

Conf 7 - Mary in St Ephrem

ADAM THE TEMPLE BUILDER - MARY - TRUE TEMPLE BUILDER

Abad (keep/guard) and Shamar (to serve) - speak of guarding the temple against uncleanness and serving the mysteries

Adam and Eve start in the Holy Place

The Tree of Knowledge is a veil that keeps them from the Holy of Holies

To eat the fruit and enter into the Holy of Holies brings forth twofold knowledge (1) the glory of God (2) their own shame (nakedness) – this was crushing and they hid

To fill the earth and subdue it - to bring the will of God out into the whole earth - like a statue of a ruler that makes him present wherever he has conquered, so the man, in the image of God takes the will of God to bring God's rule throughout the earth

GUARDING (ABAD)

The invasion of the serpent was the failure of Adam

The heart of man like a medieval castle - strong and gentle

SERVING (SHAMAR)

Later used to refer to temple service

Adam's role is carrying out the worship in the midst of creation

Extend this worship throughout the whole earth

MARY AND CHURCH

In the inspired Scriptures, what is said in a universal sense of the virgin mother, the Church, is understood in an individual sense of the Virgin Mary... In a way, every Christian is also believed to be a bride of God's word, a mother of Christ, his daughter and sister, at once virginal and fruitful... Christ dwelt for nine months in the tabernacle of Mary's womb. He dwells until the end of the ages in the tabernacle of the Church's faith. He will dwell forever in the knowledge and love of each faithful soul. (Bl. Isaac of Stella, quoted in Evangelii Gaudium, #285)

We practice in the sacramental paradise to purify our souls, prepare for the eternal paradise
We bring the sacred into the secular (not the secular into the sacred)
We seek freedom for the sake of the Sacrament and the Sacrament for the sake of freedom
Freedom purifies our worship and worship expands our freedom

MARY'S WOMB - A FORGE FOR UNITING HUMANITY AND DIVINITY

"Fire entered Mary's womb, put on a body and came forth" (Hymn on Faith 4:2)

womb - Jordan - baptismal font - bread and cup

See, Fire and Spirit are in the womb of her who bore You;
see, Fire and Spirit are in the river in which you were baptized.
Fire and Spirit are in our baptismal font,
in the Bread and Cup are Fire and the Holy Spirit. (St Ephrem, Hymn on Faith 10:17)

womb of Mary, womb of the Jordan, womb of Sheol

These are held in parallel by Ephrem so that the power of Baptism is in His Death and Resurrection

They teach us the ways that we continually renewed

- dying to self (Sheol)
- embraced by Mary (womb)
- purified sacramentally (Jordan)

The womb of Mary delivers a gentle Savior

In Nisan the Lord of thunder
in His mercy modified His might,
descended and took up residence in
Mary's womb (Hymn of Resurrection 4:10)

womb of Mary overlaps the Father's womb – and is a model for us

The Word of the Father came from His womb
and put on a body in another womb;
the Word proceeded from one womb to another–
and chaste wombs [of Believers] are now filled with the Word;
blessed is He who has resided in us. (Resurrection Hymn 1:7)

Mary's womb - a model of our hearts - a bridal chamber, a place of love

Wonderful is this bounty,
that our Lord should reside in us continually:
He has left the heavens and descended,
let us make holy for Him the bridal chamber of our hearts. (Armenian hymns 47:46-47)

MARY UNDOES EVE'S SIN

garments with stains

Adam had been naked and fair, but his diligent wife
labored and made for him a garment covered with stains.
The Garden, seeing him thus vile, drove him forth.
Through Mary, Adam had another robe
which adorned the thief; and when he became resplendent at Christ's promise,
the Garden, looking on, embraced him in Adam's place. (Hymn of Paradise)

not questioning the “angel”

Mary questions the angel undoing Eve's unquestioning consideration of the serpent

Just as from the small womb of Eve's ear
Death entered in and was poured out,
so through a new ear, that was Mary's,
Life entered and was poured out. (Hymn on the Church 49:7)

The Bread of Rest vs. the Bread of Toil

Mary has given us the Bread of Rest
in place of that bread of toil which Eve provided. (Hymn of Unleavened Bread 6:7)

The Luminous Eye

See (Hymn on the Church 37)