

PRAYER: *LORD God, Heavenly Father, who sent Your Son, our LORD Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh, that He might overcome the devil and defend us poor sinners against the adversary: We give thanks to you for Your merciful help, and pray that You would attend us with Your grace in all temptations, preserve us from carnal security, and by Your Holy Spirit keep us in Your Word in Your fear, that we may be delivered from the enemy and obtain eternal salvation. We ask this in Jesus Name, Amen.*

POSSIBLE Prayer of the Church 🕊️ **10th Sunday after Trinity ✳️ August 9th 2026**

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. ... [Possible brief silence]

Gracious LORD, we give thanks for Christ Jesus, in whom we receive the things that make for peace. Keep us trusting in Him and eagerly expecting His final day of visitation. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father, may Your Name be hallowed among us. Preserve it through pure and right teaching in our churches and in the lives of Your children, lived according to Your Word. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our ...*

Almighty God, Your Will is for the good of Your people. You gather Your children as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. Preserve our families, especially the children of Christian parents, that they may grow in the knowledge of You and of Christ Jesus. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.*

LORD God of hosts, bless all our leaders who govern us in Your stead. Keep them from the folly of opposing Your Word and Your Church, and give them wisdom to govern justly in accord with Your will. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Merciful LORD, deliver Your servants from every evil of body and soul. Provide for those in need, and grant endurance to the afflicted [*including Your dear children **Faith & Our Savior Prayers.***] and all those we each name and keep in our hearts in personal prayer. Restore them to health speedily, according to Your will. Keep us together in the ark of Your Church until Your final day of visitation. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our ...*

O God, Father in Heaven, we thank You for Your holy things that make for peace: the cross of Your Son, His resurrection from the dead, Your blessed Word of forgiveness, the washing in Your holy name, and the feast of our Savior's body and blood. Grant us Your peace through these Means of Grace, that we may be Your people and dwell with You forever. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Eternal LORD, You have arranged us as members of one Body in Christ Jesus. Free us from jealousy or contempt toward our fellow Christians. Lead us to bestow honor on our weaker brothers, to suffer and rejoice together, and to serve in harmony as those baptized in one Spirit. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We know that these petitions are pleasing to You, Heavenly Father, and that You hear them for the sake of Christ Jesus, Your Son, our LORD, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. **Amen.**

TRINITY-10/PENT.11C John 2:13–22 TURNING THE TABLES 8.9.26 F.OS.L

PRAYER: *LORD God, Heavenly Father, who has sent Your Son, ...page 4→*

INTRODUCTION

Today's Gospel delivers a different sort of Jesus than the **kind and gentle Jesus** we hear about in Sunday School or **the fun [party] Jesus** who makes 150 gallons of vintage wine for a wedding that's already run out of the "Chateau Cardboard." Here Jesus is flush with anger. Veins sticking out of His neck maybe, His face blood red, a whip of cords in His hand, flipping over tables, and dumping money boxes on the floor. **This Jesus is consumed with righteous zeal for the temple, His Father's house.**

"WWJD?" [LI'L BOY]

I saw a cartoon depicting a little boy back from Sunday School who had just gone on a **rampage through the ladies' bake sale**. Cookies and pies scattered all over the floor. Money poured out, coins rolling everywhere. And his mother comes and grabs him by the scruff of the neck and says, "*What on earth are you doing?! Who told you to do this?*" And the little boy says, "*I learned it today in Sunday School. The teacher asked us, [WWJD =] What Would Jesus Do?*"

SETTING: HOLY WEEK

Matthew, Mark, and Luke set this episode at the beginning of Holy Week, a few days before Jesus was crucified. This was sort of straw that broke the religious camel's back, and you can understand why the religious leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus.

MONEY-\$\$-CHANGING

Passover was the time when people would have been coming from all over the land of Israel to celebrate the Passover meal and make sacrifices. The Law said that if you had to travel a long way, you could buy your sacrificial animal in Jerusalem instead of dragging it along with you. And the money changers were there to **exchange out of town currency for temple currency**, just to be sure some unclean Gentile hadn't put his dirty fingers on it.

JESUS SAW DIFFERENT

[But] **Jesus saw something else**. He saw His Father's House being turned into an **emporium, a shopping mall of religion**. Next thing you know, they'll put in a Starbucks. Some even suggest that the profits of the temple were being used to fund anti-Roman [terrorist] groups like the Zealots. Jesus seemed **particularly irked by the pigeon sellers**. Pigeons were the sacrifice of the poor. **These merchants were preying on the poor for profit.**

FAITH.LESS RELIGION

Nothing irritates Jesus more than **faithLESS religion**. Faithless sacrifices. Bargaining, dealing, transacting in the Name of God. All of it in some vain attempt to atone for your sins by your own self-chosen sacrifices. And don't think the sacrifice sellers and the money changers have gone away. They've just changed their bill of goods to accommodate more modern tastes in religion. Now they **sell motivation and purpose-driven life and self-improvement**, all in the Name of God. All this can be yours if you just fork over 40 bucks. **A whip of cords might be too kind.**

CUTTING DEALS W/ GOD

Behind it all is **the business of transaction, cutting deals with God**. **It's at the heart of all religion, the idea that WE**

need to do something to atone for our sins, to get on God's good side. It's the notion that God has done His part and now He's waiting around for you to do your part. It's the idea, implicit in WWJD wristbands and **purpose-driven books** which would surely be on any **money changer's best seller list**, that there is some way to have a life **other** than in the **Death and Resurrection in Jesus**. Let's face it - Death and Resurrection is not a path you and I would willingly choose for ourselves. And furthermore, it doesn't **"sell"** as well.

