

*Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church*

January 16, 2022  
*Second Sunday after Epiphany*



\*Please note that we typically will be using the blue With One Voice hymnal on the first and third Sundays of each month. Please follow along on the pages indicated.

**\*\*Congregational response is in bold print.**

*Prelude*

*Welcome and Announcements*

**BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Confession and Forgiveness*

WOV page 10-11

**GATHERING**

*Entrance Hymn*

**Bind Us Together**

WOV #748

**Please follow the service beginning on page 28 in the With One Voice Hymnal.**

*Prayer of the Day*

(please join in prayer)

**Celebrate insert**

P) The Lord be with you.

**C) And also with you.**

P) Let us pray...

**All) 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.**

*Prayer for Illumination*

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today — the voice of truth and grace. **Amen.**

*Readings and Psalm*

**Celebrate insert**

**Isaiah 62:1-5**

*As bridegroom and bride rejoice, so shall God rejoice over you*

**Psalm 36:5-10**

*We feast upon the abundance of your house, O Lord. (Ps. 36:8)*

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

*There are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit*

*Gospel Acclamation*

**Alleluia...**

WOV page 31-32

*Gospel*

**John 2:1-11**

**Celebrate insert**

P) The Holy Gospel according to John 2:

**C) Glory to You, O Lord.**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and His disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to Me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." <sup>6</sup>Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So, they took it. <sup>9</sup>When 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 <sup>10</sup>and 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." <sup>11</sup>Jesus did this, the first of His signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

(after the reading...)

P) The Gospel of the Lord.

**C) Praise to You, O Christ.**

### Sermon

**Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on this Second Sunday after Epiphany. Amen.**

Most pastors will tell you that the one topic they dislike talking about with a couple who are planning to marry is that they – the couple – *should not* consume alcohol on their wedding day before the ceremony. *I believe* it is best for the couple to limit their alcohol consumption on the day of their wedding – *even after* the ceremony. *Even after* the reception.

On a side note: Many pastors will also tell you they would *much rather* perform a *funeral* than a wedding. People act so differently at funerals than they do at weddings. I'm just going to leave that comment right there!

Back to my original point about weddings and alcohol. When I meet with a couple during pre-marital counseling *and* the wedding rehearsal, I tell them that, if either of them shows up intoxicated at the wedding, I will not perform the ceremony. I cannot legally perform the wedding ceremony. They are not of sound mind at that point. I can't give them a test to see what their blood alcohol level is at that point.

Let's think about the wedding itself. Everyone is dressed in their finest attire. The attendants include the closest family members and friends of the couple. Family and friends come from all over to witness the union of the happy couple. Beautiful flowers adorn the church. The pastor patterns a message specifically for this couple, hoping that they will grasp onto even a small portion of what is being said through the smiles and the tears. The couple speaks their vows. They exchange rings. They kiss. They are pronounced married. They walk down the aisle receiving much applause!

Why would anyone want to experience all that - while intoxicated?

True story: This happened many years ago when I was in Wisconsin. The bride and her attendants showed up at the church two hours before the ceremony. She reeked of alcohol. That very much surprised me in the first place. I don't know if she had planned on covering up the smell with perfume, but *that* would have been overpowering!

While the bridesmaids made their way downstairs with their dresses, I quietly called the bride aside and said, “Bride (*I won’t use her real name*), *I smell alcohol on you.*” Her laughter immediately subsided when she realized I wasn’t laughing, and she said, “*I only had a couple of mimosas while getting my hair and nails done.*” *Only a couple?* I thought.

I said, “*I am pretty certain I made myself clear when I told you and the Groom (again, not mentioning his name) at the pre-marital counseling sessions and the rehearsal last evening that if you are intoxicated, I cannot marry you. You’ve put me in a very awkward position. Have you had anything to eat today?*”

*“I had a piece of toast for breakfast and we brought some sub sandwiches to eat.”*

Like I said, luckily for her, the wedding wasn’t for two more hours. I said, “*Well, let’s hope that the sandwiches will soak up the alcohol in these next two hours. But now I have to call my church council president to see what he feels I should do.*” I could tell she was pretty angry with me by the way she walked away and went down the basement steps to where her bridal party was getting dressed – and eating sub sandwiches.

