

St. John Lateran

November 9, 2025

“Psalms 5:69: ‘Zeal for your house will consume me’”

With today’s feast, we conclude our mini-series on the psalms. We have looked at psalms of praise (98), pilgrim psalms (121), wisdom psalms (34), and a David psalm (23). Today we reflect on a psalm verse embedded in the Gospel reading, Psalm 69 verse 9: *“Zeal for your house will consume me.”*

Zeal is energy and enthusiasm. It is an important quality on the Journey of Faith, which energizes **prayer, worship, charity, and learning**. Zeal moved Jesus to cleanse the Jerusalem Temple of ritual filth and overturn a corrupt system. When they saw Our Lord driving out doves and overturning tables, his disciples recalled the words of the ancient psalm writer. And Saint John, wrote this account, included those words for our reflection today.

“Zeal for your house consumes me.” We live in a time of great apathy: many people don’t always pray daily, confess their sins to a priest, worship on weekends, love their neighbor, or try to learn about their Faith. They have stopped growing in their relationship with God, allowing the light of faith to flicker and, in some cases, die out completely. It almost seems as if people do not care about the afterlife, or worse, assume we will all go straight to heaven when we pass from this world.

Our ancestors, who built this church, had zeal in their hearts. They established communities, built churches, and made sacrifices for the faith. They laid a foundation on which we are called to build. The most important foundation is the faith in Jesus Christ. Faith submits both mind and heart to a loving God, but faith needs energy if it is to grow. We need zeal in our hearts, directed in the right way, if we are to build a brighter future for our Church.

This means combatting the sin of apathy, indifference, and lack of concern for our neighbor.

Does zeal consume you? If not, then you need to be plugged in to the source of energy, enthusiasm, and faith: the Holy Spirit, “Lord and Giver of life.”

Everyone with a **cell phone** or a **smart phone** knows that it doesn't run forever. Every phone has a battery, and that battery must be charged regularly. The more apps on your phone, the more energy used means it must be regularly charged. If not, the phone will die and you will struggle to navigate our technological age.

So too, the Christian life must be charged if we are to share the Gospel and transform our communities. Our charging station is the Church: Eucharist, Scripture, prayer, and devotion are the outlets in which we "plug in to Christ." Without these outlets, we are like dead and dark cell phones, existing, but not living as Christ taught us.

Jesus wants us to have the abundant life, but that goal requires sacrifice, commitment, openness to the Spirit, and cooperation with the Church in order to be achieved. We can't do it on our own; we need the grace of God.

Saint Paul reminds us that we are members of the Holy Temple of God, and that temple must be cleansed and renewed regularly. That renewal is a charging outlet away: in the Mass, in the Rosary, in the pages of Scripture, and in prayer books.

Like faith, zeal must be nourished, strengthened, and enhanced by an active prayer life, regular worship, and continual study. May this Eucharist strengthen us to face the future together on the Journey of Faith. Mary, pillar of faith, pray for us. God bless you.