

was to be an application of His office according to the needs of men. And so He told the first members of that ministry, on that memorable occasion after His Resurrection, "As My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you." When He had said this He breathed on them and said unto them, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost. Whose soever sins ye forgive, they are forgiven. Whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained." The great mystery of the world is that of sin, the great misery of the world is that of sin. The mission of Christ was to bring Salvation from sin, and the work of His Church and her ministry is to apply to all, that which He has gained.

We have assembled here, in this Cathedral, this morning, to take part in a most solemn and sacred action, viz., the transmission, through the unbroken line of the Episcopacy in the Anglican branch of the Holy Catholic Church, of Christ's commission to exercise the Office and work of a Priest in the Church of God, to one, who, as a Deacon has purchased to himself a good degree.

To you, my brother, as you stand this moment, on the threshold of an eternal choice, permit me to speak one word. When you presently feel upon your head the imposition of human hands, and when you hear from human lips those awe-inspiring words, "Receive the Holy Ghost, for the office and work of a Priest in the Church of God," believe and realize that it is none other than Jesus Christ your Lord and Master, who is verily and indeed commissioning you to go forth in His Name to fulfil His Mission, and His Mission is the Mission of the Father, and this Mission you are to fulfil by the power of the Holy Ghost. Think to yourself, I take not this office upon myself, but am invested with it by Christ's servant acting in Christ's Name. It is the will of God that all men should be saved; saved in one way, saved by one Saviour, and by be-

ing united to that Saviour; saved by the instrumentality of a living message carried to men by living men; saved by the instrumentality of Divinely appointed means of grace administered in the Name of Christ by living men. Amongst those messengers, those ministers and stewards of Divine Mysteries, by His mercy, am I enrolled, His commission is given me, His strength is promised, His blessing is sure. Let me only be faithful unto death, and He will give me a Crown of Life.

And to one and all, on this occasion, with its awful, touching, almost overwhelming solemnity, I say, "Let us ask ourselves how we really measure the dignity, purpose, and obligations of that ministry to human souls which we inherit from the beginning in our English branch of the Holy Catholic Church?"

With all the changes of time and circumstance, with all its own infinite variety of unctions, that ministry is still essentially what it was when first commissioned and sent forth. Its purpose the same to spread the glorious light of the knowledge of God's love; of salvation by union with Christ; to strengthen and build up goodness; to carry on the never ending war against wrong and evil.

May we, who bear office in that ministry, ever remember this. May we ever remember the words of Christ, "As My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you." In all the difficulties and perplexities of our high calling, when the human heart shrinks at the knowledge of our own unworthiness and weakness, let us be firm, and faithful and true, remembering that it is not so much we, who speak and act, as Christ who speaks and acts through us.

And may those to whom we are sent ever remember the same truth, may they receive us, not for what we are in ourselves, but because Christ has commissioned us to go forth to them in His Name.