**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19 – XXXIII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**Then Jesus entered the temple area and proceeded to drive out those who were selling things, saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.'**

**With this action or deed, Jesus shows himself, He reveals to be true prophet of the Lord. Who is the prophet? He is the one who has always shouted to the people what the true religion, the true worship is. The true worship is in the offer of the heart to his Lord. How does one offer the heart to the Lord? Through the fulfilment of his will, the observance of his Law, the faithful to his Statutes. This is the true worship: the obedience to the entire Law for all days of the life on earth. Offering the Lord an animal or some money might never said to be true worship. Not even the prayer might be said true worship. Prayer is a worship when one goes to the Lord to make an offer of the heart and to ask for every grace to remain faithful.**

**Here is how the voice of Malachi powerfully resounds by seeing the Lord trampled in his Lordship: “A son honors his father, and a servant fears his master; If then I am a father, where is the honor due to me? And if I am a master, where is the reverence due to me? -  So says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise his name. But you ask, "How have we despised your name?" By offering polluted food on my altar! Then you ask, "How have we polluted it?" By saying the table of the LORD may be slighted! When you offer a blind animal for sacrifice, is this not evil? When you offer the lame or the sick, is it not evil? Present it to your governor; see if he will accept it, or welcome you, says the LORD of hosts. So now if you implore God for mercy on us, when you have done the like Will he welcome any of you? says the LORD of hosts. Oh, that one among you would shut the temple gates to keep you from kindling fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts; neither will I accept any sacrifice from your hands, For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting, my name is great among the nations; And everywhere they bring sacrifice to my name, and a pure offering; For great is my name among the nations, says the LORD of hosts. But you behave profanely toward me by thinking the LORD'S table and its offering may be polluted, and its food slighted. You also say, "What a burden!" and you scorn it, says the LORD of hosts; You bring in what you seize, or the lame, or the sick; yes, you bring it as a sacrifice. Shall I accept it from your hands? says the LORD. Cursed is the deceiver, who has in his flock a male, but under his vow sacrifices to the LORD a gelding; For a great King am I, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.” (Mal 1, 6-14) Here is what the Lord asks: for the gates of his house to be closed. Thus his name will not be dishonoured, at least.**

**Jesus recalls the prophecy of Isaiah. The house of the Lord will be house of prayer. Prayer is in the offer of the heart and of the will to the Lord. It is promise of eternal obedience. It is asking for forgiveness for every fault committed. “You have made it a den of thieves.” Why a den of thieves? Because the thief hides in his den. Then, he goes out and robs again. One goes to the temple to leave as purified. One does not go to the temple to leave with the quiet conscience and the will still and always addressed toward evil. The one who goes in the temple of the Lord goes to be immersed in the divine will, in his grace, in his faithfulness.**

**Here his prophecies, that of Isaiah and the other one of Jeremiah:** “**Thus says the LORD: Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed. Happy is the man who does this, the son of man who holds to it; Who keeps the sabbath free from profanation, and his hand from any evildoing. Let not the foreigner say, when he would join himself to the LORD, "The LORD will surely exclude me from his people"; Nor let the eunuch say, "See, I am a dry tree." For thus says the LORD: To the eunuchs who observe my sabbaths and choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name Better than sons and daughters; an eternal, imperishable name will I give them. And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, ministering to him, Loving the name of the LORD, and becoming his servants -  All who keep the sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant, Them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer; Their holocausts and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” (Is 56, 1- 7)**

**“But here you are, putting your trust in deceitful words to your own loss! Are you to steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal, go after strange gods that you know not, and yet come to stand before me in this house which bears my name, and say: "We are safe; we can commit all these abominations again"? Has this house which bears my name become in your eyes a den of thieves? I too see what is being done, says the LORD. You may go to Shiloh, which I made the dwelling place of my name in the beginning. See what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel. And now, because you have committed all these misdeeds, says the LORD, because you did not listen, though I spoke to you untiringly; because you did not answer, though I called you, I will do to this house named after me, in which you trust, and to this place which I gave to you and your fathers, just as I did to Shiloh. I will cast you away from me, as I cast away all your brethren, all the offspring of Ephraim.” (Jer 7, 8-15) The Lord has asked one thing to man: that he observes his Word. That he walks in his Law. That he obeys his Commandments.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 19,45-48**

**Then Jesus entered the temple area and proceeded to drive out those who were selling things, saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.'" And every day he was teaching in the temple area. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people, meanwhile, were seeking to put him to death, but they could find no way to accomplish their purpose because all the people were hanging on his words.**

**It is right to offer some indications about the time in which these things occurred. Jesus enters Jerusalem on the first day of the week. That is our Sunday. On Thursday evening, He celebrates the Passover with his disciples. At night, He is arrested, judged, condemned. On Friday morning, He is handed over Pilates. Pilates is forced to condemn Him to death by crucifixion. On Friday evening, Jesus was already in the tomb. The day after the Sabbath, He is risen. “Every day he was teaching in the temple area.” Namely, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. The chief priests and the scribes were seeking to put him to death and thus the leaders of the people. All the powerful men has one only desire: having Jesus dead.**

**They wish to have Jesus dead. But Jesus must not die according to times and modalities established by the leaders of the people. He must die according to what is written about Him in the prophecies. Not even a syllable must be missed out of the prophecies. But the one who fulfils the prophecies are not the leaders of the people. They can only perform that part regarding their operating. For every man there is the part of the prophecy he alone might perform. Here is the confusion and disorientation. “But they could find no way to accomplish their purpose because all the people were hanging on his words.” The leaders of the people want to act. However, they know they cannot put themselves against the people. They must find a suitable solution. Until the time comes, Jesus will be the one who will hand himself over them. They are not those who will catch Him. He will be the one who will let himself be caught. One truth must be put on the candlestick: everyone is called to cleanse himself every day, as true temple of the Holy Spirit, true temple of Christ Jesus and of the Father. How will one cleanse himself? By taking vices out of his body, the arrogance from his spirit, every stain of sin from his soul. God does not dwell in a temple in which sin, vice, the concupiscence of eyes and of flesh and the arrogance of live reign. May the Mother of God, most pure temple, help us. We want to keep our temple pure.**