



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

CHURCH AT HOME

Announcements:

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for January 16, 2022, celebrating the Second Sunday after Epiphany.

Pastor Mike is currently on a medical leave of absence. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Jack Dressler - **519-250-7210**.

REMINDER – NO IN-PERSON WORSHIP ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

- **Sunday January 23**
- **Sunday January 30**

We will continue to update everyone as to when we will have in-person worship again (we are hoping for Sunday February 6).

Thank you again for your support for Trinity. Please continue to mail in cheques, or drop them off in the church's mailbox or make your donation either through PAR or through the Donate button on the church's website, at "www.trinitylutheran.ca".

Introduction

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all! **And also with you!**

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

⁴You 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.

⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Psalm: Psalm 36:5-10

We feast upon the abundance of your house, O LORD.

⁵Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, and your faithfulness to the clouds.

⁶**Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; you save humankind and animals, O LORD.**

⁷How priceless is your love, O God!

All people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

⁸**They feast upon the abundance of your house; you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

⁹For with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light.

¹⁰**Continue your lovingkindness to those who know you,**

and your favor to those who are true of heart.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing their spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God's Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Gospel Reading: John 2:1-11

Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took

it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon: The God who came to bring you joy (written by Rev. Paul Rydecki of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico)

Changing water into wine. That was Jesus’ first miracle after His “inauguration day” - that’s, in a sense, what His Baptism was, an inauguration into the Office of the Christ. Not that He wasn’t the Christ before that! He was! The angel declared already to the shepherds of Bethlehem that “unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.” Jesus’ whole life on earth was one great offering to God and one great act of service on mankind’s behalf. But He began His public ministry when He was about 30 years old, on the day He was baptized.

We hear all too much of what certain elected officials intend to do on “day one” after their inauguration. Do you remember what Jesus did on day one? Let’s fast forward, for the moment, past the 40 days He spent in the wilderness right after He was baptized, where He was tempted by the devil. Upon His return to the Jordan River, He was immediately and openly declared by John the Baptist to be **the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world**. On the next day, which we’ll call “day one” of Jesus’ actual ministry, John privately pointed two of His disciples to Jesus again, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” And they went to Him and spent the day with Him and began learning from Him as His first disciples. On day two, Jesus gathered two more disciples on His way up to the region of Galilee. And then on the next day, the third day, where our Gospel begins, they all attended a wedding to which they had all been invited, together with Jesus’ mother, in a town called Cana. And there, the Apostle John tells us, **He manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.**

What did Jesus’ first miracle teach His first disciples about Him? What do we learn from this first official act of His about the purpose of His coming? I’ll summarize it this way: We learn that this Man is God, the God who came to bring us joy.

Let's look at the event recorded for us only in John's Gospel. First, as Jesus introduces Himself to His disciples, think about the contrast they must have noticed between Jesus and their former teacher, John the Baptist. John wore camel-skin clothing, lived alone, out in the desert, avoided society, and never touched a grape, much less a cup of wine. Jesus was relatively "normal." He did attend weddings and social gatherings. He did drink wine, or at very least sat approvingly at the table where wine was served and, as we see in this account, even provided more wine for the guests who had already been drinking it. His was not to be a ministry of solitude or of shunning joyful gatherings. And although He would never marry, He showed His approval of the institution of marriage by attending this wedding on the third day of His ministry.

They ran out of wine early, which was not an earth-shattering problem, but it would have brought some shame upon the bridegroom and some disappointment to the guests. At that point, Mary, who seems to have had some role in running this wedding banquet, said to Jesus, **They have no wine**. Not a demand, but certainly an implied suggestion. "Maybe You want to do something about it." Mary knew that Jesus had now come forward publicly to begin His ministry, so she thought it was her place to guide Him.

His response shows that He was not interested in being guided by His mother. **Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come**. It's as if He looked into the future and saw how people would try to approach, not Jesus, but His mother Mary to intercede for them, to guide her Son into helping them. No! Jesus makes it clear with His answer that Mary needs to step back from the motherly role she had had up until then. She was not to be His guide. He would determine, in communion with His heavenly Father and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, when His hour had come, and His true "hour," His true moment for revealing His glory wouldn't come for over three years, during Holy Week, when St. John records Jesus finally saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified," in His crucifixion and death.

Mary did step back, humbly. But she prepared the servants, in case Jesus decided to help. **Whatever he says to you, do it**. And He did tell them to do something. There were six stone jars there. **Fill the jars with water**, He said. So they did. **Now draw some and take it to the master of the feast**. And just like that, the water was turned into wine, and not some watery wine or barely drinkable wine, but, as the master of the feast noted, the best wine. Only the creative power of God can do that.

