



Second Sunday after Pentecost

18 June 2017

Sentence

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand. *Romans 5.1-2*

Collect

All-powerful God,
in Jesus Christ you turned death into life,
and defeat into victory:
increase our faith and trust in him,
that we may triumph over evil,
in the strength of the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

This is a description of ideal hospitality and the motif of secretly divine visitors who effectively 'test' the host's character is common in folklore. The narrator uses Sarah's laughter to stress the incredibility of God's promise of a son, who is eventually born and named Isaac, which means 'he laughs'.

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and

after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.’ So they said, ‘Do as you have said.’ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, ‘Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.’ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, ‘Where is your wife Sarah?’ And he said, ‘There, in the tent.’ Then one said, ‘I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.’ And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, ‘After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?’ The LORD said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh, and say, “Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?” Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.’ But Sarah denied, saying, ‘I did not laugh’; for she was afraid. He said, ‘Oh yes, you did laugh.’

Gen. 18. 1-15

Reader Hear the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 116.1-2, 11-18 APBA page

This song gives thanks for healing. v. 15 is an anomaly as it is alien to Israel's faith and the text may be read as 'fidelity'.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Paul's argument in Romans takes into account Abraham's faith that though he was 'dead' ie an old man without children, God would raise up heirs for him, among whom are we Gentiles whose inclusion in the promise fulfilled in Christ is based solely on our trust in God's promise.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5.1-11

Reader May your word live in us

All And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

All Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord says, 'As you go, proclaim the good news:
the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

All Alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you.

ALL And also with you.

Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Only in Matthew does Jesus tell the twelve, who represent the tribes of Israel, to limit their mission to Israel. While Matthew's community had a concern for Gentiles, its first mission was to Israel.

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:

'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Matthew 9.35-10.8

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord
ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer for the Week. Lord, we beseech you to keep your family, the Church, in continual godliness, that through your protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve you in good works, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible Readings next week.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 21.8-21 Ps 86.1-10, 16-17 Rom. 6.1b-11 Matt. 10.24-39

Pray for the Faithful Departed:

Kristina Smith, Edward Butler, Colin Wilkinson, Noel Wilkinson, Nicholas Sanderson, Frederick Blundell Preston Minchin, Ada Mavis Phillips, T. Harvey Barnett, Myra McSpedden & Brenda Dawson

whose anniversaries occur this week.

Commemorations of the week.

June 22 Alban, the first British martyr (d. c.209). He was probably a pagan soldier, who sheltered a priest and was converted and baptised by him. He was arrested and martyred in the amphitheatre, refusing to sacrifice to the gods.

June 24 The birth of John the Baptist.

Recorded in Luke.1.5-25, 57-80

