

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 16, 2022

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, FALLS CHURCH, VA



PRELUDE

The Only Son from Heaven

Setting: Mark Knickelbein

WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN (Stand) #402

The Only Son from Heaven

- 1 The only Son from heaven,
Foretold by ancient seers,
By God the Father given,
In human form appears.
No sphere His light confining,
No star so brightly shining
As He, our Morning Star.
- 2 O time of God appointed,
O bright and holy morn!
He comes, the king anointed,
The Christ, the virgin-born,
Grim death to vanquish for us,
To open heav'n before us
And bring us life again.
- 3 O Lord, our hearts awaken
To know and love You more,
In faith to stand unshaken,
In spirit to adore,
That we, through this world moving,
Each glimpse of heaven proving,
May reap its fullness there.
- 4 O Father, here before You
With God the Holy Ghost
And Jesus, we adore You,
O pride of angel host:
Before You mortals lowly
Cry, "Holy, holy, holy,
O blessèd Trinity!"

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

p. 203

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

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

(Silence for reflection)

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation; and for the peace of the whole world and the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise; and for the well-being of the whole church of God in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

p. 204

- 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.
- 2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

**3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. Amen.**



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST LESSON (Be seated)

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 128 (Read responsively)

Blessèd is everyone who fears the LORD,
who walks in his ways!

**You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;
you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.

**Behold, thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the LORD.**

The LORD bless you from Zion!
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life!

**May you see your children's children!
Peace be upon Israel!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE (Stand)

p. 205

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
These things are written that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 2nd chapter

Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus. Amen. Dear friends in Christ:

This past summer, Theresa and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary. One of the things we did to mark the occasion was to watch our wedding video. We hadn't watched the video in many years – and were delighted to find out how much fun it was to hear again the messages people gave us that day, and to re-live the sequence of events, and of course to notice how young everyone looked. Through the video we were reminded not only of how joyful we were but also how God uses traditions, acts of commitment, and many, many people to bless us.

We were thankful to have that video too. And thankful that we copied it some years back to a format where it can still be played, because that VHS player was thrown away years ago!

Today's Gospel reading records portions of a wedding that Jesus attended with his mother and his disciples. We're grateful for the scenes preserved here too. But let's keep in mind that this text is really not so much about a wedding. It has some helpful message for marriage and can certainly be read at a wedding. But the text's main purpose is to teach us about Jesus. Specifically, it's central point is to tell us what kind of ministry Jesus is bringing.

At this point in John's Gospel, Jesus has been sufficiently introduced and his first disciples have started to follow him. Now Jesus makes his first recorded appearance at a public gathering.

And here a series of conversations and events unfold which culminate in a wonderful miracle. Jesus turns water into wine.

The miracle may be the most memorable event. But we are wise to look closely at all the details given here. For included in them are many clues which speak to the nature of Jesus' ministry.

The first to be noted is the one which John mentions specifically at the end of the story's telling. John says that "This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory."

Jesus' ministry will be one in which his glory is revealed. The miracle was a certain sign of this, for it was the doing of something that you and I can't do. We can't turn water into wine. No one can.

We can do tricks. I recently learned that one of the more popular convenience store wines, Boone's Farm, is actually a malt-based product, made that way to avoid certain taxes on real wine. Very sneaky! But just a trick.

Jesus doesn't do tricks. His workings are the real deal. His miracle was real and revealed him as one who possessed the glory of God.

Jesus would perform many more miraculous deeds during his ministry. And through these, many people would put their faith in him. Jesus often used miracles to call people to faith.

But of course, Jesus wasn't performing miracles at every moment. Much of his ministry operated within the same laws of nature that bind us.

And this reminds us of another characterization of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' ministry is one in which his glory will at times need to be hidden. Meaning we won't always see it.

That's the point of Jesus' dialogue with his mother. His mother, Mary, noticed a need at the wedding and approached Jesus to see if would help. "They've run out of wine," she told him. But Jesus said to her: "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."

Jesus' reply to his mother's request sounds like a firm "no." But that's not quite right. Jesus, instead, is simply stating a fact – an important one that she and Jesus' disciples, including us, need to know.

When we read on in John's Gospel, we eventually understand what Jesus means here. For Jesus frequently refers to an "hour" yet to come. He mentions it to the Samaritan woman at the well. He tells of it to the Pharisees who questioned him near the pool of Bethesda. He speaks of it on other occasions too.

And then one day, when he is in Jerusalem and knows that he will soon be arrested, tried and crucified, he proclaims to the crowds that his hour "has come." And this tells us that the hour of Jesus' glory to which he has been referring, is the time of his death.

That hour is glorious because his death is a sacrifice for others—including you and me. And that hour is glorious because it accomplishes salvation for the world by paying the price of its sin.

