we* are now God's building: "You are God's temple, and God's Spirit dwells in you." That's an astonishing statement. Paul reminds us that Jesus Christ is the only foundation strong enough to support our lives and our Church. But he also challenges us: if we are the temple, then how are we caring for it? Are we building up or tearing down? Are our relationships, choices, and words rooted in the holiness that reflects God's Spirit within us? Being the temple of God means more than personal piety — it's about being a people who make God's presence visible in how we love, forgive, and serve.

Then in John's Gospel, Jesus enters the Temple in Jerusalem and finds it filled with noise, money, and distraction. He drives out the merchants and declares, "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" At first glance, it seems like anger, but really, it's love — a deep passion for true worship. And when He says, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up," He's revealing something even greater: *He* is the new Temple. In Him, God dwells fully among us. After the resurrection, His disciples understand that the true meeting place between God and humanity is no longer a building — it's a person, Jesus Himself.

These readings remind us that the Church is not primarily about bricks and mortar but about living stones — people like you and me. When our lives are centered on Christ, His Spirit flows from us like the river in Ezekiel's vision, bringing healing and hope to others. And when we let Jesus cleanse the clutter in our hearts — our pride, distractions, or fear — we make room for His life-giving presence to grow within us.

May we each become a living temple where others can encounter the peace, mercy, and renewing love of God.

Veterans Day

Dear friends, let's take a moment and offer a prayer for our veterans. If you have the opportunity, say Thank You. We may feel there are a lot of things wrong with our Country, but trust me, it's a whole lot better than many other places because of our veterans.

Prayer for Veterans

Loving and merciful God, we thank you for the brave men and women who have served our nation in the armed forces. Bless them for their courage, sacrifice, and dedication to the cause of peace and freedom. Heal the wounds of body, mind, and spirit that war has left behind. Grant comfort to those who have died. May our hearts never forget their service, and may we honor them by working for justice, reconciliation, and lasting peace in our world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

May God bless you and keep you close to His loving heart.

Fr. Martin