

and accomplished the work of your redemption. Let all the seed of Jacob fear him; not only those who are Israelites, according to the flesh, but all the members of the church who are true Israelites in spirit, because he has not disregarded the prayer which I, poor, desolate, abandoned, stripped of all things, and reduced to the weakness of death, have offered him.

We are here exhorted by Jesus Christ, to praise, to glorify, and fear the Lord. Let us praise him in all reverses of fortune; let us in the midst of our afflictions be concerned only for the glory of our heavenly Father, as Jesus Christ was on the cross, and, in fine, work out our salvation in fear and trembling, by frequently meditating on his terrible judgments.

What consolation is also here afforded to the poor! Jesus Christ assures them, that his Father will not reject their prayer, as he continues to assert in the following verse:

26. Neither hath he turned away his face from me, and when I cried to him, he heard me.

A repetition of what he had previously declared, and a further encouragement to the man of poverty and suffering to hope in God, because the Lord has never turned away his face from the poor man, and because he will surely hear the voice of the poor when it cries to him for help. Jesus Christ prayed during his whole life, he prayed in the garden of olives, he prayed on the cross, to shew us an example of the necessity and efficacy of prayer.

27. With thee is my praise in a great church: I will pay my vows in the sight of them that fear him.

Having exhorted the faithful to praise God, he promises his Father that they will do so, not in the assembly of a few Hebrews, but in that great society of all ages and nations, his Church. By the word vows, seems to be understood the vows of sacrifice and oblation as it is used in Isaias, xix. 21. They shall worship in victims and gifts, they shall offer vows to the Lord and shall fulfil them.' Christ having perceived that the holocaust of his death was most grateful to God, promises that this acceptable sacrifice shall be frequently renewed in the manner he had appointed, to the end of time. I will pay my vows, that is, I will offer myself up as a victim through the hands of my ministers, the priests of the new covenant, and in the sight of those who fear him in the presence of the true faithful who worship and adore him in spirit and truth.

There is no christian society in the world that corresponds with this description of a great church, or fulfils his promise of a perpetual sacrifice to his Father, except the holy Catholic Church.

28. The poor shall eat, and shall be filled; and they shall praise the Lord that seek him: their hearts shall live for ever and ever.

Another consequence of this glorious resurrection. The poor shall partake of this sacrifice; that is, those who acknowledge their spiritual poverty and want. And they shall be filled, because they shall partake of him who is the source and fountain of bliss, the