

VII. Will evil spirits and evil men always bear rule?—No. Throughout Eternity God will be 'all in all.' (Rev. xi. 15.)

C. Moral lessons for the Servants of CHRIST.

First—Always obey God. (S. Luke ii. 49.)

Second—Never obey Satan. (S. Matt. iv. 10.)

Third—Sometimes obey Man. (S. Luke ii. 51; S. John ii. 4.)

Second Sunday after Trinity. (JUNE 30.)

ADAM—THE KEEPER OF PARADISE.

Passage—Genesis ii. 8-18. Text—S. Luke xxiii. 43. Hymns—122, 538.

Picture of three gardens:—1st. The Garden of Eden.

2nd. The Garden of Agony.

3rd. The Garden of the Resurrection.

A. Features of this garden.

I. Name: {1. Paradise (Persian) = 'Park.'
2. Eden (Hebrew) = 'Delight.'

II. Likeness: See Genesis xiii. 10. {1. 'Plain of Jordan'
2. 'Land of Egypt'} The two most fertile spots then known.

III. Situation: Genesis ii. 8, 'Eastward,' i.e. of The Holy Land, where the Euphrates, with other rivers, runs into the Persian Gulf.

IV. Stock: Fruit trees. Among them the trees of life, and of knowledge of good and evil.

B. The Second Adam, Keeper of Paradise.

I. Where is Paradise now?—Paradise is the resting-place for faithful souls after death. (S. Luke xxiii. 43.)

II. What other descriptions does the New Testament give us of this intermediate place?—Paradise is described as 'Abraham's bosom' (S. Luke xvi. 22), and as 'Under the Altar.' (Rev. vi. 9.)

III. What is the state of the Faithful Departed?—The Souls of the Righteous are in the Hands of God, and there shall no torment touch them.

IV. What will be the Glory of the Saints in Heaven?—They are without fault before the Throne of God, and they shall reign for ever and ever. (Rev. xxii. 14.)

V. Who is the Keeper of Paradise?—Jesus, Who descended into Hell (or Paradise), still keeps the keys. (Rev. i. 18.)

VI. Is our Blessed Lord anywhere described as a Gardener?—Christ is the Gardener of the Church and of the Soul. (S. Luke xiii. 7; S. John xx. 15.)

VII. How must we too dress and keep these two gardens?—We should dress our garden with flowers of grace and fruits of good works, and keep it from the serpent of sin. (Genesis ii. 15.)

C. Our Duty as Gardeners.

First—Worldly work. Do common tasks with an uncommon care. (Eccles. ix. 10.)

Second—Church work. Beware of religious selfishness. (Numb. xxxii. 23.)

Third—Spiritual work. Do not neglect your own soul. (Canticles i. 6.)

Third Sunday after Trinity. (JULY 7.)

EVE—THE HELPMET FOR MAN.

Passage—Genesis ii. 18-25. Text—Rev. xxi. 2. Hymns—350, 618.

Picture: The Hand of the Eternal FATHER leading Eve to her husband.

A. The First Marriage.

I. Eve formed from Adam.

Not {1. Out of his head—to rule him.
2. Out of his feet—to be trampled by him.

But {1. Out of his side—to help him.
2. From under his arm—to be defended by him.
3. Near his heart—to be loved by him.

II. Good Wives: Sarah, Rebekah, Leah and Rachel, Hannah, Abigail, Elizabeth, Pilate's wife.

B. The Mystery of Marriage. (Eph. v. 32.)

I. Who is the Bride of Christ?—The Church is the Bride—the Lamb's Wife. (Rev. xxi. 2.)

II. Show how Adam and Eve represent Christ and His Church.

(a) Eve was formed 'from Adam' (Genesis ii. 23)—so the Church derives her Life and Name ('Church,' derived from Kurios=Lord) from her Lord.

(b) After the 'deep sleep' of Jesus on the Cross, the Church came forth from His opened side. (S. John xix. 34.)

(c) Christ left His Heavenly FATHER and His Jewish mother and took the Gentile Church as His bride—'So shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife.' (Genesis ii. 24.)

(d) Christ, unlike the First Adam, guards, guides, saves His Wife. (Hosea ii. 14.)

C. A Helpmeet.

First—Ask help from God. (Psalm lx. 11.)

Second—Offer help to the ALMIGHTY. (Judges v. 23.)

Third—Hand on help to your brethren. (Joshua i. 12-16.)

Fourth—Do not be too proud to accept and acknowledge help from the weak. (1 Cor. xvi. 16.)