

TIME AND ETERNITY.

XLII. Life is Short.

PSALM 90.

M. Lord ! thou hast been our refuge in all generations !

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever
Thou hadst formed the earth and the world,
even from everlasting to everlasting Thou art
God !

But man thou turnest again to dust, and sayst,
Return, ye children of men !

For a thousand years are, in Thy sight, as yesterday
when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Thou carriest him away as with a flood ; he is a
dream ; in the morning he springeth up like
grass,

Which flourisheth and shooteth up in the morning,
and in the evening is cut down, and withered.

So all our days vanish away ; we spend our years
like a thought.

The days of our life are threescore years and ten,
and by reason of strength may be fourscore
years ;

Yet is the pride of them weariness and sorrow ; for
it vanisheth swiftly, and we fly away.

Teach us so to number our days, that we may ap-
ply our hearts to wisdom !

Satisfy us speedily with thy mercy, that we may
rejoice and be glad all our days !

Make us glad according to the time in which Thou
hast afflicted us ; according to the years in
which we have seen adversity !

Let Thy deeds be known to Thy servants, and Thy glory to their children !

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish for us the work of our hands ; yea, the work of our hands, establish Thou it !

XLIII. The Fleetness of Time.

PSALM 39.

M. Lord, make me to know my end, and the number of my days, that I may know how frail I am !

C. Behold, Thou hast made my days as a handbreadth, and my life is as nothing before Thee ; Yea, every man in his firmest state is altogether vanity.

Surely every man walketh in a vain show ; surely he disquieteth himself in vain ; he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.

What, then, O Lord ! is my hope ? my hope is in Thee !

Deliver me from all my transgressions ; let me not be the reproach of scoffers !

Yet I am dumb ; I open not my mouth ; for Thou hast done it !

But remove from me Thy infliction ; for I am perishing by the blow of Thy hand.

When Thou with rebukes dost chasten man for his iniquity, Thou causest His glory to waste away like a moth ! surely every man is vanity.

Hear my prayer, O Lord ! give ear to my cry ; be not silent at my tears ! for I am but a stranger with Thee, a sojourner, as all my fathers were.

XLIV. In the Shadow of the Almighty.

PSALM 91.

- M.* He who dwelleth under the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- C.* I say to the Lord, Thou art my refuge and my fortress ; my God, in whom I trust.
- Surely He will deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the wasting pestilence ;
He will cover thee with His pinions, and under His wings shalt thou find refuge ; His faithfulness shall be thy shield and buckler.
- Thou shalt not be afraid of the terror of the night,
nor of the arrow that flieth by day ;
Nor of the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor of the plague that destroyeth at noonday.
- Because thou hast made the Lord thy refuge, and the Most High thy inhabitation,
No evil shall befall thee, nor any plague come near thy dwelling.
- For He will give His angels charge over thee, to guard thee in all thy ways.
- Because he loveth me, I will deliver him ; I will set him on high, because he knoweth my name.
- When he calleth upon me, I will answer him ; I will be with him in trouble ; I will deliver him, and bring him to honor.
- With long life will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation.

XLV. Immortality.

PSALM 103.

- M.* Bless the Lord, O my soul ! and all that is within me,
bless His holy name !
- C.* Bless the Lord, O my soul !, and forget not all His
benefits !
Who forgiveth all thine iniquities ; who healeth all
thy diseases ;
Who redeemeth thy life from the grave ; who crown-
eth thee with lovingkindness and tender mer-
cies ;
Who satisfieth thy old age with good, so that thy
youth is renewed like the eagle's.
The Lord executeth justice and equity for all the op-
pressed.
The Lord is merciful and kind, slow to anger and
rich in mercy.
He hath not dealt with us according to our sins, nor
requited us according to our iniquities,
As high as are the heavens above the earth, so great
is His mercy to them that fear Him.
As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He
removed our transgressions from us.
Even as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord
pitieth them that fear Him.
For He knoweth our frame, He remembereth that we
are dust.
As for man, His days are as grass ; as a flower of the
field, so he flourisheth.
The wind passeth over it, and it is gone ; and its
place shall know it no more.
But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to
everlasting, and His righteousness to children's
children.

The Lord hath established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom ruleth over all.

Bless the Lord, ye His angels, ye mighty ones who do His commands, hearkening to the voice of His word !

Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts ; ye, His ministers, who do His pleasure !

Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion ! Bless the Lord, O my soul !

REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS.

XLVI. Out of the Depths.

PSALM 130 and 143.

- M.* Out of the depths do I cry to thee, O Lord ! O Lord, listen to my voice, be attentive to my supplication !
- C.* If Thou, O Lord, shouldst treasure up transgressions, O Lord, who could stand ?
 But with Thee is forgiveness, that Thou mayst be feared
 I trust in the Lord ; my soul doth trust, and in His promise do I confide.
 My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they who watch for the morning ;
 Yea, more than they who watch for the morning !
 O Israel ! trust in the Lord ! for with the Lord is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption.
 He will redeem Israel from all His iniquities.

Hear my prayer, O Lord ! give ear to my supplications ! in Thy faithfulness, and in Thy righteousness, answer me !

Enter not into judgment with Thy servant ; for before Thee no man living is righteous.

My spirit is overwhelmed within me ; my heart within me is desolate.

I remember the days of old ; I meditate on all Thy works ; I muse on the deeds of Thy hands.

I stretch forth my hands unto Thee ; my soul thirsteth for Thee, like a parched land.

Hear me speedily, O Lord ! my spirit faileth ; hide not Thy face from me, lest I become like those who go down to the grave !

Cause me to see Thy lovingkindness speedily ; for in Thee do I trust !

Make known to me the way which I should take ; for to Thee do I lift up my soul !

Deliver me, O Lord ! from mine enemies ; for in Thee do I seek refuge !

Teach me to do Thy will ; for Thou art my God ! let Thy good spirit lead me in a plain path !

Revive me, O Lord ! for Thy name's sake ! in Thy righteousness, bring me out of my distress !

XLVII. The Gracious God.

PSALM 51.

M. Be gracious unto me, O God ! according to Thy lovingkindness ; according to the greatness of Thy mercy, blot out my transgressions !

C, Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin !

For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is
ever before me.

Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and in Thy
sight have I done evil ;

So that Thou art just in Thy sentence, and righteous
in Thy judgment.

Behold ! Thou desirest truth in the heart ; so teach
me wisdom in my inmost soul !

Make me to hear joy and gladness, so that the
bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice !

Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my
iniquities !

Create within me a clean heart, O God ! renew
within me a steadfast spirit !

Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not
Thy holy spirit from me !

Restore to me the joy of Thy protection, and
strengthen me with a willing spirit !

Then will I teach Thy ways to transgressors, and
sinners shall be converted to Thee.

Deliver me from the guilt of blood, O God, the God
of my salvation ! that my tongue may sing
aloud of Thy goodness !

O Lord ! open Thou my lips, that my mouth may
show forth Thy praise !

For Thou desirest not sacrifice, else would I give it ;
Thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice which God loveth is a broken spirit ; a
broken and contrite heart, O God ! Thou wilt
not despise !