

221113 Mariukirkjan Laterankirkens Indvielse

DANSK

Katedralen i byen Rom er en basilika dedikeret til Johannes Døbereren. Det er på Lateranhøjen, en av de syv høje, som Rom er bygget på, så det kaldes Laterankirken eller Sankt Johannes Lateran. I dag fejrer vi mindet om Laterankirkens indvielse, som fandt sted for omkring et tusind, syv hundrede år siden. En inskription på forsiden af basilikaen siger, at den er: *omnium urbis et orbis ecclesiarum mater et caput*, “moderen og overhovedet for alle kirker i Rom og i verden”. Paverne boede i en palads ved siden af basilikaen, længe før de flyttede til Vatikanet, hvor de bor i dag. Selvom paven ikke længere bor der, er Laterankirken stadig Roms stifts katedral, pavens katedral.

De læsninger, vi har hørt i dag, bliver ofte brugt, når folk husker indvielsen af katedralen, hvor de bor, fordi de fortæller os nogle vigtige ting om, hvordan kirker kan påvirke områderne omkring dem. Den første læsning beskriver vandet, der strømmer ud af det jødiske tempel i Jerusalem. Vandet kommer fra en hellig bygning, og det bringer sundhed og liv, hvor end det kommer. Anden læsning er en påmindelse om, at du og jeg er “Guds bygning”; vi er alle Guds tempel; Guds Ånd bor iblandt os. I evangeliet forudsiger Jesus ødelæggelsen af templet i Jerusalem, som skete omkring 35 år efter, at han døde. Men han advarer også sine tilhængere om, at hans eget legeme ville blive ødelagt, selvom ingen rigtig forstod, hvad han havde sagt, før han var opstået fra de døde den første påskesøndag.

ENGLISH

The Cathedral of the city of Rome is a Basilica dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. It is on the Lateran Hill, one of the Seven Hills on which Rome is built, so it is called the Lateran Basilica, or Saint John Lateran. Today we celebrate the memory of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, which happened about one thousand, seven hundred years ago. An inscription on the front of the Basilica says it is: *Omnium urbis et orbis ecclesiarum mater et caput*, “the mother and head of all churches in Rome and in the world”. The Popes lived in a palace next door to the Basilica, long before they

moved to the Vatican, where they live today. Even though the Pope no longer lives there, the Lateran Basilica is still the Cathedral of the Diocese of Rome, the Pope's Cathedral.

The readings we have heard today are often used when people remember the dedication of the cathedral where they live, because they tell us some important things about how churches can affect the areas around them. The first reading describes the water flowing out of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. The water comes from a holy building, and it brings health and life wherever it goes. The second reading is a reminder that you and I are "God's building"; we are all God's temple; the Spirit of God lives among us. In the Gospel, Jesus foretells the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, which happened about 35 years after He died. But he is also warning His followers that His own body would be destroyed, although nobody really understood what He had said until after He rose from the dead on the first Easter Sunday.

The first reading today gives us a vision of the wonderful difference a holy building can make to the surrounding district. In the vision of the prophet Ezekiel, water came out of the temple in Jerusalem, so much water that it became a stream and then a river. The important thing is that the water gave life: lots of fish and all sorts of fruit trees; and the leaves of the trees growing on the bank of the river were medicinal, so the water from the temple could heal people.

The Catholic Church teaches that what we do when we celebrate the Eucharist in this church can have powerful effects on the area around us, because of the effects that it has on us. The Mass "is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows. For the aim and object of apostolic works is that all who are made children of God by faith and baptism should come to praise God in the midst of His Church, to take part in the sacrifice, and to eat the Lord's supper.... From the liturgy, therefore, and especially from the Eucharist, grace is poured forth upon us"; Messen er "det højdepunkt, som Kirkens gerning stræber hen imod, og samtidig den kilde, hele dens Kraft strømmer fra. For meningen med alt apostolisk arbejde er jo at samle alle, der er blevet Guds børn gennem tro og dåb, til en enhed, og de lovpriser Gud midt i kirken, tager del i Offeret og

modtager Herrens nadver.... Liturgien og især Eukaristien er altså ligesom en kilde, hvorfra nåden strømmer imod os”.

“Grace is poured forth upon us”, so that when we go out of *our* temple, our beautiful little church, Mariukirkjan, we are like the water that came out of the temple in Jerusalem. We are filled with strength by God to bring life and healing wherever we go. *But do we?* This is where we need to listen to the warning Saint Paul gave the Christian community in Corinth, which we heard in today’s second reading. “You are God’s building”. *We are God’s building!* But do we behave like God’s building? “If anyone should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred, and you are that temple”. Our Catholic community in this church is God’s temple. Every one of us is part of that temple, so if anyone destroys any of us, he or she is destroying a part of God’s temple.

Here is a vital question. What effect do *you* have on the world when you go out of here? Do you bring life and healing, like the water which came out of the temple? Do you respect the temple of God, the community of people who worship in this church, or do you damage it? Do you ever do anything which could destroy the temple of God? Because, according to Saint Paul, if you do, God will destroy you. If any of us thinks evil thoughts about other people who are here, especially during Mass, he or she is actually working to destroy this temple, this holy community. If any of us says anything evil about other people who are here, especially straight after Mass, he or she is actually working to destroy this temple, this holy community. If any of us does anything to harm other people who are here, in any way and at any time, he or she is actually working to destroy this temple, this holy community. And, if we believe what Saint Paul said to the Christians in Corinth, God will destroy people like that.

As the Church teaches us, the Eucharist, the Mass, pours grace upon us. But grace does not work automatically. It is not magic. The way we behave will show if we have allowed God’s grace to change us, to improve us, or not. Ask God to help you to receive the grace He offers you, so that you can become the person God wants you to be, a little bit more every time you come here. We are all free to reject God’s grace, but remember: if we do, we are working not for God, but for the devil.