

A NEW TEMPLE



For personal prayer

TOWARDS YOUR HOLY TEMPLE (from Psalm 138)

*I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart:
you have heard the words of my mouth.*

In the presence of the angels I will sing your praise,

I will bow down before your holy Temple and give thanks to your name.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love.

*On the day I called, you answered me,
you built up strength within me.*

*Though I walk amid distress you preserve me;
against the anger of my enemies you stretch out your hand.
Your right hand saves me.*

The Lord will complete what he has done for me.

Your kindness, O Lord, endures forever.

Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Amen.



For personal reflection

Passover is drawing near, and it is precisely in view of the preparations for the feast-day that Jesus goes up to the holy city and visits the Temple of Jerusalem. The feast days overflowed with the dealings of livestock merchants and moneychangers. With the powerful and unexpected act of casting the traders from the temple, the words of the prophet Zechariah become especially enlightening: "There will no longer be merchants in the house of YHWH in that day" (Zech 14:21). From this decisive moment on, misunderstanding with regard to Jesus will grow and become definitive. Not all are disposed to receive the truth, the order and the clarity that Jesus brings with regard to things, persons and God. His stance bothers, aggravates and provokes a head-on collision. The words in that exchange take on different meanings. Within the Temple of Jerusalem, there are two dominant ways of thinking. One is *calculating*. It moves in towards the goal, making way for nothing and no one. It is the mindset of the merchants and of the authorities, totally oriented toward what is already known, to immediate results, to foregone conclusions. The other way of thinking is the contemplative reinterpretation of Jesus, which stretches out from the limited horizons of his accusers to the New Temple, Jesus himself, the holy and sanctifying "place" which opens to everyone, for all time, the way to the glory of God.