

## THE GOSPEL OF THE RESURRECTION.

A SERMON BY THE REV. W. R. HUNTINGTON, D.D.,  
GRACE CHURCH, N. Y. EASTER SUNDAY, 1887.

"Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself and saith unto Him, Rabboni, which is to say Master."—JOHN xx. 16.

Next to a touch of a hand, there is nothing that so quickly rouses the attention as the sound of one's own name. When we wish to wake a person out of sleep, or call back to consciousness one who has fainted or is stunned, our first impulse is to speak his name. It often happens that an ear deaf to every other sound is sensitive to that.

Mary of Magdala, dazed and bewildered by her grief, took little notice of the angels clothed in white, whom through her tears she saw sitting the one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. She looked dreamily at them, answered their question, and turned away. She took little notice of Him whom she supposed to be the keeper of the garden. From Him also she would have turned, had He not with a single word broken the spell of her entrancement. He called her by her name. "Jesus saith unto her, Mary." It is enough, she knows Him. There is no longer any doubtfulness. He stands revealed. And now gathering up all her gratitude and all the love of which her soul is full, she utters the one only word that can contain them. She saith unto Him, "Master." There is comfort here.

By appearing as He did, first to one and then another of the disciples after His resurrection, speaking with them familiarly and affectionately, reminding them of what had happened in the past while He was still with them, and speaking words of counsel about the future, Jesus seems to have given a sort of pledge that His risen life would be, as His earthly life had been, knit closely to the common, every-day interests of man.

It was not as if He had suddenly appeared high up in the air and in an unearthly voice, audible to the world's end, made the announcement, "I am risen." This would have been startling but not winning. In point of fact He chose a very different way. He had His word for Mary, a woman well used to tears, "Why weepest thou?" He had His word for Thomas, the materialist among the Twelve, "Reach hither thy finger and behold My hands." He had His word for Simon Peter, thrice repeated in gentle reminder of the threefold denial, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me?" And thus by methods shaped to suit the special needs and characters of each, He strove to make each feel that in Him he had a friend. The Resurrection had not set Him on a throne so high that He could no longer distinguish one face from another among those who once had been His companions; on the contrary, it had made possible a still closer intimacy and brought about an even better understanding than of old. This is the glad message of Easter day to you and me. "Mary;" "Rabboni," the call of Christ, the answer of the soul;—taken together they give us the beginning and the end of personal religion. To be assured that God knows us severally by name selects us for this task or for that, by name holds us responsible for what we do,—what a

tonic influence it has on the failing energy of the human will, how it startles, rouses, wakens us, at moments when life has begun to run along in a stumberous, dreamy fashion without purpose, without plan, without connection.

There is all the difference in the world between believing that there is a God and believing in the God which is. Instantly we hear him call us by name the one sort of faith deepens into the other. "Lord what wilt Thou have me to do?" becomes straightway the question uppermost. Plough-handle, weapon, pilgrim's staff, whatever it may be, it matters not, I am ready to grasp it, and with a cheerful courage to go forward.

You can tell the lives into which this call of God has come by looking at them. They carry the broad arrow mark, and are signed with the King's sign. Nay there is a descriptive title better still; they are consecrated. The uttered voice of God has hallowed them.....

.....Easter day is of all days a time to seek "the things which are above," and of such things above as are attainable by man or women what more precious than reverence and unselfishness.

We have no need now to go back to the garden where there was a tomb. The Prince of Life has quitted that forever. In the large spaces of the Paradise of God our Saviour lives and breathes. It is a region well watered, pleasant, beautiful; and to a Holy Communion with Him there He now invites us.

"Christ in His heavenly garden walks all day,  
And calls to souls upon the world's highway,  
Wearied with trifles, maimed and sick with sin,  
Christ at the gate stands and invites them in."

Fellow-traveller along these roadways of time, is it not worth thy while to listen to so gracious an invitation?

This Easter morning, He calls thee by thy name. Wilt thou not turn and gladly answer, "Master"? It were a wise decision.

### A PLAUSIBLE PLEA.

Why should I be confirmed? I don't see the good of it.

(1) The Rector says it is time for me to take a public stand, as a "faithful soldier and servant of Christ," of my own free will and accord.

Well, a good many people have done it before now, and I don't see that they have met with any great success.

(2) He tells me that God gave His Spirit to the early Christians by the laying on of the Apostles' hands, and that He will give me, by the same means, a like gift of the Spirit, such as is necessary for my spiritual life.

Well, it seemed to make a good deal of difference in those early Christians. "They spake with tongues and prophesied." but I have know people who have been confirmed who cannot tell me that they feel any difference in themselves after it, or that they were at once the better for it.

(3) He tells me that Confirmation will entitle my soul to the habitual use of the spiritual food of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Again I know communicants who do not seem to be any better for the privilege, and could not tell me if I asked them just how they felt the benefit.

## EASTER HYMN.

OH, THE GOLDEN, GLOWING MORNING.  
*First printed in The Churchman.—Words by the Rev. Geo. T. Rider.*

Oh, the golden glowing morning,  
All the waiting earth adoring.  
For this Easter day!  
To the King in all His splendor,  
Lord of life and death we render  
Highest lauds this day.  
Let the banners float before us,  
While we sing the exulting chorus  
Christ is risen! He is risen!  
This is Easter Day!

Hark! The highest Heavens ringing,  
Hark! The quiring angels singing  
"This is Easter Day!"  
No more grieving! no more sighing!  
No more weeping! no more dying,  
Christ is King this day!"  
With the blessed ones before us,  
We will swell the heavenly chorus—  
Christ is risen! He is risen!  
This is Easter Day!

Shout aloud the wondrous story,  
For the King in all his glory  
Draweth nigh this day!  
Vernal benediction giving—  
Christ the Life—the Ever Living!  
On this Easter Day.  
Let the banners float before us!  
Send along the angel chorus—  
Christ is risen! He is risen!  
This is Easter Day!

On the Festal Altar glowing  
Lo! the Paschal Emblems—showing  
Forth this Easter Day!  
Come with garlands, come with treasure,  
Come with anthems' raptest measure  
For this Easter Day!  
How the bells are chiming o'er us  
While we join the heavenly chorus!  
Christ is risen! He is risen!  
This is Easter Day!

Oh, that longed for day of union,  
When Thine own, in Thy communion,  
Lord of Easter Day—  
Into life eternal waking,  
Celebrate—Thy love partaking  
Endless Easter Day!  
For the joy that waits before us,  
We will swell the angel chorus  
Christ is risen! He is risen!  
This is Easter Day! Amen

## THE EASTER COMMUNION.

A few words to all who have been confirmed. What are you going to do about EASTER COMMUNION?

The FLESH says: "You are not good enough, wait a little longer."

The WORLD says: "Don't go, or you can't enjoy the world and you can do without Holy Communion."

The DEVIL says: "Don't go, because you will be taking the side of JESUS."

The CHURCH says: "Every parishioner shall communicate three times in the year of which Easter to be one."

JESUS our LORD says: "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, ye have no life in you."

### IF YOU DON'T GO

Your LORD says "you have no life in you," you are a DEAD Christian.

The CHURCH says you are UNFAITHFUL.

### BEFORE YOU GO

It is necessary 1. To REPENT of past Sin. 2. To determine to live a NEW LIFE. 3. To be in LOVE and CHARITY with all men.

### IF YOU HESITATE

Go to your Clergyman for help and advice.—  
*Exchange.*