DAILY READINGS FOR HOLY SEASONS. EASTER TO WHITSUNTIDE

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Daily Readings for Holy Seasons. Easter to Whitsuntide by John Richardson

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JOHN RICHARDSON

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EASTER TO WHITSUNTIDE BY THE REV. JOHN RICHARDSON, M.A.

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Daily Readings for Poly Seasons

EASTER

TO

WHITSUNT

BY THE

REV. JOHN RICHARDSON, M.A. INCUMBERT OF CARDEN CHURCH, CAMBERWELL

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EASTER TO WHITSUNTIDE.



Easter Bay.

MATTHEW xxviii, 5-8,-" The Angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead; and behold He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him; lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre, with fear and great joy, and did run to bring His disciples word."

THE Christian religion is based upon solid facts. Its offers are all real, because its statements are all And one great fact is that Jesus rose again from the dead. He had told His disciples that it IV.

Easter Day.

would be so, and thus during His life He had staked His veracity upon the fulfilment of His own statement. To this statement by Jesus, the Angel called the attention of these women, "He is risen, as He said." The proof of His resurrection, therefore, was a very important matter. If that had been wanting, the whole of our holy religion must have come to nought. "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." This will explain the joy with which Mary Magdalene and the other Mary "did run to bring the disciples word." They had found the empty tomb—and they had heard the Angel's explanation—and so they had mastered the fact. "He is not here; for He is risen."

Easter day should be happy to us, quite as much as it was to them. It is the holy time in which we can go back to the foundation of our Christian faith, and feel that we can be sure that our confidence in Jesus is fully justified, both as to the truth of what He said, and the fulfilment of what He had undertaken for the salvation of our souls. "Come, see the place where the Lord lay," is an invitation to us still to realize all that we have in Jesus. It is clear that He lay in that tomb, and out of that we realize that He was dead; and "He died for our sins." It is also clear that in that tomb He did not continue to lie; and so we know that He is risen; and "He rose again for our justification." "They departed from the sepulchre with fear and great joy." There was joy on

Easter Day.

their Lord's account; for He who had been humiliated at the Cross, was now honoured in the resurrection. There was joy on their own account; because they who had been a scattered flock, when their Shepherd was smitten, had now a centre and a rallying point where the old endearments and enjoyments were to be expected still. There was joy on the world's account, because that great message of mercy which seemed to bring so much peace, and manifest so much goodwill, was not, as for a time it appeared to be, a false and a foolish thing. "Jesus and the resurrection"—a gracious person and a blessed fact—such is the proclamation of Easter day.

COLLECT.

Father, holy Father, righteous Father, we draw near to Thy throne of Grace. We come to Thee in the name of Jesus. We come to Thee in the spirit of adoption. We come to Thee, according to Thine own command and invitation. We pray that our sins may be forgiven, that our wants may be supplied, and that our lives may be consecrated. We plead that Jesus died, the just for the unjust, to bring us to Thee. We remember that Jesus rose again—for our justification—that He might live before Thee for us, and we might stand accepted before Thee in Him.

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