DIRE SITUATION At the heart, it's a failure to recognize how grim our situation actually is. We think we're doing pretty well and improving. And then we get a quick refresher course straight from Mt. Sinai and the terrible truth gets mirrored back to our sinful selves: *[Do these sound familiar?]*

1. **You shall have no other gods.**
2. **You shall not misuse God's Name.**
3. **Remember the Sabbath day.** [i.e. hear & learn God's Word & worship]
4. **Honor father and mother.**
5. **Don't murder.**
6. **Commit adultery.**
7. **Steal.**
8. **Don't lie about others.**
- 9,10. **Don't want/covet things that others have.**

GOD SEES THE HEART Not only in deed, mind you, but **also in word and thought**. You think things are bad? You're only seeing part of the picture, the part that God permits you to see. You and I couldn't handle the ugly truth.

DON'T BARGAIN W/ GOD And so **we invent religion, ways to bribe and butter up God** so that He'll overlook this mess we've made of our lives. OT Israel treated the sacrifices that way - turned them into religious obligations and duties, stuff you had to do to get on God's good side. That's not what the **sacrifices** were for. They weren't **bribes**. You think you can bribe God with a sheep? You think He needs a pigeon? Or a check in the offering plate? **Think again.**

SACR/AMENT/vs./IFICE The sacrifices in the OT were supposed to **teach the Israelites** how to *live vicariously*, literally to **live off the death of another**. The blood of the animal stood for your life. **Bad news for the lamb, good news for you.** It was **training in trust**, teaching people to live on the promise of God and not their works. Yes, you brought your sheep, or bought one from the local sheep seller. But the gift of forgiveness and life was God's to give through the Blood of the Lamb. It was more **sacRAMENT** [gift from God] than it was **sacrIFICE** [work you do].

FLIPPED DOWN-SIDE-UP But the Israelites **flipped things upside down**, as religious man always does, and made God's work **their work**, and turned a gift into a transaction where God does His part and you do yours and together you work out the terms of your salvation. Jesus utterly and literally **"turns the tables"** on that sort of religion.

SIGN/PICTURE/PREDICT. The Jews wanted a **sign** from Jesus. *By what authority do you do these things?!* This was an act of Messianic proportions. You don't just go into the temple courts and start turning things upside down. They want a sign [or a picture or prediction?], and Jesus gives them a sign. "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it." **How's that for a sign?** His own Resurrection from the dead.

TEMPLE DOES NOT = BLDG. But they are thinking temple as in building. They say, *"What are you talking about? It took forty-six years to build this temple."* And then six years later the Romans would knock it down. [God knows how to make His point, doesn't He?] *"Destroy this temple and in Three Days I will raise it."*

HIS BODY = TEMPLE The **"Temple"** Jesus was referring to was the Temple of **His own Body**. The true Temple where God meets man is His own human Flesh born of Mary. This is where you meet God face to face. Not in a building, but in the crucified, risen, and glorified flesh of Jesus Christ. Here God and man are united as one Person. Here humanity is glorified. Here sins are forgiven. Here the dead are raised. This is where your life is, not in a building, but in the body of Christ.

TRUE & FINAL TEMPLE **Jesus is the true and ultimate Temple**, where God locates His Name **to save**, where God makes His dwelling with man, where the Father is worshipped in Spirit and in Truth. Where **the Body of Jesus is**, that's where God forgives and blesses. That's where **Heaven kisses earth**, where the **infinite meets the finite**, where eternity breaks into time. It happens right here, among us mere mortals, where **sinners are Baptized into the Triune Name of God**, where sinners hear the full and entire forgiveness of their sins, where **sinners eat and drink** the Body and Blood of Christ.

GATHERING vs. BUILDING The Church is the temple of God. **Not** a building but a **gathering**, an **assembly**, a **congregation** congregated around the Word and the Lord's Supper. Peter wrote, *"You [the baptized] like living stones are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ"* [1 Peter 2:5]. The Church is God's temple built on the crucified and Risen Body of Jesus.

DISCIPLES REMEMBERED After Jesus Rose from the dead and the disciples saw Him, ate with Him, touched Him, **they remembered what Jesus said that day** in front of the temple. They remembered how the prophet Zechariah had said that a day was coming when God would come to purify His temple. They remembered the **Psalms of David, that Zeal for the LORD's house would consume Him**. And, reflecting on everything, they trusted the Scripture and the Word Jesus spoke. You could do no better this morning, than to leave here trusting the Scripture, which speaks of Christ's death and Resurrection, and believing the Word Jesus speaks to you here: *"I forgive you all your sins. - This is My Body given for you. - This is My Blood shed for you."*

CONCLUSION *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* That's precisely what happened. **Jesus was Crucified**. The Temple of His Body was destroyed in death **in order to save the world**. And in Three Days, He Rose from the dead. **Death and Resurrection is the way of God's temple, the Body of Christ, ...and you.** Though you go down to death, from death Jesus will raise you. That's what He always does with His Temple. **U R His temple!**

*ELH #28, 1. O how holy is this place Where the LORD a house hath given!
Here we come before His face: This must be the gate of Heaven.
Here His Word proclaims His grace. O how holy is this place! IJ'N, Amen.SDG*