

# Parish and Home

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No. 6

## CALENDAR FOR MAY.

- 1—**St. Ph. and St. Jas., A. & M.** *Morning*—Isai. lxi.; John, i. 43. *Evening*—Zech. iv.; Col. iii. to xviii.
- 7—**Fifth Sunday after Easter.** *Morning*—Deut. vi.; Luke xxiii. 50, xxiv. 13. *Evening*—Deut. ix. or x.; 1 Thess. iv.
- 11—**Ascension Day.** *Morning*—Dan. vii. 9 to 15; Luke xxiv. 41. *Evening*—2 Kings ii. 1 to 16; Heb. iv.
- 11—**Sunday after Ascension.** *Morning*—Deut. xxx.; John iv. to 31. *Evening*—Deut. xxxiv., or Jos. i.; 1 Tim. iii.
- 21—**Whitsunday.** *Morning*—Deut. xvi. to 18; Rom. viii. to 18. *Evening*—Isai. xl., or Ezek. xxxvi. 25; Gal. v. 16, or Acts xviii. 24, xix. 21.
- 28—**Trinity Sunday.** *Morning*—Isai. vi. to 11.; Rev. i. to 9. *Evening*—Gen. xviii., or Gen. i. and ii. to 4; Eph. iv. to 17, or Matt. iii.

## ASCENSION DAY.

The eternal gates lift up their heads,  
The doors are opened wide;  
The King of glory is gone up  
Unto His Father's side.

Thou art gone in before us, Lord,  
Thou hast prepared a place,  
That we may be where now Thou art,  
And look upon Thy face.

And ever on Thine earthly path  
A gleam of glory lies;  
A light still breaks behind the clouds  
That veil Thee from our eyes.

Lift up our thoughts, lift up our songs,  
And let Thy grace be given,  
That while we linger yet below  
Our hearts may be in Heaven.

That where Thou art at God's right hand,  
Our hope, our love may be;  
Dwell in us now, that we may dwell  
Forevermore with thee.

—Mrs. C. F. Alexander.

THE crisis in the Church in England calls us to earnest prayer that the Lord God Omnipotent will so overrule and guide all things that His name may be glorified, our beloved Church purged from all that is contrary to His word and teaching, and that she may be still more used as a light at home, and to carry His gospel to all lands.

Let us "stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

We have a rich heritage in the Church of England; let us see to it that her glory be not dimmed, nor her strength taken from her. Let us lift up Christ, the one mediator between God and man,

and let us magnify *His word*, which is given us as a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Brethren, pray, for God still rules and can direct the unruly wills and affections of man, and make even good to come out of evil.

WHITSUNDAY, 1899. In the mere collocation of the name and the figures how much food there is for quiet thought! What a march of years filled with human sin and repentance, with men's longings and prayers, since that first wonderful descent of the Holy Spirit upon the assembled believers in Jerusalem! How often has that gracious heart-uplifting visit been repeated among congregations of faithful expectant souls, in many ages, in many lands! And how sure is the guarantee that the Blessed Visitor shall continue His ministrations until the restitution of all things. There are indeed diversities of operations but "the same spirit," watching for uplifted hands, waiting to bless. There is scarcely anything in God's Word which enforces more clearly the truth of our creed, "I believe in the Holy Universal Church." The blessings of accepted praise, of spiritual refreshment, of heavenly wisdom among the tangled walks of our workaday world—these belong to all God's people. Let us see that we do not miss them by want of faith or faintheartedness in our Whitsuntide prayers.

"SURSUM CORDA"—lift up your hearts—should be the keynote of the Christian heart on Ascension Day, which comes to us on the 11th of this month (with Whit Sunday on the 21st). Our Church strikes this lofty note in the collect when we pray that we may ascend in heart and mind into the heavens with our ascended Lord, and with Him continually dwell. This maintenance of our daily life at a high spiritual level is a difficult task, or, as we should rather say, a rare Christian

grace, and yet many men have been distinguished in this way. In all ages God has shown to the world beautiful souls so fed with the heavenly manna of Christ's spirit that they seemed to those about them really and truly to dwell "in the heavenly places." St. John in the lonely Isle of Patmos, Chrysostom in his unmerited banishment to the wild frontier of the Roman Empire, John Bunyan in his rough jail at Bedford, Hannington in the trying hours before his martyr death at the hands of savage Africans, are all types of the many-sided victorious peace of God which may possess the heart in all stress of outward circumstance and strife. And the secret is still in the world:

There are amid this stunning tide  
Of human care and crime,  
With whom the melodies abide  
Of the everlasting chime;  
Who carry music in their heart,  
Through dusty lane and wrangling mart;  
Plying their daily task with busier feet,  
Because their secret souls a holy strain repeat.

## WHITSUNDAY.

The blessed gift which the Lord bestowed upon His Church on the Day of Pentecost He has never taken away. Not only is the Third person in the blessed Trinity always with that Kingdom which the Son founded, but He is with every true disciple, helping, teaching, comforting, sanctifying, leading us into all truth. We have not to seek Him with pains and trouble. He is like the sunshine and the sweet air, ever ready to enter where He is not wilfully kept out. No prison walls can exclude Him; no tyrant can hinder His ministrations; no press of care need deprive us of His blessed ministry of consolation and help.

This personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit with His disciples is specially insisted on by our Lord and the apostles. "He dwelleth with you and shall be in you!" says our Lord (St. John xiv. 17). "Ye are not in the flesh but in the