

Jesus said some startling things during His public life. Some of them are in today's Gospel. He stood in front of the Temple in Jerusalem and declared, "Destroy this Temple and in three days I will raise it up." He said this immediately after He had made a whip of cords and driven every person, every animal out of the temple and turned over the money tables. It was smashing!

"Destroy this Temple and in three days I will raise it up." 27 years later the Roman armies came through Jerusalem and leveled the temple. But Jesus is talking about another temple, the Temple of His own body. He is declaring that His Body, that He, will rise from the dead 3 days after His death.

I invite you to take this all in. What was it like for these money changes, these Scribes and Pharisees to see this, to hear all this that Jesus was doing and saying? Jesus is describing His Body to be the Temple of God, the home where God lives. His Body is sacred.

When I was a child my mother told me again and again, "you are a temple of the Holy Ghost, a Temple of the Holy Spirit." This truth deeply impressed me. It's something I want to say to you over and over again; "You are Temple of the Holy Spirit. You are body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit. Joined together we are the Temple of God.

In his stunning Epistle to the Romans, St. Paul writes, "If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised... Jesus from the dead, will give life to your mortal bodies also, through His Spirit who dwells in you."

He... will give life to you mortal bodies through His Spirit who lives in you.

St. Paul also tells us that in Jesus "...we live and move and breathe and have our very being again and again.

"I live, no longer do I live but Christ Jesus lives in me."

As spring approaches watch for new life.... the greening of the grass and trees, the crocus; life running through all creation. Let this be a sign to you that God is present, that God is overwhelming all creation with life. Let your awareness of God's love for you deepen. See God in children, take time for God. Pour out you hearts to the poor.

Don't be afraid! You are a Temple of God!