

- B. 1st. *The Collect*—acknowledges the 'government' of THE FATHER in the Redemption of the world; and prays for His 'Peace' in our suffering life.
The Epistle—gives us precepts of the Passion:—
 'Be patient in tribulation.' 'Bless them which persecute you.'
The Gospel—the pouring forth of the miraculous wine typifies the shedding of the Precious Blood.
 'The Mother of Jesus was there' as at the Cross—and the words 'My hour is not yet come,' refer to that hour of His Passion when He did acknowledge her as the Mother of His Suffering Humanity.
- 2nd. *The First Lessons*.—Morning—Isaiah lv. The penitent soul called to the blessings of Redemption.
 Afternoon—Isaiah lvii. The contrast between the righteous and the wicked.
 Evening—Isaiah lxi. The anointing of Christ for Salvation.
- C. Our Mortified Life.
- First.—Examples of suffering—see the history of Job—and Hebrews xi.
 Second.—Blessings of suffering:—
 1. We are made like Christ. Hebrews ii. 10.
 2. Have our evil things in this life. S. Luke xvi. 25.
 3. Learn sympathy with our brethren. Romans xii. 15.
 4. Are driven to God. Hosea v. 15.
 Third.—End of suffering. Romans viii. 17.

Third Sunday after Epiphany. (JANUARY 27.)

The Risen Life.

Passage—Jonah i. ii. Text—Hosea vi. 2.

- A. 'The third day He rose again from the dead.'
- I. The Passage gives us a type of the Resurrection; the Text a prophecy. Do you remember any others?
 II. The Resurrection is the greatest of miracles, and so we find it—
 (1) Is the chief doctrine of the Apostles. Acts i. 22.
 (2) Has changed our Day of Rest. Revelation i. 10; iv. 33.
 (3) Gives us our Queen of Festivals—Easter.
- B. 1st. *The Collect* prays for help in 'all dangers and necessities,' of which the greatest is death.
The Epistle gives us precepts of charity for our risen life in Christ.
The Gospel shows us examples of the power of Christ over disease, and hence over death.
- 2nd. *The First Lessons*.
 Isaiah lxii.—The Redemption of the Church accomplished in the Resurrection.
 Isaiah lxv.—The new Jerusalem rising from the ruins of the old world.
 Isaiah lxvi.—The gathering in of the heathen to this new Jerusalem.
- C. The Resurrection a practical doctrine, teaching us—
 First.—Faith—in our Risen Saviour—for the past.
 Second.—Hope—that we ourselves shall rise—hereafter.
 Third.—Love—leading us onward to rise to a new life at once.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany. (FEBRUARY 3.)

The Ascended Life.

Passage—Genesis xli. Text—Psalm cx.

- A. 'He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the Right Hand of God THE FATHER Almighty.'
- I. 'Heaven'—not 'heaven [and earth]'—made by God THE FATHER, which means the sky which we see above our heads, nor the heaven of saints and angels—but 'the highest heaven,' which is 'the Bosom of THE FATHER.' S. John i. 18, iii. 13.
 II. 'The Right Hand'—not that THE FATHER has a right hand of flesh, S. John iv. 21; but it means that the natural Body of the Son of God has reached the highest place of dignity and fullest exercise of power—as typified by Joseph—Genesis xli. 41, and prophesied by David, Psalm cx.
- B. 1st. *The Collect* presents to us a contrast to the Peace of Heaven.
The Epistle orders obedience to 'the higher powers' of earth, who are subordinate to 'the Lord in heaven.'
The Gospel gives us two examples of the Power of Jesus even in the days of His Flesh on earth.
- 2nd. *The First Lessons*—
 Morning, Job xxvii.—The wickedness which is of the earth earthly.
 Afternoon, Job xxviii.—The heavenly glory of wisdom.
 Evening, Job xxix.—The vanity of worldly prosperity.
- C. Practical blessings of the Ascension of our Lord.
 First.—Fixing our affections. Col. iii. 1, 2.
 Second.—Giving assurance to our prayers. Hebrews iv. 14, 15, 16.
 Third.—Raising the tone of our lives. Phil. iii. 20.