

Daily Homily
St. Andrew Dung Lac and Companions, Martyrs
Memorial
33 Ordinary Week: Friday
[24 November 2023](#)

Normally, the First Reading and the Gospel for daily Mass have really no connection. They are picked according of sequence in which they appear in Scripture. They are not picked according to any connection they may have with each other.

However, today, that isn't the case. Today, both readings are about the temple.

The First Reading from Maccabees is the origin of Hanukah, the eight-day celebration of the Jewish people when the temple was regained from their oppressors and was rededicated to God. It's a long feast that celebrates the liberating power of God over our oppressors.

The Gospel, Jesus cleans the temple. This is Luke's version. Matthew and Mark are very descriptive in how Jesus cleans the temple... he makes whips out of cords, he overturns the tables, the apostles recall the scriptures, "Zeal for your house consumes me." None of that happens in Luke. This Gospel only has Jesus' words driving out those making the temple into a "den of thieves." The power of God's liberating words over our oppressors.

When we think that our oppressors have the upper hand – and our ultimate oppressor is the Enemy... is sin... and deadly living... when we falter and allow this to have any power whatsoever... we should remember the liberating action of God to free us from oppression of all kinds. May God continue to rededicate us in body, mind, and soul... may God continue to cleanse us with His word that we need to hear.