

« We have sinned and have become as lepers ; we have all fallen as the leaf and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. Thou hast hidden Thy face from us and hast crushed us in the hand of our iniquity.

« Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above and let the clouds rain the just.

« Behold, O Lord, the affliction of Thy people and send Him whom Thou art to send. Send forth the Lamb who is to rule the earth ; may he bound from the stone of the wilderness to the mountain of the daughter of Sion that he himself may remove the yoke of our captivity.

« Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above and let the clouds rain the just.

« *Be consoled, Oh my people, soon thou shalt behold thy salvation ; why art thou consumed in sadness ? Why art thou possessed by sorrow ? I will save thee, fear not : for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy one of Israel, thy Savior.*

« Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above and let the clouds rain the just. »

Read this prayer over again applying it to the soul ravaged by sin, to a nation devastated by heresy ; chant it and even should you chant it a hundred times, I promise you that you will always find it more and more touching. But our hearts are cold ; sin has cast distaste and distrust in them. Therefore our mother the Church continues her canticles of hope with which she mingles the most alluring promises. « On the day of the Messiah the mountains shall distil sweetness and honey and milk shall flow from the hills. » « Come to the fountain, ye who are athirst ; seek the Lord while He may be found. » « The mountains and the hills shall sing the hymn of praise before the Lord ; all the trees of the forests shall clap their hands, for the Ruler, the Lord, shall come to reign for ever. » « Let us live in justice and piety, awaiting the blessed hope and the advent of the Lord. » « Sound the trumpet in Sion, for the day of the Lord is nigh ; behold he cometh to save us. »

The Church calls upon the Liberator to reign not only in the secret recesses of hearts but over all the nations of the earth.

« The Lord is coming, go and meet him saying : Great is His power and of His kingdom there shall be no end. He is God, the Mighty, the Ruler, the Prince of Peace. O root of Jesse who art a standard for the nations ; before whom kings shall be silent ; to whom peoples shall offer their prayers, come and deliver us, delay no longer.

« O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver ! the expected of nations and