

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor. **(Or)**

When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 18)

**ANTIPHON:** Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**LECTOR:** The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**

**LECTOR:** The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **R.**

**LECTOR:** The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **R.**

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life. **(Or)**

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

**TODAY'S READINGS** Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25

**NEXT WEEK** (4th Sunday of Lent, Year B) 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Psalm 136; Ephesians 2:4-

*New Majellan  
Podcasts are a  
hit*

## Prayer is Life

Majellan Media's new podcast series on prayer is proving a hit with listeners. Prayer is Life is aimed at giving people a better understanding about prayer. The podcasts are led by Redemptorist priest David Hore CSSR. The new series coincides with the start of a Year of Prayer announced by Pope Francis. To listen go to: <https://majellan.media/prayer-is-life-podcast/>



# majellan

## Jesus' divine mission



Christ Driving the Money changers from the Temple - Theodoor Rombouts. March 3, 2024 3rd Sunday Lent Year B

If there is one incident in Jesus' life that leads us to question his judgment, the story of him taking a whip and angrily driving people out of the temple must rank as a strong contender. We have heard in recent weeks that Jesus can be forthright in challenging people – even calling pharisees 'hypocrites' to their faces!

But our major image is of a patient and forgiving Jesus rather than someone striking out at people with a raging temper. So, how are we to understand this story? A good place to start is another story of Jesus visiting the Jerusalem temple with his mother and father when he was a twelve-year old boy. On that occasion, Jesus becomes so caught up by the temple experience he misses the caravan taking his family back to Nazareth. When his parents realise Jesus is missing, they hasten back to find him among the temple priests and elders, engaging with them about the meaning of the Scriptures.

Now, the temple for traditional Israelites was the holiest of all places on earth enabling people to experience the presence of the living God in their lives in an unsurpassed way. This must have been Jesus' boyhood experience evident in his response to his confused parents: "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?"

So, when Jesus returns to the temple some twenty years later and finds it filled with hawkers, merchants and other traders, he is incensed that greed and money-lust have turned his "Father's house" into a marketplace.

However, rather than directing his anger to the little people who are simply trying to make a living in a hostile world, surely Jesus should have confronted the temple priests who allowed – no doubt benefited financially from – this defilement of God's house.

Jesus has this opportunity to respond to the chief priests when they challenge him for his table-turning, whip-lashing behaviour. In answer to their question – "On what authority do you do this?" – Jesus' strange response confounds everyone: "Destroy this temple and I will raise it up again in three days".

Somehow, this is a moment of insight for Jesus. He begins to realise his mission of communicating God's love and forgiveness will result in the destruction of the other temple – his own body – on a Cross. Yet, God's glory will always shine through beyond suffering, cruelty and death itself.

This is the paradox St Paul writes about in his letter to the Corinthians. He realises how preaching a crucified Christ is folly to Jews and Greeks alike. Yet Pau knows we must acknowledge our own sinfulness and stupidity if we are to experience God's power and wisdom.

Too often, we are like the temple traders busy with our own pursuits rather than seekers of the living God. We often ignore God's covenant because we are afraid to witness to a crucified-and-risen Christ who heals our weakness and failures with divine love and mercy.

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