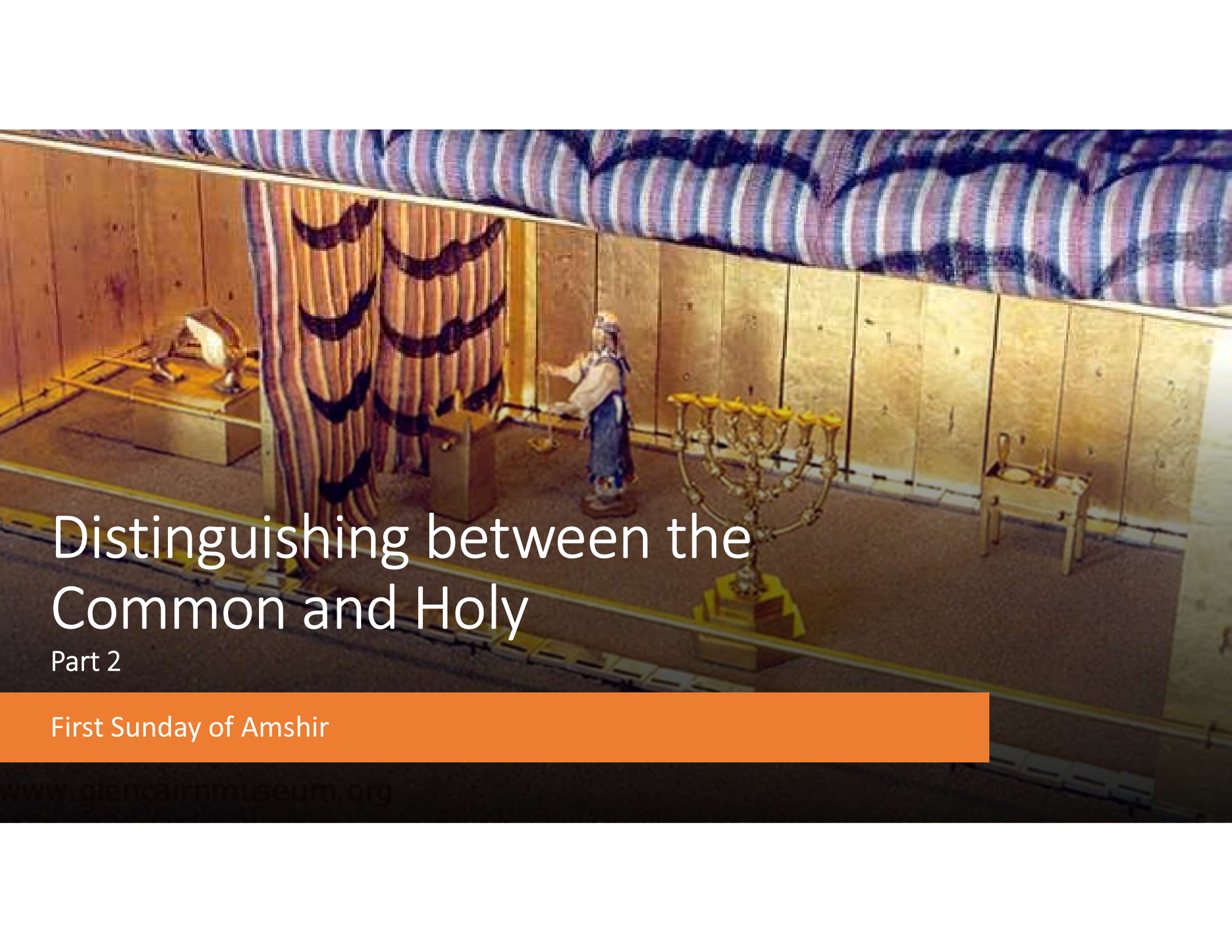


“Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.”

— Psalm 95:5,3



Distinguishing between the Common and Holy

Part 2

First Sunday of Amshir

Recap

- God wants us to distinguish between what is common and holy
- Dangers in disregarding this difference
 1. Disrespectful to God
 2. Desacralization of the holy
 3. What is the result of desacralization?
 - Indifference!
 - Loss of moral and spiritual guidance
 4. Being a stumbling block to other believers
 - "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea." (Matt. 18:6)

Areas of Application: TIME

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- Time is gift from God
 - “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Eph. 5:15-16)
- EX: 10 Commandments
 - “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.” (Ex. 8:8-11)

The background image shows the interior of a church with high, vaulted ceilings and large, ornate columns. The architecture features intricate carvings and arches. A red carpet runs down the center aisle. In the foreground, wooden pews are visible. A person is standing near the front of the church on the left side.

Areas of Application: PLACE

- EX: Walls of separation
- EX: The Church
- "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'" (Lk. 19:46)
- "But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple." (Ps. 5:7)
 - EX: St. Mary of Egypt
- "Holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever." (Ps. 93:5)



Areas of Application: PERSONS

- Children of God vs. children of the world
 - “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Rom. 12:2)
- Servants vs. laity
 - “Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean. For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.” (Judg. 13:4-5)



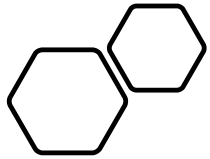
Areas of Application: PERSONS

- Church servants
- “Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.” (1 Tim. 3:8-11)



Areas of Application: THINGS

- There are certain things that God regards as holy, and thus we ought to respect and honor them as such.
- EX: Ark of the Covenant
- “And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These are the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.” (Num. 4:15)



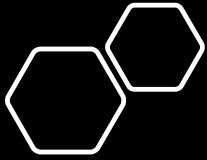
Areas of Application: THINGS

- The mysteries of the Church (sacraments)
- Eucharist
- Crowning (Wedding)
- Confession
- Priesthood



How to better make this distinction in my life?

1. Call things as they are and treat them accordingly
2. Observe and learn from those who revere God
3. Educate yourself
4. Teach it to your children
5. Declare it in the community



We are called
to be holy

- "Be holy, for I am holy."
(1 Pet. 1:16)
- "The holies are for the
holy." (St. Basil Liturgy)