But only a few knew at the time what had happened—the servants who had drawn the water, and Jesus' new disciples. Jesus wasn't looking for attention or for human

praise. Still, for those few, and now for us all, it was and is an epiphany: this Man, who appears so normal, this Man, who attends weddings and wedding banquets, this Man, whom John the Baptist declared the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, is God.

If Jesus is God, then the pressing question is, what was God doing here, walking among us, living among us, attending wedding banquets, changing water into wine? Later in John's Gospel, Jesus tells us why He has come: **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.** That's what the Psalmist said, too: **You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

God's goal for each of us is that we may have life and joy in His presence. And as Jesus showed at Cana, He even wishes to give us moments of joy here in this sin-infested world. Joy at the wedding of husband and wife, joy among friends and family, joy in a glass of wine that "gladdens the heart of man," as the Psalm says.

But those are moments of joy, fleeting moments here, not destined to last, not supposed to be the permanent state of human beings in a world that now remains under a curse. Adam and Eve ruined the perfect life and joy that God had intended for our race, and we've been ruining it ever since with our own sins, with our worry, with our anxious fear, with our distrust of God and His Word, and with our self-serving words and deeds. Add to that the sins and the wickedness of the world around us, and the rage of the devil who is always prowling around, looking for someone to devour, and it's clear, this world will never be and can never be the home of life and joy. Again, it isn't supposed to be.

And so God became Man, and that Man is God, so that He might be that very Lamb of God that John the Baptist proclaimed Him to be just three days before the wedding at Cana, the sacrificial Lamb, the one who would shed His blood on the cross as the payment for the world's sins. And now He calls out in the Gospel to all who hear, "I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly! I have come that you may have fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore!" But the path to that life and to that joy is repentance, is humbling yourself before God, confessing your sins, and looking to Christ for forgiveness, life, and salvation, which He offers right here in the preaching of the Gospel, in the waters of Baptism, and in the communion of His own body and blood with the bread and wine of the Holy Supper. Those who trust in Him know a different kind of joy, even when the world is crumbling, the joy of peace with God, the joy of knowing that God will keep every promise made to His baptized people, and the joy that

comes with the assurance of faith that God will bring us safely to the fullness of joy in His presence, to the joy of eternal life.

So give thanks for the moments of joy here, in this wilderness. Those moments are gifts of God, as is the ability to enjoy them. But understand, they're fleeting, and they may be few and far between in this world. So look to Christ for fullness of joy in His presence, for pleasures forevermore at His right hand. And let the moments and glimpses of joy here in this life—let those moments not be the goal of your life that you strive for and yearn for and even covet when they don't come as frequently as you would wish, but let them be little reminders of the fullness of joy that's coming when Christ appears for the real wedding banquet, where He is the Bridegroom and the Church is His Bride. He is the God who came to bring you joy. And if you remain in Him and He in you, then He will soon bring you to the perfect joy of that glorious wedding feast. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

The Prayers of Intercession

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

By your Spirit, activate within your church gifts of faith, healing, and prophecy. Unite those who profess your name across congregations, denominations, and geographic boundaries. Open our hearts to recognize and celebrate surprising miracles. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation reflects your generosity. Bless farmers, migrant farmworkers, orchard-keepers, ranchers, and all who tend the abundance of the land. Protect food and water sources from destruction, that all can eat and drink and be satisfied. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

By your Spirit, grant wisdom, knowledge, and discernment to those who hold leadership positions at any level. Direct policymakers toward compassionate decisions that build up safe and just communities. Lead all authorities in seeking and serving the common good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As Jesus provided generously in a moment of need, provide generous gifts of healing for those in need this day. Provide abundantly for all who are hungry or thirsty, all seeking shelter, and all who seek peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You see us for who we are and you delight in us. Embrace those struggling with self-worth, wrestling with self-identity, or facing significant life transition. Remind us that nothing can separate us from your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of presence, bless those of this community who cannot be with us this morning, and those who walk with them, especially:

In Residence: Margaret; Maria; Stan; Katie; Katherine; Cordelle;

Needing our prayers: Peter; Brenda; Doug; Dorothy; Bill; Bev; Ed; Marilyn; Jordan; Audrey; John; John; Greg; Sam; Katie; Walter; Hart; Frank; Pastor Mike & Patti

Recovering: Katherine; Carol; Betty; Greg; Kati; Bill; Sharon; Mary;

And all those we name in our hearts...

God of grace, **hear our prayer..**

You bless us through the spiritual gifts of the saints who have gone before us. We give thanks for the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and all who have modeled the way of courageous faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**