

than Paradaiseal glory, there will be given to man a greatly increase of power and capacity for drinking in and enjoying the augmented loveliness. I shall be satisfied when I wake up after Thy likeness, O Lord."

All, however, will not enjoy in the same manner, there will be *different degrees* of rewards as of punishments (S. Luke xix. 17; 1 Cor. xv. 41, 42), but yet the joy of each will be *perfect*, according to his capacity for enjoyment (Ps. xvi. 11), "fulness of joy."

*Illustrations*—Different sized vessels holding different quantities yet all full, so is the heart.

*Apply*—Zeal to attain a high place of glory; training the soul for appreciating the joy of God's Presence—In what does it consist? "Excelsior," the Christian's cry, "I press towards," &c.

But this "Life everlasting" is—

1. A gift of God (S. John x. 28, xvii. 2).
2. It is begun here—a *present*, and not only a future gift (1 John v. 11, 12).
3. It consists in having God, through union with Christ (S. John xvii. 3. i. 4, v. 26).
4. This gift of Divine Life is given first in Baptism. "Doubt ye not, but earnestly believe, that He will give unto this infant the blessing of Eternal Life." It is strengthened in Confirmation, "the *renewal of the Holy Ghost*" It is sustained continually by union with Christ in Holy Communion (S. John vi. 53-58).

Like a seed, it must be nourished and tended, that it may live and bring forth fruit to God's glory.

## LESSON XXIV.

*Amen.*

Is there any lesson to be learned from this little word? I think so.

It "is a very sacred word, containing in it most high and deep meanings."

"Amen" and "Hallelujah" (Praise ye the Lord) are two words that "have come down to us from the sacred language, Hebrew, never translated, on account of a mysterious holiness connected with them."

"A sort of veil of secrecy about the word which is thus left in honor" (S. Augustine) God Himself is called the "*God of Amen*" (Isa. lxx. 16), translated "*Truth*." It is the Name of the Lord in Revelation—"These things saith the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness" (iii. 14).

God used it on very solemn occasions, to confirm what He said.

Our Lord frequently used it, especially when He was speaking on the greatest mysteries of our Faith—especially in S. John's Gospel. It is rendered in our version **VERILY**.

A positive command was given by God, that when the Levites declared the curses of God, "All the people shall say, Amen" (Deut. xxvii. 15).

S. Paul speaks of it being the custom of the people to respond with this word in the Holy Communion (1 Cor. xiv. 16), "giving of thanks" is "*Eucharist*," the primitive name of Holy Communion.

Ancient writers allude to this custom as still continuing, and being a marked feature of the Holy Rite. S. Ambrose says, "The Priest saith to thee, the Body of Christ; and thou sayest, Amen, that is, True, what the tongue confesses let the affections retain."

[*The above, of course, is only for elder scholars*]

This solemn word means "*True*," or "*Truth*." It may be used in several senses:

When after an affirmation or command it partakes of the nature of a confirming oath.

After a prayer, "So be it." So grant it to be.

After a confession of Faith "So it is."  
"This is indeed true."

When we use the word after the Creed, therefore, it is an additional "seal of our consent" before God that we believe what we have said. Do we?

God the Father *made* us, do we love, honor, and reverence Him as a Father?

God the Son *redeemed* us, do we love and try to serve and please Him Who has done so much for our sakes?

God the Holy Ghost *sanctifies* [i.e. makes holy] us and all the elect people of God [i.e. all whom He has chosen out of the world and brought into His Church by Baptism]. Do we love Him, and listen to His Voice when He Speaks through conscience, and yield our will at once to His obedience?

Christ has founded a Holy Church, as the home of His chosen people, and has given to it great blessings and privileges, do you value and hold faithfully to it?

*Amen.*

Conclude with Collect for Trinity Sunday.