

Welcome to Worship at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI  
Epiphany 2 - January 16, 2022

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

**Hymn #494 - "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"**

**Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.**

**Before our Father's throne  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.**

**We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.**

**When here our pathways part,  
We suffer bitter pain;  
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart,  
We hope to meet again.**

**From sorrow, toil, and pain  
And sin we shall be free  
And perfect love and friendship reign  
Through all eternity.**

**Confession of Sins:**

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant

us forgiveness.

**C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

**P:** Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **First Lesson: Isaiah 62:1-5**

For the sake of Zion I will not be silent. For the sake of Jerusalem I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth shining brightly, and her salvation burns like a torch. Nations will see your righteousness, and all kings will see your glory. You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will assign to you. Then you will be a beautiful crown in the Lord's hand, and a royal diadem in the palm of your God. You will never again be called Abandoned, and your land will never again be called Desolation, for you will be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land will be called Married, because the Lord delights in you, and your land will be married. For just as a young man marries a virgin, your sons will marry you, and just as a bridegroom rejoices over a bride, your God will rejoice over you. (EHV)

### **Psalm 133-134**

**Refrain: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

**How good and pleas'ant it is  
When brothers live together in 'unity!**

**For there the LORD bestows his 'blessing,  
Even life for'evermore.**

**Refrain: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

**Praise the LORD, all you servants 'of the LORD  
Who minister in the house 'of the LORD.**

**Lift up your hands in the sanctu'ary  
And 'praise the LORD.**

**May the LORD, the maker of heav'en and earth,  
Bless you from 'Zion.**

**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.**

**Refrain: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

### **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 deceived and somehow led away to mute idols. Therefore I am informing you that no one speaking by God's Spirit says, "A curse be upon Jesus," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There are various kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of ministries, and yet the same Lord. There are various kinds of activity, but the same God, who produces all of them in everyone. Each person is given a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one person a message of wisdom is given by the Spirit; to another, a message of knowledge, as the same Spirit provides it; by the same Spirit, faith is given to someone else; and to another, the same Spirit gives healing gifts. Another is given powers to do miracles; another, the gift of prophecy; another, the evaluating of spirits; someone else, different kinds of tongues; and another, the interpretation of tongues. One and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them to each one individually as he desires. (EHV)

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. He said to me, "You are my servant in whom I will display my splendor." Alleluia.

### **The Gospel: John 2:1-11**

Three days later, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman,

what does that have to do with you and me? My time has not come yet.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Six stone water jars, which the Jews used for ceremonial cleansing, were standing there, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus told them, “Fill the jars with water.” So they filled them to the brim. Then he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” And they did. When the master of the banquet tasted the water that had now become wine, he did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew). The master of the banquet called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when the guests have had plenty to drink, then the cheaper wine. You saved the good wine until now!” This, the beginning of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. (EHV)

### **The Apostles’ Creed:**

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

### **Hymn #82 - “*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*”**

**Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,  
Manifested by the star  
To the Magi from afar,  
Branch of royal David’s stem,  
In your birth at Bethlehem.  
Anthems be to you addressed,  
God in man made manifest.**

**Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,  
And at Cana, Wedding Guest,  
In your Godhead manifest;  
Manifest in pow'r divine,  
Changing water into wine.  
Anthems be to you addressed,  
God in man made manifest.**

**Manifest in making whole  
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
Manifest in valiant fight,  
Quelling all the devil's might;  
Manifest in gracious will,  
Ever bringing good from ill.  
Anthems be to you addressed,  
God in man made manifest.**

**Sun and moon shall darkened be;  
Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee.  
Christ will then like lightning shine;  
All will see his glorious sign.  
All will then the trumpet hear;  
All will see the judge appear.  
You by all will be confessed,  
God in man made manifest.**

**Grant us grace to see you, Lord,  
Mirrored in your holy Word.  
May our lives and all we do  
Imitate and honor you  
That we all like you may be  
At your great epiphany  
And may praise you, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.**

