

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

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

*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.*

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

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.

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

THE SECOND READING IS FROM ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

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 GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

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 of the temple 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

THE REFLECTION

Oswald Lawrence is probably unknown to you, but you may have heard his voice saying 'Mind the gap' at the Embankment station Northern line platform. His voice was used for the message and after he died his widowed wife liked to sit on one of the platform seats just to hear his voice again.

We remember people by images and words, near Embankment station is the memorial to Bazalgette, the Victorian engineer who designed and built the sewage system freeing central London from its great stink, which had led many rich people to get a house in the fresher air of Wimbledon.

Today we are invited to remember the first church to be legally built, St John Lateran is Rome. The Pope's residence from whence missionaries were sent, religious orders like the Franciscans were approved and judgments given on land issues such as Merton priory's land in Normandy claimed by the French king The Pope and his advisors moved to the Vatican hill after the land around St John's became too swampy. St John's is still the Cathedral Church of Rome although less important now.

I still have our family photographs, in black and white dating back to the 1930s or earlier. One of Uncle Dennis, who died in April 1945 as his plane was shot down, , dropping ammunition to Norwegians hoping to defend the buildings of their capital from destruction by their hated oppressor.

This weekend is one of memory: the Holy souls, the war dead and' the beginning of the Church legally free.

I still remember my father's military funeral, soldiers he knew marching to the regimental march, then Chopin's slow and sad funeral march, his body on a gun carriage preceded by a saddled horse with a pair of boots in the stirrups reversed because he would never-lead his men again. Not all soldiers could have a military ceremony . Today we remember soldiers, sailors and airmen, often buried or their bodies irrecoverable who gave their lives so we could live without oppression.