

Jesus Christ, New Temple



*Destroy this temple, and I will
raise it
again in three days. (Jn 2: 19)*

For Jesus the Temple is the house of his Father; the Temple is his domain and his home. He will stay there for a few days at the age of 12. The Temple is a house of prayer and not one of commerce. In a prophetic gesture, Jesus purifies the Temple by driving out the vendors.

The question of the destruction of the Temple and its reconstruction in the Body of Christ refers to a radical upheaval concerning the place of God's presence among men. Jesus is the new Temple, in whom the fullness of the Spirit dwells. He has become, through his death and resurrection, the sanctuary of the divine Presence. (Fr Jean-Marc Gayraud, o.p.)

Office of the day

Word of God – Jn 2: 13-21

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ... To those who

sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" ... The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body.

Refrain or silence

Reflection

The Body of the Risen Christ fills the universe. You cannot say it's here, or it's there. It is everywhere. We do not worship God "on this mountain nor in Jerusalem", but we worship "in Spirit and in Truth".

The theme of the Temple is enriched with unexpected meaning in the New Testament. The Body that the Spirit gives to Christ at the resurrection is given the name of Church, in the sense of assembly, of communion. Having come together as the Body of Christ, we are the Temple of God. (M. Domergue, s.j.)

The Church « is the Kingdom of Christ already mysteriously present.” (LG 3)

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body. (Rm 12: 4-5)

Jesus prayed for his disciples, as well as for all who would believe in his name: *My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.* (Jn 17: 20 - 21)

Saint Marie Rivier

It is by coming to know Our Lord that many became Saints and Martyrs. Only this knowledge of Our Lord can make us happy. Once Christ Jesus has entered someone's heart and resides there, he burns and consumes whatever is impure and not in keeping with his great holiness. He enlightens all the innermost recesses of the heart; he purifies and sanctifies it. He pours forth his Holy Spirit, just as he once did on the apostles, filling them with joy, securing them his strength, and enriching them with all his gifts. (S.W. p. 15)

Rule of Life

Jesus Christ, perfect worshiper of the Father, gathers us with him and in him, to establish in faith a community of adoration, locus of his presence and of his mercy for all, sign of God's Kingdom on earth. C 5

Canticle

We form one body in Christ.

Moment of prayer

I welcome in my heart the new and eternal covenant that the Risen Jesus brings and offers to all.

Our Father

Final prayer

Gracious Father, we pray for your Church, the Body of the Risen Christ. Fill it with truth and peace. May she appear to the eyes of all as an open door and a source of life. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

