

Thrice happy, O Jerusalem, if those precious tear drops had melted thy stony heart, and taught thee to know the day of thy visitation! Daughter of Sion he comes to thee meek; and thou wilt receive him with all the fury of revenge! He comes to thee sitting on a lowly ass; and thou wilt exalt him on an infamous gibbet.

In this week his treacherous disciple—the man of his peace, in whom he hoped, who eat his bread, will betray him into the hands of his enemies, and sell for a few pieces of money all the Treasure of Earth and Heaven. He will be first feasted on his precious Body and Blood; and will afterwards, with an ingratitude which deserves ten thousand hells, deliver up that adorable body to the manacle, the buffet and the scourge, to the spittle, the fool's garment, the mock sceptre, and bloody crown, to the rude nails and sharp lance, to all the bitterness of vinegar and the nauseousness of gall—to the hard, cruel and agonizing bed of the cross! He will also basely sell that priceless blood which when it touches one spot of earth will wash away all its abominations, which “pacifies the things that are in heaven and on earth, which contains such boundless and purifying efficacy that it is able to cleanse even the terrible crime, by which it was shed.

In this week too, on the eve of his passion, “the night in which he was betrayed” Jesus ‘having loved his own

who were in the world loved them to the end’—loved them to his last moments, to the end of his painful life, to the end and term of all love—loved them with a pure, constant, generous, ardent, disinterested and excessive love. And as a dying proof of his love this ‘merciful and compassionate Lord, made a memorial, an abridgment of all his wonders; he gave food to those who fear him.’ He bequeathed them the legacy of his Body and Blood, his soul and his divinity, that they might eat thereof, and through him, live forever. He left them the body that was broken, and the blood that was shed for love of them, that whenever they received them they might ‘show forth his death’ and commemorate his infinite love ‘greater than which no man hath’ for it was a love ‘as strong as death,’ a love which triumphed over the bitterness of death.

During this week he delivered his parting instructions, made his affectionate prayer to his Father for the Disciples whom he loved, commended to them charity, unity and peace, washed their feet as an example of humility and love, sung a hymn of thanksgiving to his Father, made the most perfect act of resignation to his will in the garden, wrought many wonders, converted many sinners, displayed a divine patience and admirable silence which astonished even his enemies, asserted his kingly dignity even whilst he is treated as a slave, and is made obedient to death, even the death of the Cross!