

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Aitkin, Minnesota

January 16, 2022

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

ONLINE ORDER OF WORSHIP

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the

grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Ps. 36:5–9; antiphon: Song 2:4

[The Lord] brought me to the ban- | queting house,*
and his banner over | me was love.

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the | heavens,*
your faithfulness | to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the moun- | tains of God;*
your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast
you save, | O LORD.

How precious is your steadfast love, | O God!*

The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow | of
your wings.

They feast on the abundance | of your house,*
and you give them drink from the river of | your delights.

For with you is the foun- | tain of life;*
in your light do | we see light.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

[The Lord] brought me to the ban- | queting house,*
and his banner over | me was love.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of

Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 62:1–5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;

for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.

For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your sons marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:1–11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 2:1–11

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the

servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Sermon Text – John 2:1-11

Sermon Theme – First of His Signs

When a man and a woman chose to have a church wedding, they have decided to add one more person to their guest list. That would be Jesus. The thing is: when they invite Jesus to their wedding they don't even have to pay for His meal.

That was not true in the wedding that we hear about in our Gospel Lesson for today. Jesus was invited to a wedding and so were His disciples. You got to believe that they all had something to eat and drink.

The wedding feast in Bible times didn't just last a few hours. They lasted for days. Can you imagine feeding your wedding guest for a whole week? It would be embarrassing for the hosts of the wedding, whether that is the couple themselves or the groom or bride's parents, to run out of food and drink.

Well, Mary, the mother of Jesus, noticed that the family was about to run out of wine. We are not told how Mary came to realize that. It is my guess that Mary was somehow related to one of the couple getting married. Maybe she was an aunt who was helping with the food. It

really doesn't matter how she knew that they were running out of wine; what matters is that Mary thought Jesus could do something about it. She comes to Jesus and tells Him, **"they have no wine"** (John 2:3).

Jesus makes no promises to His mother. But she had faith that her son would do the right thing. She told the servants, **"Do whatever he tells you"** (John 2:5). What an example Mary sets for you and me. Like her when we go to Him in prayer, we can trust that Jesus will do the right thing.

We are told that at the wedding feast **"there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rite of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons"** (John 2:6). Jesus told the servants, **"Fill the jars with water"** (John 2:7). That would be somewhere between 120 to 130 gallons of water which the servants would have to draw up from a well. Even though that is true we are told that **"they filled them to the brim"** (John 2:7).

Then Jesus said to them, **"Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast"** (John 2:8). When they did that the water had turned into wine and it was very good wine? That's what the master of the feast said. He didn't know that it was water that miraculously been turned into wine. But the servants knew.

It was a nice thing that Jesus did. He had saved some friends or relatives from an embarrassing situation. The thing we have to remember, though, is that's not why John tells about this miracle. That's also not why Jesus had come into the world.

What makes this miracle important is found in the last verse of our text. There it says, **"This, the first of his signs,**

Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believe in him” (John 2:11).

John uses that word “signs” 17 times in his Gospel. The last time is in chapter 20. There he writes **“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name”** (John 20:30-31).

That’s the point of this miracle; that is the point of all of Jesus’ miracles. He wants people to believe that He **“is the Christ, the Son of God.”** He wants people to believe so that they **“have life in his name.”** He wants people to believe; He wants you to believe.

You see the reason Jesus came into the world was not just to save us from some embarrassing situation. The reason Jesus came into the world was to save us from receiving the punishment our sin deserves. He came to save us from going to hell.

He wants us to believe. That’s why He performed signs during the time of His public ministry. The truth is: Jesus is still revealing Himself to us using signs. One of those is Baptism. Through the water and Word of Baptism, Jesus miraculously makes us His own. He washes away our sin.

In like manner in the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, Jesus miraculously gives us His body and His blood in, with, and under the bread and wine, for the forgiveness of sin.

Yes, Jesus has given many signs to us: at Cana, at Calvary, at the empty tomb, at the font, and at the

communion rail. All these signs have the same purpose: it is **“so that [we] may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing [we] may have life in his name.”** AMEN

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Lord, You manifested Your glory in the sign at Cana. As You restored creation through the shedding of Christ's blood, pour out Your grace in abundance. Give us joy and gladness in the revelation of Your truth in the Person of Your Son.

Lord of glory, preserve Your Son's Bride, the Church. Make it her constant joy and delight to preach the Good News of forgiveness in her Savior to poor sinners.

Lord of glory, You blessed the wedding at Cana with Your presence and honored it with Your first miracle. Strengthen and give Your gladness to all married couples and their families. Be present in our homes and lives with Your free and abundant forgiveness, and preserve us in the true faith from each generation to the next.

Lord of glory, You rule this world by Your power. Give to our civil servants respect and recognition of Your creation and its nature. When they use the authority given them from above, let it be in accord with Your good design for our world and not the corruption of sin, which they are to rebuke for the good of their citizens.

Lord of glory, we bring before You the sick, distressed and needy [*especially* _____]. Give Your abiding

comfort in every circumstance, that in Christ we shall not die, but live and declare His works.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that of Your grace You have instituted holy matrimony, in which You keep us from unchastity and other offenses. We implore You, send Your blessing on every husband and wife. Do not let them provoke one another to anger and strife, but let them live peaceably together in love and godliness. Strengthen them with Your gracious help in all temptations, and help them to rear their children in accordance with Your will. Grant us all to walk before You in purity and holiness, putting our trust in You and leading such lives on earth that, in the world to come, we may have everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation; but deliver
us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
- C **Amen**

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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