

The Apostles' Creed.

ARRANGED IN INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SUNDAYS FROM ADVENT TO TRINITY.

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Passion Sunday (APRIL 11).

— and buried — *The Burial*.—S. John xix. 38-42; Colossians ii. 12.

- A. Our Saviour was buried—according to—
 I. Type—Jonah.—S. Matthew xii. 40.
 II. Prophecy.—{ Psalm xvi. 10. (Prayer Book Version.)
 { Isaiah liii. 9.
 III. History.
 1. Romans did not bury at all, but—
 (a) in case of friends—burnt the body.
 (b) in case of criminals—left it to decay on the cross.
 2. Jews always buried, so—
 (a) the Disciples
 (b) the chief priests } combined to secure the Burial of Christ
 3. Features of Jewish burial—
 a. body washed.
 b. anointed.
 c. wrapped in linen with spices.
 d. other spices burnt in the cave.
 e. sepulchres in caves—not in the earth.
 f. niches to receive each body.
 g. outer and inner chambers.
 h. mouth of cave closed with stone.
- B. The interest for Christians of the Lord's Burial.
 First. Remember that we are buried with Him in Baptism (Romans vi. 4).
 Second. Reverence the bodies, graves, property of the dead (Acts v. 6, viii. 2, ix. 37, 39).
 Third. Respect their good wishes (1 Kings v. 5).
 Fourth. Have no fear of the grave (Hosea xiii. 14).
- C. 1. What was That Body which the disciples laid in the grave?—It was the Body of God?
 2. Was God then united to that Dead Body?—Yes, the Godhead never can leave either Body or Soul of Jesus.
 3. Did That Body decay in the grave?—No. The Holy One of God saw no corruption.
 4. Why was He then buried?—To prove his real Death and Resurrection.
 5. What Blessing has the Burial of Christ left in the earth?—It has sanctified the Grave for Christians.
 6. Mention other earthly things that have been sanctified by the touch of that Sacred Body.—Water; bread and wine; wood and iron.
 7. How should Christian people behave in a churchyard or cemetery?

Palm Sunday (APRIL 18).

‘He descended into Hell’—*The Descent*.—1 S. Peter iii. 18-22; Psalm xvi. 11 (Prayer Book).

- A. ‘Hell’ here does not mean—
 The Place of Eternal Torment (S. Matthew x. 28), but
 The Place of temporary Rest (S. Luke xxiii. 43).
 Facts told us in Scripture about this Place:—
 1. Rest for the good.—Rev. xiv. 13. [‘No rest for the wicked.’—Isaiah lvii. 20, 21.]
 2. Patience—till their happiness is made perfect.—Rev. vi. 10, 11.
 3. Growth in holiness.—Psalm xvii. 16.
 4. Consciousness of good and evil.—S. Luke xvi. 25.
- B. Practical thoughts about the dead.
 First. We must work out our own salvation now, as we shall have no time after death.—Ecclesiastes xii. 1, &c., S. John ix. 4.
 Second. We need not fear the dead.—Hebrews xii. 22, 23.
 Third. We ought not to disquiet them.—1 Samuel xxviii. 15.
 Fourth. We should not forget them.—2 Samuel xii. 23.
 Fifth. We may help them by our prayers.—2 Timothy i. 18.
 Sixth. And they surely are helping us.—Hebrews xii. 1.
 Seventh. Yet we must trust in One Only Saviour to be with us in and after death.—Psalm xxiii. 4.
- C. 1. Where was our Blessed Lord from three o'clock on Good Friday afternoon till Easter morning?—His Body was in the Tomb; His Soul in Hell.
 2. What does ‘Hell’ mean in the Creed?—The Place of Departed Spirits.
 3. What did Jesus do in this Place?—He preached to the Spirits in prison (or *safe keeping*).
 4. Does this mean those condemned for ever?—No; the Soul of the Saviour could not go to them.
 5. Where did He promise to receive the soul of the Penitent Thief?—In Paradise.
 6. What does Revelation say about the Faithful Departed?—‘Blessed are the Dead that die in the Lord. Even so, said the Spirit, for they rest from their labours.’
 7. What may we do for the Dead?