I went next door to the parsonage and called the church council president. I told him the situation and he asked me, “*You made it clear in your meetings and at the rehearsal that you cannot perform the wedding if they are intoxicated, correct?*” I said yes. He said, “*Then, whatever you decide, I will back you 100%.*”

Well, long story short, I did perform the wedding two hours later as scheduled. But I have also used this as an example in *every* pre-marital counseling session *and* wedding rehearsal that I have had since then. Sometimes we pastors are put in difficult situations where we have to make decisions that don’t make us very popular.

I tell couples: Think of the cost of a wedding. The dresses, tuxes, flowers, reception hall, caterer, music, photographer, all of the little incidentals, and the embarrassment of telling your family and friends that the wedding was called off because you were intoxicated showing up at the church.

True story: I tell the *entire bridal party* at the wedding rehearsal to *please* limit their alcohol consumption on the day of the wedding. If they are the best man or maid of honor or another attendant at a good friend’s wedding, I ask that they respect their position and wait until later at the reception to consume alcohol, if they must. Enjoy the preparation time and the ceremony with their best friend. They were given special honor and should treat it that way. *Most times* it works. 😊

Weddings in ancient times were celebrated with wine. The host would serve the very best wine first and then after the guests were a bit intoxicated and didn’t know – or care – what they were drinking, they would be served the cheap stuff. I suddenly have visions of Boone’s Farm Strawberry Hill Wine. From my younger years. (Ha! Ha!)

I guess I am much stricter in my older, pastoral years than people were centuries ago!

The Rev. Edward Markquart shares this from his website called *Sermons from Seattle*:

*“The gospel story for today (from John 2:1-11) is a wedding story. It is a Jewish wedding. Jewish weddings during the time of Christ were gala occasions, festive events, and grand parties. Jewish weddings usually began on Tuesday nights, and the groom and his friends would go over to the bride’s house at night. On the way over, the groomsmen would be swinging their olive-oil lamps, having a fun time. The men would gather in front of the bride’s home, and she would come out to the front steps. Now, for the first time in her adult life, she would take off her veil and show(ed) off how beautiful she really was. This removal of the veil was a special*

*event. Then, the groom and the groomsmen would again walk down the streets with their olive-oil lamps swinging and they would go over to the groom's house to begin a seven-day party. Yes, a seven-day party. During those seven days, family and friends would bring their gifts, their hot dishes, and their good humor. They would party for seven days."*

Rev. Markquart continues, *"At such wedding celebrations as these, wine was served. It was Biblical. It was the oil of gladness, a juice that made for joy. Remember that the Jews did not have a problem with alcoholism. Rarely, if ever, do you see a Jewish alcoholic. Why? Perhaps because Jewish families have grown up with wine. Wine was and is part of their daily life, therefore you rarely see Jewish people who become alcoholic(s).*

*"In the story for today, Jesus came to such a wedding party. Seven days long. Can you imagine? Now, that is probably a disappointment to all those social activists who thought that Jesus should have been down at Capernaum solving all the social problems. That is probably a disappointment to some of those social do-gooders who thought that Jesus should only take care of the lepers, blind and lame, that He should spend all of His time healing the sick. But here was Jesus at a real live party that was going to last seven days, a full week.*

*"During this party, unfortunately, and embarrassingly, the host ran out of wine. What to do? No wine! This was a Jewish wedding and not a Jewish wake. It is embarrassing to run out of wine. They didn't have any 7-11 to run to. They didn't have a state liquor store down the street. They didn't have a grocery store nearby with shelf after shelf of various wines to choose from. What to do? They didn't know. Mary, the mother of Jesus, intervened. Why? We don't know. Mary said to Jesus, 'They have no wine.' Jesus replied, 'What does that have to do with me?' Like so many mothers, Mary seems to ignore her Son and speaks directly to the servant, 'Do what He tells you.' We can only guess the look on Jesus' face. Jesus, knowing His mother and perhaps rolling His eyes, said to the servant, "Fill those big jugs out there with water."*

