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23 Friday

FRIDAY, Week 33 of the Year

1 Mac. 4: 36-37, 52-59

1 Chron 29: 10 - 12

Luke 19: 45 - 48

“Jesus went into the Temple”. Even before reflecting on what St Luke tells us He did there (driving out the merchants, and then teaching people who came to listen), those few words might remind us of other occasions when the Temple featured in His life. This was the Temple where He’d been “presented” to the Lord and welcomed by Simeon and Anna. It was where His mother heard those words about His destiny as Saviour and Light of the world, and about the sword that would pierce her own heart. It was the place where He was for a few days, when people thought He was “lost”. He was really doing His Father’s work, though Mary and Joseph didn’t understand that. Later, He would refer to Himself, His own body, as the “temple” that would be destroyed --- and His enemies thought He was desecrating the sacred building. He told the woman at the well that the Jerusalem temple would be replaced as the centre of worship. Instead of a construction of stone and precious metals, there would be His Body, formed by the lives and hearts of His followers, each of them a temple of the Holy Spirit. When now Jesus comes into the temple that I am, what does He find there ? what “business” is going on in my mind and heart that distracts me from being a “house of prayer” ? Myself I should be a place where there is an on-going communication between me and my God. Come Lord Jesus into the temple that I am, teach me each day, and let me too hang on your words.

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