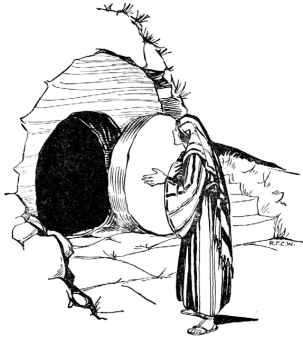


EASTER

THE COLLECT

ALMIGHTY God, who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life; We humbly beseech thee that, as by thy special grace preventing us thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end. Amen.



1. What is the meaning of the word Easter?
 - A. It is derived from an old Saxon word Oster, which signifies to rise.
 - B. By what other name is this feast day often called? Pascha.
2. What do we commemorate this day?
 - A. The resurrection of Christ from the grave, when He overcame _____, and opened unto us the gates of everlasting _____.
3. Has this day always been observed?
 - A. During the time of the Apostles and ever after, there has always been observed an anniversary festival, in the memory of Christ's resurrection. This has always been accounted the highest of festivals, and celebrated with the greatest solemnity.
4. What does God put into our minds by his special grace preventing us? (preventing means going (venting) before (pre) in old English as can be seen by the Latin roots).
 - A. Good _____
5. What is the meaning of the word "preventing?"
 - A. Preventing, in the old English, means going before: and here we assert that we have no good desires of ourselves, but that they are put into our hearts by the grace of God. (2 Corinthians 3:5)



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INTRODUCTION.

Now the sadness of Lent, Holy Week, and Good Friday are past.

We saw Christ suffering, crucified, dead, and buried. Is that all? No. The third day He rose again. Now what good is all this to us? We need power, especially the power of His resurrection (Phil 3:). We need God's special grace and power to prevent (go before) us and lead us.

I. THE POWER SEEN IN THE APOSTLES' LIVES.

1. **Remember the apostles' previous behavior:** forsaking and denying Christ in His time of need.
2. When they knew without a doubt that the Christ whom they had followed and served had indeed risen, **they became different men** as seen in Acts 2:14-&c., 3:6-&c, 4:8-&c. It made a great deal plain to them which had before been a mystery.

II. THE POWER PRESENT IN THE CHURCH.

1. **In the Holy Communion.** The Holy Communion instituted at the Passover has become much greater than the Passover, and how great that was. This could only have happened by Christ rising from the dead. If He had died and not risen the Holy Communion would only have been the memorial of a great failure, and wouldn't have lasted a year.
2. **In the change of our weekly Holy Day** from Saturday to Sunday. Saturday, the seventh day, had been kept from earliest ages a memorial of the great event of the creation. What could change it? Only some event greater than creation which happened on the first day of the week, and that was the Resurrection.

III. THE POWER SEEN IN THINGS TO COME.

1. **Christ's body was not to die again** (like those He raised from the dead). Although Our Lord rose in the same body He had in death, His body now has new qualities; it is *glorified*. The first new quality is *Brilliancy*, which means that the soul can shine through the body with a great light. You can see this happen at the Transfiguration in Matthew 17. Second, the glorified body has *Agility*, which means that it can move rapidly from one place to another (Luke 24). Third, His glorified body has *Subtility*, which means it can go where it pleases and not be blocked by material things such as walls. (John 20) Fourth, His body has *Impassibility*, which means it can no longer suffer, even if someone (like His disciple, Thomas) were to thrust his hand into His wound. Christ showed us what our bodies will be like when we rise again, which gives us great hope.

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