Rev. Markquart writes, *"Now, these were big jugs. Thirty gallons each. These vats were used for the rite of purification. That is, before their worship services, the Jews would wash their faces, before prayers they would wash their hands and feet. These water vats were for the rites of purification. Jesus said to the servant, 'I want these vats filled up to the brim. Not half full. Not three-quarters full. Not seven eighths full. Not fifteen sixteenths full. I want them filled right up to the brim. I want them fuller than full.' So, the servants filled those six jugs right up to the top lip. Jesus then said to the waiter, 'I want you to take some wine over to the (chief steward) to see what it tastes like.' The servant took some wine over to the (chief steward). He sipped it and said, 'That tastes mighty fine. The groom has saved the best wine until last.' The (chief steward) looked at the six vats of wine and said, 'That is a lot of wine. There is enough wine here for a whole city. For the whole country. For the whole world.' Then comes a key line in the story and that line says, 'This was the first of the signs that Jesus did in Galilee. By this sign, Jesus revealed His glory, the glorious presence of the Son of God. And the disciples believed the sign.'"*

Just a couple of closing thoughts:

First, I think Jesus and I would be on the same page as far as not being intoxicated *before* the wedding ceremony. Even though couples of long-ago parties for seven days, the miracle of Jesus turning water into wine doesn't happen until *after* the ceremony! And I don't believe Jesus is encouraging excessive drinking. As Pastor Markquart noted, *wine was and is a part of Jewish families' daily lives.*

Second, Mary knows that Jesus is special. Extraordinary. She remembers being visited by the angel Gabriel who was sent by God. <sup>28b</sup> *"Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you. <sup>30</sup>Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you will name Him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to Him*

the throne of His ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom, there will be no end. <sup>35</sup>The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; He will be called Son of God.” (Luke 1:28b, 30-33, 35)

She doesn't know *exactly* what Jesus is capable of doing. She doesn't *ask* Him for a solution. She simply *tells* Jesus of the problem and leaves the rest up to Him.

And lastly, this sign, this first miracle noted in the gospel of John, was a sign of the abundant love of God. God through Jesus turned water into wine, providing drinks for the wedding guests at Cana. Jesus' disciples *believed* who He was because of this sign – the first act of His public ministry. This miracle revealed Himself as God's Son. To the disciples. To His mother, Mary. To those who heard of this miracle. And to us who continue to hear this story today! **Amen.**

Source:

Markquart, Rev. Edward F. *180 Gallons of Grace*. Sermons from Seattle.

[http://www.sermonsfromseattle.com/series\\_c\\_180gallons.htm](http://www.sermonsfromseattle.com/series_c_180gallons.htm)

### **Blessing**

P) And now, may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (*Philippians 4:7*)

C) **Amen.**

### **Hymn of the Day**

**Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies**

**LBW #265**

### **Apostles' Creed**

**WOV page 33**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

**Celebrate insert**

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. *A brief silence.*

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.**

You heal the sick and comfort the dying. Wrap Your loving arms around those who are in need of special prayers today as we name them in our hearts, our minds, and with our voices....(please name your prayer concerns). 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.**

### **MEAL**

#### **Sharing of the Peace**

P) The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C) **And also with you.**

P) Please safely share the Peace to those around you.

#### **Offering**

#### **Offertory**

**Let the vineyards...**

#### **Offertory Prayer**

(please join in prayer)

#### **The Great Thanksgiving**

WOV page 36

#### **Words of Institution**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

(sing on first and third Sundays)

**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.**

*(Pause here for Pastor's part.)*

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.**

#### **Invitation to Holy Communion**

#### **Communion Hymn**

**Lamb of God...**

#### **Canticle**

**Thankful hearts...**

#### **Post Communion Prayer**

### **SENDING**

#### **Benediction**

P) May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace; in the name of God the Father, God the Son+, and God the Spirit that makes us one.

C) **Amen.**

Dismissal

P) Go in peace. Share the good news!

C) Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Sources for January 16, 2022

[www.presbyterianmission.org](http://www.presbyterianmission.org)

[https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/order\\_of\\_worship\\_brochure\\_dec\\_2008.pdf](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/order_of_worship_brochure_dec_2008.pdf)

Gloria Patri (Public-domain)

Doxology/Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow (Public-domain)

<https://sundaysandseasons.com>

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<http://www.caldwellpresby.org/docs/resources/Prayers%20for%20Illumination.pdf>

Hymns for January 16, 2022

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Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies (Public-domain)

LBW #265

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WOV #742