

## Mary: Temple of God, the Annunciation

*Mary answered. "I am the Lord's servant.  
May your word to me be fulfilled." Lk 1: 38*



God sends an angel, in the discretion and tranquility of her house. It is thus, very freely, that Mary can give her "yes". Here again, it is common knowledge, that in the spiritual life, God communicates with us through very simple means: an encounter, a reading. We too are visited by angels, in the literal and etymological sense of one who is being sent. We need all the intimacy of a life of prayer, nourished by Scripture and the sacraments, to recognize God who wants to communicate his will to us. (Aleteia)

Mary herself will become Temple, place of the Presence of God. Mary is called the holy temple of God, more beautiful than the temple of Solomon, the temple or sanctuary of the Holy Spirit. She is the tabernacle of the Most High. She is Temple because she is Mother. (Vatican News)

**Office of the day**

## Word of God – Ga 4: 4-7

*But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.*

## Refrain or silence

## Reflection

The Virgin Mary is more than simply a place containing Christ: she is a living and animated temple. In the line of the prophecies, Mary is truly a temple. The true temple is Israel, alive and faithful, obedient to the sovereign will of God, an Israel that is pure and consecrated. No pure creature has been the temple of God more purely or more perfectly than Mary. (Y. Congar, 306)

Mary's acceptance, simple and straightforward, expresses her humility and her acceptance of a love that she cannot imagine: mother of the Messiah, Son of the Most High, King of Israel.

Mary is saved by saying yes and so are we. She invents the Christian faith, by being the first to believe that God

can be one of us and can come to us by becoming incarnate in the flesh of History, as well as in my personal history, so that everything can be renewed in Christ. (Beaudin)

In the face of His Mercy, my fear fades away. The Annunciation is my support. Rooted in Mary's "Yes" and under the shadow of the Most High, the Son of God will be born. Rooted in Mary's "Yes" humanity will take its strength and, from generation to generation, we will call her blessed. At the hour of the Angelus when, three times a day, you remind me that nothing is impossible for God, I come to draw the living water of Salvation from the "Yes" of Mary. (Aleteia)

### **Saint Marie Rivier**

In loving Jesus, we draw him into our hearts. He comes to dwell there as he once dwelt in Mary's womb. The Father, then, seeing us filled with his beloved Son, seeing us entirely clothed with him and intimately united with him through love, is well pleased. As he looks at us, he cannot help but love us. (S.W. p. 12)

### **Rule of Life**

Temple most pure of the divinity, Mary is for us a locus of prayer. Filled with grace by the Father, one with Jesus in heart and mind, she turns us towards God and draws upon us the Spirit who helps us in our weakness and intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. C76

## Canticle

I find my pleasure in your will, yes, truly, I love it.

## Moment of prayer

- Teach us, Lord, to welcome with faith your sometimes surprising coming into our lives. **R/ Through Mary, hear us.**

- Teach us, Lord, how to collaborate in your project of salvation in our daily lives. **R/ Through Mary, hear us.**

- Teach us, Lord, to recognize your presence in one another and in our brothers and sisters. **R/ Through Mary, hear us.**

## Our Father

## Final prayer

Lord, our God, you give us your beloved Son, your living Word; grant us the grace to welcome him and to engrave his presence deeply in our hearts. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.