

For the Fifth Week in Lent.

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JUDAS.

THE REPENTANCE OF DESPAIR.

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"The sorrow of the world worketh death."—2 Cor. vii. 10.

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The morning of the world's great tragedy!—  
Already shouting crowds cried, "Crucify,"  
    Around the high priest's door,  
When pressing through the outpouring stream—a man,  
His eyes with horror fill'd, his features wan,  
    Stood breathless on the floor.

"Condemn'd and guiltless!! (gaspingly he said)  
'Tis I have sinn'd, 'tis I who have betray'd  
    The Righteous and the Good;  
Take back your bribe, with bloody stain;  
It burns my hand, it sears my brain—  
    Price of my Master's blood.

Cold, as a hail-storm on the hissing flame,—  
"See thou to that—(the chilling answer came)  
    What matters it to us?"

