



HOUR OF ADORATION JESUS COMPARED with Barabbas

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Habebat autem vinctum insignem, qui dicebatur Barabbas, qui cum seditiosis erat vinctus, qui in seditione fecerat homicidium. Et cum ascendisset turba, coepit rogare sicut semper faciebat illis.

"Now upon the solemn day the governor was accustomed to release to the people one prisoner, whom they would. And he had then a notorious prisoner, that was called Barabbas. They therefore being gathered together, Pilate said to them: Whom will you that I release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus that is called Christ?"

(MATT. XXVII, 15-17.)

I. — Adoration.

"Which of the two? Barabbas or Jesus?" Jesus is sent back to Pilate's tribunal. This attempt to rid himself of a case so complicated, had not succeeded. Pilate, sending for the chiefs of the Jewish nation, told them positively that, in spite of all their accusations, neither Herod nor himself found Him guilty of any crime. And all that he can do to please them is to inflict upon Him severe punishment. After that, he will let Him go.

Pilate has again proclaimed the innocence of Jesus. And yet he, the judge, ends by saying: "I shall chastise Him, and let Him go." Gerhard, the writer, proposes to Pilate this irrefutable dilemma: "Be in accord with thyself, O Pilate! If the Christ is innocent, why not send Him away justified? If thou dost think Him deserving of scourges, why proclaim Him innocent?"

Every year, on the feast of the Pasch, the Jews were accustomed to release a prisoner in memory of their own deliverance from Egyptian bondage.