

homage to him in the name of all ; to give him thanks for all blessings bestowed upon all ; to beg, he will be propitious, and give his pardon to all, as also his grace ; that he will relieve all their miseries, and increase their virtues ; that he will be merciful to the faithful souls departed, &c. Or, I will go to the altar of mercy, to offer sacrifice for you, who are here present, for myself, and for all. Come you with me, let us acknowledge our impieties, and see, if perhaps, for the tender passion of his only Son, he will take pity on us, and spare us.

Clerk. *Ad Deum, &c.* "To God, who rejoices my youth." So the Clerk, in the name of the *people*, animates him to go on, telling him, he goes to God, who is both able and willing to satisfy his desire, and by this sacrifice, to pardon his sin, to cleanse his soul, to give him alacrity, and renew his youthful vigour, in the performance of this holy action.

Nor, is it meet, that going about so great a work, we should be sad or dejected in spirit ; therefore this Psalm is permitted and recited interchangeably, that both *priest* and *people* may celebrate and receive the most holy mysteries with joy, and approach the Divine Majesty with all cheerfulness and alacrity.

P. *Judica me, &c.* "Judge me, O God, and distinguish my cause, from the nation not holy : from the unjust and deceitful man, deliver me."\* That is to say, having proved myself as the apostle commands, † judge me, O God, in mercy, and distinguish between a my just intention and the wicked devices of the ungodly : and deliver me from all such company, before I come to thy altar. Because "we cannot drink the chalice of our Lord, and the chalice of devils," i. e. the waters of iniquity : "We cannot be partakers of the table of our Lord, and of the table of devils," i. e. of sin. 1 Cor. 10, 21. For what participation has justice with iniquity ? And what agreement with Christ and

*Belial* ? No other, than between light and darkness. 2 Cor. 6, 14, 15. God forbid, then, I should enter with such companions into the courts of our Lord, into his holy of holies.

C. *Quia tu es, Deus, &c.* "Because thou, God, art my strength ; why hast thou rejected me, and why go I sorrowful, whilst the enemy afflicts me ?"—That is to say, "With thee, O Lord, I can do all things ;"\* "Without thee, nothing."† No, not so much as examine or inquire, "why thou hast rejected me, or why I go sorrowful," &c. O ! do not, therefore repel me, but assist me by thy grace, that I may always rejoice in thee, "whilst the enemy afflicts me."

P. *Emitte lucem tuam, &c.* "Send forth thy light and thy truth ; they have conducted me, and brought me to thy holy mount, and to thy tabernacle."—Thou hast sent Christ to enlighten the world, by teaching the way of God in truth ; send him now to enlighten and teach me in particular ; since these graces, thy light and thy truth, (by which we know our duties, and sincerely perform them,) have brought us to the altar, to invoke thy name, &c.

C. *Et introibo, &c.* "And I will go to the altar of God, to God, who rejoices my youth." And we will attend thee, (say the people by the mouth of the clerk,) accompanied with the light of truth, and a sincere intention, to the altar of God, who will change our old corruption into newness of life.

P. *Confitebor, tibi, &c.* "I will praise thee on the harp, O God, my God : why art thou sorrowful, my soul, and why dost thou trouble me ?" We will praise our God on the harp of joy ; be not therefore pensive or desolate, my soul ; torment me no more. "God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9, 7.

C. *Spera in Deo, &c.* "Hope in God ; because I will still praise him : He is the salvation of my countenance, and my God." Trust in God (says the clerk for the people) and praise his name ; he is our salvation and our God

\* Psalm 42.

† 1 Cor. 11, 28.

\* Phil 4, 13.

† John 15, 51.