

January 16th Worship – Second Sunday after Epiphany
Introduction to the Day

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates us,
redeems us,
and calls us by name.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you
and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory
when it did not appear as we expected.**

We have rejected your word

when it made us confront ourselves.

**We have failed to show hospitality
to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have
done and the things we have left undone.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe
in the glory of your Son born among us,
and reflect your love for all creation.**

Amen.

Rejoice in this good news:

In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

You are descendants of the Most High,
adopted into the household of Christ,
and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

Amen.

Gathering Song "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" #310 vs. 1,2,4

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.

Lesson – Isaiah 62:1-5

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.

Children's Message

Gospel – John 2:1-11

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.

Message

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

This Gospel text has become one of my very favorite wedding Gospels to preach.

The event itself, both in the text and the wedding at which it is preached, is a celebration. One that is, I’d imagine, relatively easy for us to imagine ourselves being a part of.

The party is happening, and the crowd is getting worn out. The wedding wine is gone, folks are filled to the brim with partying, and Jesus shows up.

This is great for weddings because it is easy in that moment to think of life as one big celebration. It is easy to imagine, amid the party of the wedding weekend, that life will be full of good times, and the metaphorical wedding wine will never run out.

But we all know that it does. That is life.

Like marriage, life has its ups and downs.

In the past weeks we have heard of the abundance of God’s grace. Two weeks ago it was Christ, the light coming into the world, the Word becoming flesh, from which we all receive grace upon grace. Last week it was the promise of each day being made new in the relationship that is the covenant of Baptism.

Today, this Gospel text, we see this lived out. We, just like the people living the story, have heard of the promise that Jesus is for us. We have heard the cries of John in the wilderness. We have been reminded of the prophecies from texts past. And now, we see it. We live it. We experience the fullness of God’s grace. God’s abundant mercy.

And we ask the question we find ourselves frequently asking. What do we do with it?

The disciples were there for it. They’d already been called from their boats. They’ve left their lives. They are following. But I’d imagine they were waiting for something to show them that it was worth it.

So, Jesus has them fill jugs totaling roughly 180 gallons of water. And when they taste it they realize it is some of the very best wine.

This is excessive.

It was the end of the party. The crowd had consumed the party provisions and the party was winding down. And Jesus shows up. With the very best wine. And it is received in abundance.

That's the thing about God's grace and mercy. It shows up when we think we don't need it. It shows up when we think we don't deserve. And it shows up when it may seem excessive.

And we receive it in abundance.

There are moments in life where this abundance is easy to receive. There are moments when it is easy to tell ourselves that we are deserving of God's grace and we receive it with open arms. And in those moments we even sometimes forget that it is God's presence in the moments making it happen.

But there are also those moments where we think it couldn't possibly be for us. And that is where God really shows up. And it is in those moments that God doesn't go away. It is in those moments that God's presence is excessive. Almost annoying. We'd rather that promise just leave us alone and let us wallow in our feelings. But that isn't how it works.

God is present. The grace and mercy of God's works its way into every crevasse of our lives and makes a home. God dwells, Jesus the Living Word, makes a home in our lives. The abundance of God's grace and mercy, the excessive love of Christ is always present.

The good wine of God's excessive abundant love for God's people shows up in the weakest least suspecting moments of our lives and makes its presence known.

Let us make that excessive abundant love of Christ known in our lives and in our world. That it would be known in the places and times where it is least expected.

Thanks be to God. Amen

Song of the Day "Bind Us Together"

Apostle's Creed

Prayers

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 (*especially Peyton, Kathy Smith, Matt Miller, Bob Hodges, Bob Kries, Jim and Sandy Nelson, Joe Christensen, Bill and Bonnie Kuehn, Steve Bradford, David Gunderson, Cassie Skinner, Keith Franson*). 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.

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 (*especially*). 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.

Offering**Offertory Prayer**

Blessed are you, O God,
Sovereign of the universe.
You offer us new beginnings
and guide us on our journey.
Lead us to your table,
nourish us with this heavenly food,
and prepare us to carry your love
to a hungry world,
in the name of Christ our light.

Amen.

Words of Institution – We invite you to find bread and wine or juice and partake in this Holy Meal.

(Holding the bread) In the night in which we was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and broke it, gave thanks and gave it for all to eat saying, “This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

(Holding the cup) Again after supper he took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it for all to drink saying, “this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. So often as you do this, remember me.”

Once you’ve taken the elements say, We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Lord’s Prayer**Communion Prayer**

Sending Song **“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”** **#535**

Blessing

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.

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements

You may have heard that as we move into the new year of The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we will be focusing on what it looks like to be (re)NEWed as a body of Christ. The next 7 weeks will start that in two ways:

First: in gathering what it is that you want to see happen in your church. Is it something NEW that you would like to help lead and grow? or something we have done before that you would like to bring back and (re)NEW in our current church family? Look for the opportunities posted in the church to write that down and start thinking about the people you would like to gather together to help make those happen.

Second: we will be starting a 7-week study, Old & New, A Study on Genesis. This is an opportunity to ignite new curiosity in the Bible and wonder how it might be made new in each of our lives. Each week there will be three options for you to join depending on your comfort and availability.

Sunday Mornings: In Person During Fellowship Time

Wednesday Morning: Hybrid—In Person at Good Shepherd and Via Zoom

Wednesday Evening: Digitally via Zoom

Small Group. Spirit inspired. People led.

As people of faith we are daily made new in the waters of Baptism. It is in Baptism that we find hope in community. That is going to be our focus here. What small group are you looking for? What are we missing? We want to hear from you!

Old & New Bible Study

Sunday morning in-person during fellowship

Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in person and Zoom

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

If you are interested in joining the study via Zoom, call the office or click on the link in the online newsletter.

Online Directory - Updates will be happening

DeAnne will be working on the online directory in the coming days. We want to make sure that all members are in our online directory. When we do this, you may receive an email stating your privacy has been changed.

Do not be alarmed, no one else sees this information outside of the church. This program is available to all members. If you need more information on how to use this, give DeAnne a call Monday-Thursday.

Giving Statements

We are working on getting your End-of-the-Year giving statements ready. Please be patient and you will have them before the end of the month.