

# NOTES FOR SUNDAY LESSONS.

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## THE CHURCH CATECHISM.

ARRANGED IN INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SUNDAYS FROM ADVENT TO TRINITY.

*The Christian Covenant treated during ADVENT.*

"	"	<i>Faith</i>	"	"	CHRISTMAS and EPIPHANY.
"	"	<i>Duty</i>	"	"	LENT.
"	"	<i>Grace</i>	"	from	PALM SUNDAY to TRINITY.

NOTE.—Each Instruction will be arranged under three heads:—

- A. *Expository*—explaining the words of that part of the Catechism which is assigned to each Sunday.  
 B. *Harmonistic*—showing how the Services appointed for that particular Sunday (the Collect, the Epistle, and Gospel, the Proper Psalms, the Lessons, &c.) illustrate that part of the Catechism.  
 C. *Practical*—drawing, from what has been thus explained and illustrated, moral and spiritual lessons for the Christian's life.

NOTE.—We would suggest that, in delivering these Instructions, the Passage from the Old Testament should be studied *last*, since it forms an illustration, not a foundation, for the whole lesson. It will therefore follow more suitably, after the Gospel facts or doctrines have been fixed on the mind, as prophetic or typical of the truth that has been already accepted. The Text should be repeated first of all, as giving the key-note of the entire subject.

## Whitsun-day. (JUNE 9.)

Prayer by THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Text—Zechariah xii. 10. Passage—1 Kings xviii.

- A. 'To send His Grace unto us.'
- I. We have arrived at the last great Feast in the year.  
 1st. Christmas = the Mother of Feasts.  
 2nd. Easter = the Queen of Feasts.  
 3rd. Whitsun Day = the Crown of Feasts.  
 These three Christian festivals correspond to the three Jewish Festivals (Leviticus xxiii.). Christmas, to the Feast of the Tabernacles (in symbolism, S. John i. 14). Easter and Whitsun-day to the Passover and Pentecost (in symbolism and date).
- II. We should offer prayer not only *by* but *to* THE HOLY SPIRIT—as in the Litany and in 'Lord, have mercy upon us,' before the Lord's Prayer; and as in the 'Veni Creator' and many other hymns. We offer glory to HIM, as often as we say the 'Gloria Patri.'
- B. 1st. *The Collect*.—The Light of THE HOLY SPIRIT teaches us 'the things of God.' (1 Cor. ii. 11.)  
*The Epistle*.—THE SPIRIT gives 'utterance' to speak of 'the wonderful works of God.'  
*The Gospel*.—Reveals 'The Comforter'—that is, 'The Strengtheners.' (Greek 'Paraclete' = 'One called to our side to help us.')
- 2nd. *The First Lessons*.—  
 Morning—Deut. xvi. The Great Festivals special seasons for the outpouring of THE SPIRIT.  
 Afternoon—Isaiah xi. Tells the Seven Gifts of THE SPIRIT.  
 Evening—Ezekiel xxxvi. The Purity and Prosperity of the Church or the Soul when endowed with THE SPIRIT.
- The Second Lessons*.—  
 Morning—Romans viii. Spiritual instead of carnal life.  
 Afternoon—Galatians v. The Fruits of THE SPIRIT.  
 Evening—Acts xviii., xix. THE HOLY GHOST in His works.
- 3rd. *The Proper Psalms*.—  
 Morning—Psalm xlvi. Mount Zion—the scene of the descent of THE HOLY SPIRIT.  
 " lxviii. THE HOLY GHOST—the Guide of God's people through the Wilderness, especially see verse 18.  
 Evening—Psalm civ. THE SPIRIT of THE LORD in creation.  
 " cxlv. The Church praising THE HOLY GHOST as THE LORD and Life-giver.
- 4th. *The Proper Preface* states the Gift of THE HOLY GHOST to the Apostles.
- C. Our Duty to the HOLY GHOST.—  
 First.—*Worship HIM*—as God (Acts v. 3-4)—eternally (1) proceeding from and (2) one with THE FATHER and THE SON.  
 Second.—*Welcome HIM*—as Comforter (S. John xiv. 16) in (1) labour, (2) sorrow.  
 Third.—*Follow HIM*—as Guide (S. John xvi. 13) whether in (1) business or (2) pleasure.