

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity.

*The Collect.*

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve; Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. *Amen*



**13** For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. **14** For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: **15** Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. **16** Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (Romans 4:13-16)

In our discussion of the Types of Christ found, primarily, in the Old Testament, the conclusion is unavoidable that most are in the very presumed genealogical line of Christ. Adam was the first man and, therefore, father of all according to the flesh just as Christ is the firstborn of the Kingdom of God. Seth was the father of the Semites of which the children of Promise (Israel) and the Children of the Law and Flesh (Hagar/Ishmael) are descended. Rachab, Boaz, Ruth, and David are also in that same genealogical family line. Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and others shared that line as well in a more immediate sense. So a beautifully painted mural of Christ begins to emerge as we study these faded types of that Masterpiece which is Christ. Today we will undertake to study the ways in which Abraham is a type of Christ in both his life and calling.

Our ancient father, Abraham, speaks to us from the dust of the earth and from the more articulate pages of Holy Scripture. It is a story of a promised Redeemer first revealed eastward in Eden, confirmed in the arrested sacrifice of Isaac on Mount Moriah, and fulfilled and consummated on the brow of a rugged hill called Golgotha (also Mt Moriah) by the only Begotten Son of God. The account given of Abraham is a story that is not a parable, but a true-to-life story of a man whose entire life was under the Providential and predestined will of Almighty God. It is true that God reveals Himself to us often through the lives of His people. What aspect of the nature of God is being revealed to others through your life, dear Reader?

*Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after*

*thee.* (Gen 17:5-7) Before ever there was a called-out People of God, Abraham was called and chosen to be the progenitor of, not the fleshly seed, but the Promised (or spiritual ) Seed of the coming Redeemer. Christ, too, was called and appointed as the Savior when there was no world, no sun or moon, and no people to populate the world that God would create. Christ accepted that awful role as the Lamb of God in the Hall and Council of Heaven in Eternity past.

It is interesting to note that God made Abraham the Father of Many Nations before there was yet a single nation to qualify for the role. Christ also is the everlasting Father who was so designated before the foundations of the world. *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.* (Isaiah 9:6) The everlasting Father suggests that Christ was Father of His people before there were any to be father of. This demonstrates the amazing Providence, Foreknowledge, and Predestined Will of God active from before the worlds were made in eternity past. Abram means 'high father' in the Hebrew. His name was changed by God to Abraham meaning high father of multitudes.

The life of Abraham's son, Isaac, was spared by a lamb caught in the thicket.(Genesis 22:13) That lamb was a foreshadow of Christ's sacrifice. The life of Barabbas was spared by Christ when Barabbas was caught in his crimes. Christ died in place of Barabbas just as Christ died in place of Isaac, and you and me. So you believe that you are good and righteous? Christ died for a hardened murderer in the same way He died for YOU.

Remember that animal that suffered the first death on earth after Adam sinned? Adam and Eve were naked, just as the sins of you and me make us naked to God's view. There must needs be a covering for our sins to save us the reproach of God and man: *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.* (Gen 3:21) An innocent animal had to die to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve, and the Lamb of God had to die to cover the sins of you and me. God made a promise in the distant dews and damps of Eden: *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.* (Gen 3:15) That seed of the woman (not of man but of Mary) would be the promised Redeemer through the lineage of Abraham. Abraham, too, sojourned for a time in Egypt just as the presumed parents of Jesus had taken Him into Egypt to sojourn until the wrath of Herod had expired. That Promise made to Abraham of a blessed Seed is the same promise realized in Christ. It is not the seed of the flesh that is blessed by God, but the children who have received and believed the Promise (the spiritual Seed). That Promise has nothing to do with race or tribe, but with the treasures of the heart in Christ. *They which are the children of the flesh* (neither Jews, Hebrews, Greek or others), *these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise* (those who believe upon the name of Jesus Christ whether Jew or Gentile) *are counted for the seed.* (Romans 9:8)

Abraham served as king, priest and prophet in his own family; so is Christ King, Priest, and Prophet of His Church.

Abraham and Sarah erred in not waiting upon the promise of God. They were childless in old age. Sarah gave her maidservant to Abraham by which he might have an offspring. That was not the will of God! That child of Hagar (the mother by law of the firstborn) was not the child of Promise. Ishmael was the child of the law and of the

flesh. So God gave Sarah conception of that Promised Child in Isaac – the Seed of Promise which came, like Christ, through the agency of a miracle.

You will remember that Abraham cast out Hagar (the mother of the firstborn in the eyes of the law) and Ishmael (the seed of the flesh) just as Christ cast out the legal covenant and fleshly seed from His Church. *For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.* (Gal 4:22-31)

I pray that you, Reader, will see the profundity of promise verified in these choice verses. Hagar is referred to in the Hellenized text as Agar. Hagar represents the Jewish legalist as well as the Moslem legalist, and all other legalist. Sarah represents the mother of Faith. Isaac, and you and I, as believers, are children of the promise made free in Christ. Those who are the children of fleshly desires and motivations persecute those of us of faith. In the USA, that persecution has started as a subtle hushing of the voice of faith and conscience. It has recently grown beyond that subtlety and is manifested in the arm of the law to stop Christian worship.

Abraham is called the heir of the world. Christ is the consummate heir of both heavenly and earthly power. Are you sincerely a child of the Promise?