When Jesus tells his mother that his hour has not yet come, it is a signal to her and to us that his glory will not yet be fully revealed. But it will start to be revealed, even as it will remain hidden from many.

This leads us to another understanding about Jesus' ministry. Jesus' ministry will be one that will start with servants and a small group of disciples.

In the story, it is the servants doing the work behind the scenes who get to see the glory of Jesus. They saw the miracle. And they saw the impact... much like those doing the work in any situation get to see what is really going on.

But would anyone believe them? After all, they were just servants.

Apparently, few if any did. Or maybe everyone just felt it was best to keep their mouth shut. We don't hear about Jesus' fame being spread at this point.

But that was according to Jesus' plan. For it was not yet the hour for his glory to be revealed.

Some, however, did see the glory that was there in that miracle. And they believed. We're told that Jesus' disciples certainly believed. I would imagine that a few more disciples may have been added to the number as well.

Which all reminds us that Jesus' followers are often the ones who work behind the scenes in life. Or see miracles that others don't. Or recognize God's glory in happenings when others miss it.

We know, too, that this is often a small group of followers, seemingly without great power. And yet, we know that Jesus looks at the heart of people, not their outward size or strength. And he works most powerfully with those who do the work of humble service.

This way of God's working will come as a surprise to many. Which points toward another teaching about Jesus' ministry from this text. Jesus' ministry is one that will bring surprising joy.

The message of joy is seen clearly in the miracle itself. Jesus turns water into wine. What could be more joyful than that?

And he did it at a wedding, where a family who was about to be extremely embarrassed was suddenly rescued. What a wonderful surprise! Jesus saved the day.

When one serves with Jesus, they will often experience times of surprising joy. These might come as someone is helped in a way that they didn't think was possible. Or as someone finds out that they have gifts and abilities in serving that they didn't think they had.

Yesterday I made a furniture delivery to a newly arrived Afghan family. This was the first delivery I had made since the pandemic started and it brought back good memories of many surprises from doing this work in the past, such as times when little children would beam proudly when I let them carry a small item for me, and times where we didn't know how we were going to get access to a building or move a particularly heavy piece of furniture, but God provided. That ministry has been a lot of fun over the years – more fun than I thought it would be. God be praised.

As we move on with the text's teachings on Jesus' ministry, we see, also, that it will be one that will bring some change in understanding and practice. This message is given symbolically through the text. When Jesus had jars for ritual purification filled with water, and then turned that water into wine, a change was being indicated, for wine had always symbolized the life that God gives to his people. And God has said through the prophets that one day he would do a new thing among them, as we heard in our reading from Isaiah earlier in the service.

Jesus himself would later speak to this change using similar language, saying: "No one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins."

Jesus is the new wine. And this new wine will need to be kept among the people in new forms.

We don't have time to consider all the changes that Jesus introduced by way of his new covenant. We simply note here that his ministry would bring change as prophesied and as alluded to in this text.

We should note, however, that this change then points to the change which needs to take place in our lives when we begin to follow Jesus. Following him requires a different life than the one that arises without him. Jesus calls us to a new life – one based on his teachings.

Living this life will not always be easy. And we will find that we continually need his help.

This need of ours, however, also serves a purpose. It reminds us to come to Jesus. Which is what Mary did at the wedding. "They have run out of wine," she said to him. As usual, Mary teaches us a great truth: when you have problem, or when you see one in the life of another, go to Jesus.

Today's text points also, then, to the fact that Jesus' ministry will be one that is filled with people coming to him in need. We see this clearly as the Gospels unfold. The sick, the wounded, the angry, the demon-possessed... all kinds of people with needs were coming to Jesus.

You and I go to Jesus when we trust him. And we go most directly to Jesus in our prayers. There we tell him our troubles. Or intercede on behalf of others. We ask Jesus to make things better, and to do so according to his will. Jesus hears our prayers and answers as he knows best.

Sometimes the answer to our prayer is found in the words and actions of Jesus which are recalled for us in that prayer, for prayer is not just about speaking but also about listening... listening for the Spirit to lead us to God's Word.

That truth is seen in today's text also. After hearing Jesus speak to her, Mary said to the servants: "Do whatever he tells you."

And here we have another word of gold from Mary – one that describes yet another characteristic of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' ministry is one in which people are urged to do whatever he says.

We servants of Jesus are always to do whatever he tells us. Life will go better that way. Really. It may not always bring immediate returns. It may not make us popular. It may even seem illogical at times. And life will still be filled with challenges. But it will bring the blessing of God.

In the text, Jesus told the servants to fill up the jars with water. And they did. I've always thought that this in itself was a minor miracle. What would have convinced them that all this water would be needed? Water in that part of the world is precious. And who was Jesus to tell the servants of the wedding family what to do?

