

ask for his release. So Pilate asked if they would have Jesus released.

They said no; they wanted Barabbas, a murderer. As for Jesus, they shouted, "Crucify him! crucify him!" And Pilate, selfish, wicked Pilate, gave Jesus up to the cruel Jews!

Do you ask why Pilate did this? He was afraid that he should displease the Jews and lose his office. He did not dare do the right thing. How weak and wicked is one who fears anything more than sin!

A.D. 30.]

[May 26.]

LESSON HELPS FOR EVERY DAY.

M. Read the lesson verses from your Bible.
Mark xv. 22-37.

Tu. Read Luke's story. Luke xxiii. 33-46.

W. Read Hymn 214 in the Methodist Hymnal.

Th. Find what Jesus said to the thief. Luke xxiii. 42, 43.

F. Learn how Jesus cared for His mother.
John xix. 26, 27.

S. Learn the beautiful GOLDEN TEXT.

S. Think what remains for us to do.

THE LESSON STORY.

You remember the procession that passed along the streets of Jerusalem on the first day of this last week of our Lord's life. Then all was joy and gladness, and the friends of Jesus thought that He was going to set up His kingdom right away.

They did not understand that His kingdom was one of love, and that it could not come unless Jesus suffered.

It was a very different procession that went to Golgotha, on Calvary, that Friday morning. Jesus was surrounded now by cruel enemies, glad to see Him die. Some kind-hearted person offered Him a kind of drink to stupefy Him, but He would not take it. Then He was put upon the Cross, and His enemies went on mocking Him with cruel words.

Do you not think it was hard to bear? And it was all for our sake!

When the sixth hour came a strange thing happened. Although it was noon a thick darkness spread over the sky, and for three hours it was like night! We shall never know what our dear Lord suffered then! Even the sun hid his face from the sight! But at last Jesus gave a great cry and died. And the darkness went away, and the world's redemption was bought.

As Thou seest not as man, so Thou valuest not as man; man judgeth by the worth of the gift, Thou judgeth by the mind of the giver and the proportion of the remainder.

If I had more, O God, Thou shouldst have it; had I less Thou wouldst not despise it, who "acceptest the gift according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath, not."

—Bishop Hall.

Opening and Closing Services.

SECOND QUARTER.

OPENING SERVICE.

I. Silence.

II. Responsive Sentences. [Col. 3. 1-4, 12, 13.]

Supt. If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

School. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Supt. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

School. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Supt. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering:

School. Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any:

Supt. Even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

III. Singing.

IV. The Ten Commandments, or the Apostles' Creed.

V. Prayer, followed by the Lord's Prayer in concert.

VI. Scripture Lesson.

VII. Singing.

LESSON SERVICE.

I. Class Study of the Lesson.

II. Singing Lesson Hymn.

III. Recitation of Title, Golden Text, Outline and Doctrinal Suggestion by the school in concert.

IV. Review and Application of the Lesson by Pastor or Superintendent.

V. Supplemental Lesson. [Special lessons in the Church Catechism may here be introduced.]

VI. Announcements (especially of the Church service and week-evening prayer-meeting.)

CLOSING SERVICE.

I. Singing.

II. Responsive Sentences. [Col. 3. 14, 15.]

Supt. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

School. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

III. Dismissal.