



ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO - CATECHETICAL MINISTRY  
 March 7, 2021 Third Sunday of Lent- Cycle B  
 THEME: Honor and Glorify the ONE TRUE GOD  
 John 2: 13-25



**INTRODUCTION**

-What do you consider as holy places?  
 (churches, shrines, altars, the tabernacle)  
 -Why do you consider them holy places?  
 We experience God's presence.  
 -What do you do in those holy places?  
 worship God, gather for celebrations



Any prayers or song appropriate for Lent



**1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel Story John 2: 13-25**

*(Enthroned the Bible on a table with lighted candle)*

**A moment of prayerful silence**

*We will not be able to understand the Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*Dako an paghigugma han Diyos han kalibutan nga itinubyan niya an iya bugtong nga Anak. Adton tumoo ha iya may ada kinabuhi nga dayon*  
 (God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life).

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John**



Jesus clears the temple

13 As the Passover of the Jews was at hand, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the Temple court he found merchants

selling oxen, sheep and doves, and moneychangers seated at their tables. 15 Making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the Temple court, together with the oxen and sheep. He knocked over the tables of the moneychangers, scattering the coins, 16 and ordered the people selling doves, "Take all this away, and stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!" 17 His disciples recalled the words of Scripture: Zeal for your House devours me like fire. 18 The Jews then questioned Jesus, "Where are the miraculous signs which give you the right to do this?" 19 And Jesus said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then replied, "The building of this temple has already taken forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 Actually, Jesus was referring to the temple of his body. 22 Only when he had risen from the dead did his disciples remember these words; then they believed both the Scripture and the words Jesus had spoken. 23 Jesus stayed in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, and many believed in his Name when they saw the miraculous signs he

performed. 24 But Jesus did not trust himself to them, because he knew all of them. 25 He had no need of evidence about anyone, for he himself knew what there was in each one.

*Reader: The Gospel of the Lord*  
*All reply: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

**1.2 Text in Context**

The temple was very much part of Israel's history. For the Israelites, the temple is the heart of worship and who they are as a nation. The temple is a sacred place of God's presence. Offerings sacrifices at the temple like animals represent the giving of themselves to God and asking for God's mercy for sins committed.

First Temple of Jerusalem		
Period	Built/Rebuilt by	Destroyed by
1000 BCE	King Solomon	
576 BCE		Babylonians
538 BCE	Nehemiah and Ezra	
Second Temple of Jerusalem		
37 BCE - 4 AD	King Herod the Great (renovated)	
70 AD		Romans
BCE – Before the Common Era		
AD - <i>Anno Domini</i> (Year of the Lord)		

It was during the last period (before 70 AD) that Jesus was in Jerusalem. He was crucified about 40 years before the destruction of the city and their temple. In today's Gospel we see Jesus entering the temple.

**1. What did Jesus see as he entered the temple?**

*In the Temple court he found merchants selling oxen, sheep and doves, and moneychangers seated at their tables.*

**2. What did he do upon the sight?**

He drove out the merchants and moneychangers from the Temple.

**3. How did Jesus feel? Why did he feel that way?** He was very angry for because the people used the temple like a marketplace.

**4. What was Jesus' response to the people who asked for a sign to show his authority to do this?** Jesus said that he would destroy this Temple and raise it up in three days.

**5. What do the people say in response?**

They said that it was impossible for Jesus build up the temple in three days for it took 46 years to have it built. The Gospel tells us that Jesus' disciples would later have a different understanding about what he said.

**6. What would the disciples understand Jesus to mean?** The disciples would understand this to be a reference to Jesus' death and Resurrection.

**7. When did the disciples begin to understand this?** only after Jesus' Resurrection

**PHASE II REFLECT the Story  
of the Church  
(Teachings of the Church)**



Let us now enter into the sacredness of the temple as the place of worship in the time of Jesus and how Jesus gives new meaning to it as he draws closer to his suffering and death.

Jesus saw the temple area with people who were buying and selling animals at the temple. Angrily, he drove them out, turning tables used for business.

Jesus knew the corrupt practices tolerated by temple officials. By the use of temple area, they made big sum of money from space rentals, exchange of local money to the temple coins, tax collection from the vendors of animals and even high cost of animals for offerings. The devotees far and near who came had no choice but buy expensive animals without blemish required by the priests. Items sold are used for worship in the temple but authorities took advantage for personal gain. Everybody was aware of such bad practices but nobody dared to confront it.

Jesus boldly denounced this kind of practice:

*This is my Father's house, why have you turned it into a place of business?*

*My Father deserves all honor and praise!*

*Can't you not remember all the mighty things he has done to you?*

Jesus has all the right to be angry at the merchant and temple officials who had defiled the sacred place. This event recalls the greatest commandment:

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

God expects us to put him as "Number One" in our life. Because God has made known himself to us, *we must not place anything above him or consider anything more important or give any other thing or person priority over him (YOUCAT 157)*

Jesus' love for God moves him to challenge the evil and unjust situations of his time. But Jesus does not express his anger in ways that cause violence or injury to others. He corrects with mercy. He wants all to be united with the Father to set out on the way that leads to life than death

We live and work and even worship together as a family, as a church, and as a community. We are neither a perfect family nor a perfect community/nation. We have all limitations.

How do we give correction to one another in the family and community? Do we do it out of love? What situations in your life or in the world might call for a response of righteous anger? How would you express your anger without going out of control?

Our Church will remain holy because its head is Jesus Christ, the New Temple. The sins of the members will not lessen the Church's holiness. Both members and leaders of the Church need cleansing and purification as Jesus showed in the temple.

What area of our life as members of Church need cleansing at this time of Lent?

We do not have the temple of old as told in the Gospel. In Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection builds the body of Jesus, the new temple.

**We honor God in Jesus, the new temple  
In Jesus we find new worship, new love.  
We honor God in following Jesus**

We give honor and glorify God in the Eucharist. The altar is kept clean and properly prepared for the celebration of the Eucharist. The priest uses appropriate vestment. Those who assist in the celebration like Altar Servers and Lectors and Lay Ministers are trained for proper actions and movements and wear appropriate clothes. At the altar of sacrifice, Christ is alive.

The people participate in the celebration of the Eucharist in songs, responses to the Mass and proper gestures like standing, seating and kneeling. These external signs help us to encounter Christ in a more meaningful way.

We may not do some business in the Church today. But we may carry with us some corrupt thoughts and behavior

Is my manner of dressing proper for worship? Is it for fashion or for God whom I honor and glorify? Do I draw others closer to God in prayer at Mass with my behavior? Do I give donations to the Church as act of thanksgiving or in exchange of prayers asked?

**PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal faith /community faith story**

We honor and glorify God in many ways. Love for God is not complete without expression of love to our neighbors. Anyone who needs help is our neighbor. What can I do to give honor and give glory to God as we go half way towards Holy Week? Give some concrete ways.



**CLOSING PRAYER**

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, the Father.

Amen.

