



CHRIST FROM THE DEAD AROSE.

BY ADELAIDE STOUT.

CHRIST from the dead arose—
Awoke from death's repose
This Easter morn!
May our quick soul to-day
Put the dead past away,
New hope be born!

Christ left the linen bands;
Can we not from our hands
Throw off some gyve?
Cannot some unknown good
Be better understood?
We more alive,

To all that makes life sweet,—
To voices that entreat
Us tenderly!
There are deep souls that plead
For love, from their deep need,
Incessantly.

Is it not strange that cry
A soul should e'er put by
For God is love!
As young birds in the nest
Our soul cries without rest
To God above.

So on this Easter morn
May stronger love be born
At our heart's core—
Love for very own,
Love for souls that moan
Outside love's door.

So on this Easter let
Our heart be in us set
To rise from spite!
To break the little gyves—
That bind and cut our lives,
Hind'ring the right.

Love never seemed so pure,
One thing that shall endure
In us for aye,
We cannot love too much!
Oh, God of love Thy touch
On dull nerves lay,

Quickened as from the dead!
May our deep soul be fed
From Thee, and so
From fulness of the heart
We freely shall impart
Love as we go.

Some live out a life's years
And know not what sweet tears
Well from love's spring.
They put down though they die
The soul's deep hungering cry
As a vain thing—

A new-born infant's moan.
We live by love alone!
Oh, God this morn
May each soul nerve be rife
With that pure subtle life—
Of Thy love born!

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

A. D. 37.] LESSON XI. [March 18.

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR.

Acts 7. 54-60 and 8. 1-4. Commit to memory vs. 54-60.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2. 10.

OUTLINE.

1. Jesus and Stephen. v. 54-56.
2. Stephen and Saul. v. 57-60.
3. Saul and the Church. v. 1-4.

TIME—A. D. 37, seven years after the crucifixion of Christ.

PLACE—Jerusalem, and the land of Judæa.

EXPLANATIONS.—*These things*—The words of Stephen in verses 51, 52. *Cut to the heart*—Made exceedingly angry. *Full of the Holy Ghost*—What a contrast between the face of Stephen and those of his enemies! *Saw the glory of God*—The brightness which was the token of God's presence. *Jesus standing*—The ascended Saviour, rising to meet his faithful disciple. *Son of man*—A name which was used only by Jesus himself. *Cried out*—To show that they regarded his words as blasphemous and wicked. *Stopped their ears*—As if unwilling to hear such words. *Ran upon him*—Turning from a council into a murderous mob. *Cast him out*—The Jewish custom required that stoning to death should take place outside of the city. *Stoned him*—Though done by a mob, it was with all the forms of a Jewish execution. *The witnesses*—Those who bore testimony were required to cast the first stones. *Laid down their clothes*—Their outer garments, that they might be free to do the work. *A young man's feet*—Who took care of them. *Saul*—Afterward he became the apostle Paul. *Calling upon God*—This should read, "Calling upon the Lord," that is, Christ. *Receive my spirit*—He called upon Jesus as Jesus while dying had called upon his Father. Luke 23. 46. *Kneeling down*—To offer his dying prayer, a prayer for those who were slaying him. *Lay not this sin*—A forgiveness like that of Christ in Luke 23. 34. *Fell asleep*—Though murdered, his death was peaceful, like a sleep. *Saul was consenting*—He gave help and sanction to it. *A great persecution*—The murder of Stephen led to other acts of violence. *All scattered*—The Church was broken up and the disciples driven away.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson may we learn—

1. How a Christian should suffer wrong?
2. How a Christian should meet death?
3. How Christ's cause may be helped by persecution?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did Stephen see as he looked up to heaven? Jesus on the right hand of God.
2. What did the council do when they heard his words? They stoned him.
3. For what was the last prayer of Stephen? For forgiveness to his enemies.

giveness to his enemies. 4. Who took part in the murder of Stephen? A young man named Saul. 5. What did Saul do afterward? He persecuted the Church.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The exaltation of Jesus.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

14. What became of John the Baptist at last?

John the Baptist was at last beheaded by Herod, at the wicked request of his niece, when she had pleased him with her fine dancing.

FIRST QUARTERLY REVIEW.

March 25.

[TO THE SCHOLAR.—1. Read over the lessons of the quarter carefully, as they are given in the Home Readings, a part each day. 2. As you read each lesson, see how the Questions upon it given below, are answered. 3. Learn the title and Golden Text of each lesson. 4. Review all your work on Sunday, and once more on Sunday.]

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Lesson I. *The Ascending Lord.* Acts 1. 1-14.—How long was Jesus seen after his resurrection? By whom was he seen? What did he promise? Give an account of his ascension? What is the GOLDEN TEXT? Where does this lesson tell us that we should be witnesses for Jesus?

Lesson II. *The Descending Spirit.* Acts 2. 1-16.—When did the Spirit descend? Upon whom? Where were the disciples? What was its effect upon them? [GOLDEN TEXT.] How did they speak? How does this lesson show that we should pray for the Holy Spirit?

Lesson III. *The Believing People.* Acts 2. 37-47.—Whose address led them to believe? What did Peter tell them to do? How many were added to the Church? How did they show their faithfulness afterward? How does this show that we should receive the word? [GOLDEN TEXT.]

Lesson IV. *The Healing Power.* Acts 3. 1-11.—Where was the healing power shown? Upon whom? Whose words caused the healing? What followed the healing? What is the GOLDEN TEXT? How does this show that we should praise God for his blessings.

Lesson V. *The Prince of Life.* Acts 3. 12-21.—Who spoke of Jesus by this name? Where and to whom did he speak? What did he say that they had done to Jesus? What did he urge them to do? What is the GOLDEN TEXT? Where does this lesson teach us that we may have our sins blotted out?

Lesson VI. *None Other Name.* Acts 4. 1-14.—Who came upon the apostles? What did they do to them? What did they ask them? How did Peter answer them? What did Peter say about the name of Jesus? [GOLDEN TEXT.] Through whom does this lesson teach us that we should seek to be saved?

Lesson VII. *Christian Courage.* Acts 4. 18-31.—Who showed courage? Before whom did they show it? What did they say? What did they do when set free? How was the Spirit's presence shown? Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT. How may we show our courage?

Lesson VIII. *Ananias and Sapphira.* Acts 5. 1-11.—Who were they? What did they do? What was their crime? How was it discovered? How was it punished? What is the GOLDEN TEXT? What should we always speak?

Lesson IX. *Persecution renewed.* Acts 5. 17-32.—By whom was it renewed? What was done to the apostles? How were they set free? What did the officers find? Where and how did they bring the apostles? What did they say? [GOLDEN TEXT.] Whom does this lesson teach us to obey?

Lesson X. *The Seven Chosen.* Acts 6. 1-15.—Why were they chosen? For what were they chosen? What was their character? [GOLDEN TEXT.] Who was the greatest among them? What did he do? What was done to him? How did his face look? How does this lesson teach us to be helpful in God's cause?

Lesson XI. *The First Christian Martyr.* Acts 7. 54-60, and 8. 1-4. Who was he? What was his vision? What were his prayers? Who helped in his murder? What then came upon the Church? What is the GOLDEN TEXT? For whom does this lesson teach us to pray?

Special Quarterly Service.—Topic: The Family. 1. The divine institution of the family. 2. The importance of religion in the family. 3. The relation of the family to the Church.

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