Jesus clears the temple: ‘Stop turning my Father’s house into a market’.

“... it is disputed whether Jesus went to Jerusalem once or repeatedly; at the beginning of his ministry or at the end. We can ask whether he cleansed the Temple once, or twice. His actions in the Temple seem fine on the page, but a little meditation reveals how uncomfortable they are: violent, dismissive, condemning a whole class of people (who put bread on the table when the money-changers went home that night?). What they embody is a prophetic sign-action, Old Testament-style. Its message is so vital that even good manners give way before it. Whatever else it may be, our relationship with God is not a financial transaction.” (Cally Hammond, Church Times 8242)
COLLECT:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

TODAY’S MUSIC:

All heaven declares
As the deer pants for the water
One bread one body
Now thank we all our God

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Exodus.

God spoke all these words. He said, ‘I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no gods except me. You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father’s fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord your God is a jealous God.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

While the Jews demand miracles and the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and 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 market-place!’ 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 will you raise it up in three days?’ 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PSALM

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.

They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb.

This is the word of the Lord.

EXODUS 20

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple.

The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.

They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb.

Psalm 19

1 Cor 1

1 MARCH 2021

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