

The heavenly Jerusalem, a definitive Temple

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. (Rev 21, 1)

It is because God is Love that his purpose is to communicate himself and to be with his creature as intimately as possible.

Office of the day

Word of God – Rev 21: 1-4

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Refrain or silence

Reflection

John compares the city to "a bride adorned for her husband". This nuptial image is reinforced and developed by the verses that describe in exceptional terms the presence of God to all humanity and the reciprocal relationship that will henceforth exist between the two: "This is the dwelling place of God with men. He will have his dwelling with them; they will be his people, and he, God-with-them, will be their God." Better yet, God will eliminate for good what made humanity so vulnerable to suffering: "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there will be no more death; there will be no more weeping, crying, or pain ... In other words, the new world that God is preparing is a world of communion and infinite happiness for humanity. When we speak of what will happen "beyond the end", we are not talking about places or inanimate objects, but about people and relationships: "[...] and I will be his God, and he will be my son" (21:7). (La Cité catholique)

The Church, which is called 'that Jerusalem which is above' and 'our mother', is described as the spotless spouse of the spotless lamb. It is she whom Christ 'loved and for whom he delivered himself up that he might sanctify her.' It is she whom he unites to himself by an unbreakable alliance, and whom he constantly 'nourishes and cherishes.' (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 757)

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. (Rev 21:22)

The Mother of Jesus, in the glory which she possesses in body and soul in heaven, is the image and beginning of the Church as it is to be perfected in the world to come. Likewise she shines

forth on earth until the day of the Lord shall come, a sign of certain hope and comfort to the pilgrim People of God. (CEC, 972)

Saint Marie Rivier

If we want to walk confidently and joyously along the road to heaven, we must never leave our Savior. Who knows better than Christ where we should go and what route we should take, he who is both our Way and our Destination. With Christ, how could we ever fear going astray, for he is the Truth who can neither deceive nor be deceived? Let us then follow Christ in the journey that we must all make to reach the heavenly Zion. (S.W. p. 23 - 23)

Rule of Life

The Church is the living environment where our prayer is born and must grow. Her liturgy introduces us into a prayer inspired by the Holy Spirit and formed within the heart of the people of God from one generation to next. It allows us to participate in the heavenly liturgy and leads us into the very prayer of Christ, who is ever alive to intercede for us. C54

Canticle

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. (He 9, 24)

Moment of prayer

Let us contemplate with Mary, Woman clothed with the sun and crowned with twelve stars, the one who believed and who always walks with us.

Our Father –

Final prayer

Triune God, you call us to an eternal and definitive covenant with you. Keep our faith alive, our hope unflinching and our charity generous until the day when we will all be reunited in your presence with all the saints forever. **Amen.**