

Mary and the Temple of Jerusalem

I rejoiced with those who said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.” (Ps 122)

The TEMPLE is the place of encounter with God, the place of God's Presence. The Temple in Jerusalem is the center of religious and national life, the religious heart of Israel. In the eyes of every Jew, it is the place on earth where God has chosen to reside and from which the stream of his blessing pours out upon all nations.

The Temple of Jerusalem is the sign of God's desire to dwell with humanity. It is God's "home" with us.

Word of God – Is 56, 1; 6-7

This is what the Lord says: Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. Foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant, these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called “a house of prayer for all nations.”

Refrain or silence

Reflection

The Temple is the "house of God". When the Ark of the Covenant is brought into the Temple, God takes possession of his house and the cloud fills the temple, the cloud that signals the presence of God.

This presence of God is a grace. God himself has chosen to dwell among his people; the location has been designated by a theophany. YHWH chose Zion as his throne. In the land of exile, we realize more fully that God is present wherever he rules, wherever he is worshipped. (Hervé Tremblay, o.p.)

Later, the sign of the Temple will reveal the new religious regime which will be that of the Christians, a regime in which the Passover of Jesus will hold the central place. (Aleteia)

At Tabor, Peter expressed a profound sentiment: "It is good that we are here". In a Church or in our hearts, may Christians use the same expression to say: "Lord, it is good to be here, because you are present." (cf Philippe Landrevie)

We know in faith that, since our baptism, God is present to us in a special way. If we are willing, he is committed to making us become his children, more and more aware of his divine life circulating in us and transforming us as we allow ourselves to be inspired by him. This is the mysterious, interior adventure to which he invites us, one that needs to be continually deepened... (Christus 263)

Saint Marie Rivier

Let us now consider the joy that the Blessed Virgin Mary experiences at seeing the Temple. How many graces, consolations, and blessings we would receive from heaven if we went to meditation, to Mass and to Communion with the sentiments and fervor Mary had as she entered the Temple to offer the innocent Victim she was carrying there! (S.W. p. 57)

Rule of Life

We are the daughters of Mary,
called to live like her,
in a state of adoration and offering before God,
walking in love in his presence. C11

Canticle

Whoever relies on the Lord is like Mount Zion:
he is steadfast, he abides forever.

Moment of prayer

With Mary let us adore the loving presence of God in our lives.

Our Father

Final prayer

O God, inexhaustible source of Love, you call us to live in your presence. Fill us with your Spirit so that we may be ever more credible witnesses of your benevolence towards all our brothers and sisters. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