But they did what Jesus said. And their actions were blessed. Water was turned to wine! And even more, they got to see the glory of God in the person of Jesus.

So far in this sermon I've listed seven teachings about Jesus' ministry to which this text points. I don't know if anyone has been counting! But I'm going to conclude with one more. It's a simple point. But very, very important.

Jesus' ministry will show people that he can help. His mother came to him with a problem. And he helped. He turned water into wine, and impending disaster into joy.

If Jesus can do these things, then he can help us also. He can turn our sour into sweet, our bitterness into peace, our hatred into love, our anger into joy.

John tells us that Jesus' miracle that day was his first – meaning there would be others. Many of these are recorded in the scriptures. Many will come in our lives too.

The greatest helping miracle of Jesus is recorded as his ministry culminates. This is his help of salvation – his saving of those who trust him from their sin. In this help he turns guilt into innocence, shame into acceptance, and, best of all, the sentence of death into the promise of life.

The miracle at the wedding at Cana points ahead to this salvation, and to all the amazing help Jesus gives. And it reminds us to be grateful.

“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation,” David once wrote in a psalm. This seems a fitting prayer for today's lesson as well. May God fill us with joy because of what he has done for us. And may God lead us to speak to him, invite him, obey him and trust him.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY (Stand) #408

Come, Join in Cana's Feast

- 1 Come, join in Cana's feast
Where Christ is honored guest.
He welcomes all who come to taste
The wine His hands have blessed.**
- 2 The old wine now is gone
From jars that stand apart.
No longer can it satisfy
The yearning, thirsting heart.**
- 3 But Christ, the Word made flesh,
Bids water turn to wine.
He fills our empty cups again
With grace and truth divine.**
- 4 Come, friends, and share the feast;
Here drink the wine supplied
By Him who is both guest and host—
For us, the crucified.**
- 5 For now He lives and reigns
Through all eternity
With Father, Spirit, Three in One,
The glorious Trinity.**

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Stand)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

To God, who manifested His glory in the sign at Cana and restored creation through the shedding of Christ's blood, that He would give us joy and gladness in the revelation of His truth and the abundance of His grace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church, the Bride of Christ, that preaching the Good News of forgiveness to poor sinners may always be her joy and delight, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all married couples and their families, that Christ, who blessed the wedding at Cana with His presence and honored it with His first miracle, would be present in our homes with His free and abundant forgiveness, in order to preserve us in the true faith and carry it from each generation to the next, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our civil servants, that they would respect and recognize God's creation and its nature; and that they would use the authority given them from above in accordance with our Lord's good design for the world, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick, distressed, and those in need, especially Eric, Geraine, Ann, Arlo, Sophia, Dolly, Melissa, Gloria, Norma, Trudy, Mary Ann, June, Peter, Wendy, Halle, Arthur, Ron, Jim, Linda, Tawni, Reaghann, Victoria, and all whom we name in our hearts... that God would give them His abiding comfort in every circumstance and remind them that in Christ we shall not die but live and declare His works, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For worthy reception of the Lord's Supper in repentance and faith, that as Christ manifested Himself by the sign at Cana, transforming water into wine, so He would also manifest Himself to us here, transforming bread and wine to be His very body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that of Your grace You have freed us from our offenses and set us on the path of life. 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.**



THE LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

PREFACE TO HOLY COMMUNION

p. 208

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good right and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

p. 208

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE 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.

PAX DOMINI

P. 210

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

DISTRIBUTION (Be seated)

The Communion Assistant will come forward to receive first, then those from the pulpit side – by order of pew, front to back. Communicants will come up the center aisle and return via the side aisle. When all from the pulpit side have communed, the baptismal font side will commune in the same manner. Distancing must be maintained between all communicants. We ask that the wine be consumed away from the tray table. Empty cups should be dropped into the baskets.

NUNC DIMITTIS

p. 211

- 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.
- 2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.

*POST-COMMUNION COLLECT (Stand)**BENEDICTION**SENDING HYMN #398**Hail to God's Anointed*

- 1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression
And rule in equity.
- 2 He comes with rescue speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in His sight.

- 3 He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth.
Before Him on the mountains
Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.**
- 4 Kings shall fall down before Him
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all people sing.
To Him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.**
- 5 O'er ev'ry foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever—
That name to us is Love.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Be seated)

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE Hail to God's Anointed Setting: Matthew Machener

Those serving:

Sunday, January 16, 8:30 a.m.:

Greeter: Bob Juenger
Comm. assist: Dede Dixon
Reader: Anne Kauzlarich

10:30 a.m.:

Greeter: Michael Chamberlain
Comm. assist: Judy Koucky
Reader: Lynn Jacquez

Acknowledgements

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