



8 - 14 Dec, 2019

Jesus Christ, Who brought us into adoption by the Father

‘For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given’ Isaiah 9:6a

Jesus Christ paternal genealogy according to Matthew (Mt1:1-6)

- † Jesus Christ descended as a man from the lineage of Abraham
- † Christ’s ancestry is a lot like ours; it includes both righteous and wicked people. It includes also faithful kings and murderers, Jews and Gentiles, kings and peasants
- † Jewish genealogical lists normally included only men. The mention of women (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba) is unusual especially that each is either a Gentile or a sinner
- † The inclusion of the women declares God’s graciousness
 - it prefigures the calling of Gentiles into the Church
 - It underscores the role of women in God’s plan of salvation and anticipates the special place of the Virgin Mary in that plan

The maternal genealogy of Christ according to Luke (Lk 3:23-38)

- † Jesus Christ was born by Mary and as the ‘adopted’ son of Joseph
- † Christ, by His birth, brought all mankind, since Adam, into adoption by the Father. He took our flesh to make us part of the fellowship of the Father and the Son

Adoption brought us the right of being heirs of the Father

- † *‘But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ’ Gal 4:4-7*
- † We have become by grace what God is by nature
- † *‘Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect’ Mt 5:48*

Adoption is blessed with God pouring out the Spirit of sonship

† *'For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God'*
Rom 8:14

† *'He took my body, He offers me His Spirit. He takes my flesh to sanctify me, He gives me His Spirit to save me'* **Saint John Chrysostom**

† *'Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in you, Whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's'* **1 Cor 6:19-20**

'This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it' **Ps 118:24 (Lk 2:1-20)**

† **Christmas day is the 'fulness of time'**

† *'Since therefore all rejoice, I too desire to rejoice. I too wish to share the choral dance, to celebrate the festival. But I take my part, not plucking the harp, not shaking the Thyrsian staff, not with the music of pipes, nor holding a torch, but holding in my arms the cradle of Christ. For this is all my hope, this my life, this my salvation, this my pipe, my harp. And bearing it I come, and having from its power received the gift of speech, I too, with the angels, sing: Glory to God in the Highest; and with the shepherds: and on earth peace to men of good will'* **Saint John Chrysostom**

Christmas is when the Kingdom of Heaven became on earth too **(Lk 2:1-20)**

† *'Bethlehem this day resembles Heaven; hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices; and in place of the sun, enfolds within itself on every side the Sun of Justice. And ask not how: for where God wills, the order of nature yields. For He willed, he had the power, He descended, He redeemed; all things move in obedience to God'* **Saint John Chrysostom**

† **Like the shepherds, let us follow God's call without waiting, nor philosophizing**

† **As children of the Most High, let us throw ourselves into His Way, remembering our identity. 'They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world'** **John 17:16**

Bibliography

1. Agioi Anargyroi. 'Homily on the Nativity of Christ, by St. John Chrysostom.' Full of Grace and Truth, January 1, 1970. Accessed September 10, 2019. <http://full-of-grace-and-truth.blogspot.com/2011/12/homily-on-nativity-of-christ-by-st-john.html>.
2. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'' Galatians 4:6

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

✝ Christ, my eldest brother, made me the adopted child of God

My reaction

✝ Am I seeking the Holy Spirit and His guidance?

✝ Am I being the temple of Christ?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights

16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Armenian Catholic Church in prayer

قانون الايمان
نؤمن بالله واحد
أب ضابط الكل
خالق السماء والأرض
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح
ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق، مساو للأب في الجوهر
الذي به كان كل شيء
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السماء
وتجسد بالروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء
وصار إنساناً وصُلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
وتألم ومات وقبر
وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الأب
وسياتي أيضاً بمجد عظيم ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لمملكته
وبالروح القدس، الرب المحيي
المُنْبِتِيق من الأب والإبن، الذي هو مع الأب والإبن
يُسجَد له ويُمجَّد، الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل
ويكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
وننتظر قيامة الأموات والحياة في الدهر الآتي
أمين

الصلاة الربانية
أبانا الذي في السموات
ليتقدس اسمك
ليأت ملكوتك
لنكن مشيبتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا
واغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا
كما نحن نغفر
لمن أخطأ وأساء إلينا
ولا تدخلنا في التجارب
لكن نجنا من الشرير
أمين