

# Readings: ST. CECILIA, Virgin and Martyr

First Reading: [1 Mac 4:36-37,52-59](#)

Judas and his brothers said, "Now that our enemies have been crushed, let us go up to purify the sanctuary and rededicate it." So the whole army assembled, and went up to Mount Zion. Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, that is, the month of Chislew, in the year one hundred and forty-eight, they arose and offered sacrifice according to the law on the new altar of burnt offerings that they had made. On the anniversary of the day on which the Gentiles had defiled it, on that very day it was reconsecrated with songs, harps, flutes, and cymbals. All the people prostrated themselves and adored and praised Heaven, who had given them success. For eight days they celebrated the dedication of the altar and joyfully offered burnt offerings and sacrifices of deliverance and praise. They ornamented the facade of the temple with gold crowns and shields; they repaired the gates and the priests' chambers and furnished them with doors. There was great joy among the people now that the disgrace of the Gentiles was removed. Then Judas and his brothers and the entire congregation of Israel decreed that the days of the dedication of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness on the anniversary every year for eight days, from the twenty-fifth day of the month Chislew.

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Responsorial Psalm: [1 Chr 29:10,11,11-12,12](#)

R/ We praise your glorious name, O mighty God.

"Blessed may you be, O LORD,  
God of Israel our father,  
from eternity to eternity."  
R/ We praise your glorious name, O mighty God.

"Yours, O LORD, are grandeur and power,  
majesty, splendor, and glory.  
For all in heaven and on earth is yours."  
R/ We praise your glorious name, O mighty God.

"Yours, O LORD, is the sovereignty;  
you are exalted as head over all.  
Riches and honor are from you."

R/ We praise your glorious name, O mighty God.

"You have dominion over all,  
In your hand are power and might;  
it is yours to give grandeur and strength to all."

R/ We praise your glorious name, O mighty God.

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## Gospel Introduction

Jesus drove out the merchants from the Temple and it might be a good time to ask ourselves: What has the Lord to drive out from us to make us better Christians? What stands in the way of being closer to him in the life of every day? What matters for us Christians is that we are attached to the Lord and close to the people he has entrusted to us. Then we can worship him with our whole life.

Gospel Reading: [Lk 19:45-48](#)

Jesus entered the Temple area and began to drive out the merchants. And he said to them, "God says in the Scriptures: My house shall be a house of prayer; but you have turned it into a den of robbers."

Jesus was teaching every day in the Temple. The chief priests and teachers of the Law wanted to kill him and the elders of the Jews as well, but they were unable to do anything, for all the people were listening to him and hanging on his words.

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