

Temple vs. Tomb

You are a temple
of the Holy Spirit --
not His tomb.

A tomb
is a place of sorrow
and evokes mourning;
a temple
is the locus of joy
and calls for celebration.

A tomb
encloses death
and signals separation;
A temple
teems with life
and creates community.

A tomb
marks the end
by cancelling our opportunity;
a temple
prompts a beginning
by sending us on a mission.

At a tomb
we sing a dirge
and shed our tears;
in a temple
we chant Alleluia
and shout in jubilation.

In a tomb
we bury our bodies;
in a temple
we soar with our souls.

In a tomb
the loneliness
is due to absence;
In a temple
there is fullness
because of His presence.

Cooperate, therefore,
with the action of the Spirit
to transform the tomb
of our emptiness
into the temple of His holiness.

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