

lest any sinful and depraved affections might be still lurking within you ?

You who can say this, be encouraged in knowing, that Christ regards your anxiety and your labour with joy, He will aid and direct and shield you in this holy warfare, until the victory be obtained and the triumph is yours. It was to animate your zeal and love, and to awaken your gratitude, and to strengthen your hatred of sin, He this day places in your hands and before your eyes the memorials of His death and the wounds which were inflicted. Doubt it not; He is Himself verily present. He invites you to His table. Fear not, weak and trembling doubting ones; He is kind and gracious. Never did Jesus despise the sigh of the contrite soul. Tell Him all your fears, pour out before Him all the anxieties of your hearts. Ask Him to give you grace to strengthen, and comfort, and prepare you for His service and communion with Him. Hear what He says : "Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it" ; "Drink, yea drink abundantly, my beloved."