**The Sermon:       John 2:1-11  
                          "More Than Anyone Could Ask Or Expect"**

**Weddings** are occasions which involve **family** and **friends** - as we gather together to **rejoice** with the bride and groom, and witness the beginning of a new **family unit** among us. Weddings usually take a lot of **planning**, but even with all the time and **effort** which the couple puts in, weddings don't always go **according** to plan. If we were to take a quick **survey** of all the married couples here in church today, I'm guessing we could find all kinds of little things which happened to make **their** wedding day especially **memorable**. Maybe somebody in your wedding party **fainted**, or maybe your **unity candle** wouldn't **light**, or it didn't **stay** lit - maybe your 3-year old **flower girl** decided to throw petals **all over** the place, instead of just dropping them in the **aisle**, or maybe your 3-year old **ring bearer** didn't want to come **down** the aisle **at all**. In our sermon text today, **Jesus** did something for a bride and groom which they would **never** forget, and neither would anyone **else** who was at the wedding. He changed **water** into **wine**, and in **doing** so He saved the wedding couple from what could have been a very **embarrassing** situation. But that's not really what this text is all about. It's **true**, **Jesus** **solved** the problem, but what is much more **important** is that He did it in His own **time** - He did it in His own **way** - and He provided much **More Than Anyone Could Ask Or Expect**.

As our text **begins**, we learn that **Jesus**, His **disciples**, and His **mother** had all been invited to a **wedding** - which was actually a wedding **feast**. Allow me to explain. The first step in an ancient Jewish marriage was the **promise** or **betrothal**. This involved a **meeting** between the **groom** and the father of the **bride** in order to establish the **purchase price** which the groom would pay, in order to marry the man's **daughter**. Once the price had been **paid**, the marriage **covenant** was established, and the man and woman were regarded as **husband** and **wife**. That was the actual, legal **marriage**. From that time on the bride was **set apart** exclusively for her **husband**, but they didn't begin their life **together** right away. Instead, the groom would **leave** the home of his bride, and would return to his father's house. They would remain **separate** from each other for a period of **12 months**, which would allow the **groom** time to prepare their new home, and the **bride** time to gather the personal possessions which she would bring into the marriage. At the end of this time of **separation** the groom would finally come to take his bride to live **with him**. After the marriage was **consummated**, **guests** were invited to enjoy a 7-day **feast**. That **feast** is the event which we have in today's text.

No doubt it would be very **embarrassing** for the bride and the groom to run out of **wine** during the time of the feast. Nobody wants to throw a big **party**, and then run out of **refreshments**. But that's what **happened** in our text - and Mary

wanted to **do** something about it. Her plan was **simple**. Mary would go to **Jesus** and ask Him for **help**. She simply said, *“They have **no wine**.”* All too often when we encounter a problem in our lives, we want to tell Jesus exactly **when** and **how** He needs to **help** us. We presume to think that we already have the **right answers**, and He just needs to carry them **out** for us. Quite **often** God has something **different** in mind. When things go **sour** in life, it’s hard to be **patient** with God. We want Him to **fix** things, and we want Him to fix them **now**. We would probably have told Jesus how **much** wine was needed, how **soon** it was needed, and maybe even what **kind** of wine we would prefer. But even though **Mary** likely didn’t have any idea **what** Jesus would do about the situation, she was **confident** that He **could** and **would** do **something**.

The **reply** which Jesus gave to her **short** and **simple** statement, was a mild **rebuke**. Jesus said, *“Woman, what does that have to do with **you** and **me**? **My time** has not **come** yet.”* Jesus **wasn’t** telling Mary that He didn’t **care** about the problem, or that it really wasn’t any of their **business**. And Jesus **wasn’t** telling her that He **wouldn’t** or **couldn’t** help. He simply said, *“My time has not come yet.”* Mary got the message. She didn’t know **when** it would happen, but she knew that when the time was **right**, Jesus would go into **action**. So, she told the servants, *“Do **whatever** he tells you.”*

John goes on to tell us, *“Six stone water jars, which the Jews used for **ceremonial cleansing**, were standing there, each holding twenty or thirty **gallons**. Jesus told them, ‘Fill the jars with water.’ So they filled them to the **brim**.”* That probably sounded pretty **strange** to the servants, and it was also a lot of **work**. After all, coming up with 120 to 180 gallons of **water** wasn’t going to happen by just **snapping** their fingers. Nevertheless, Jesus knew what He was doing, and the servants were **wise** to do what He had **told** them. We all know that Jesus had changed that **water** into **wine**, not only filling the need at the **banquet**, but also providing the wedding couple with about a **year’s supply** of fine wine for use in their new home. It was a lovely, practical wedding present. The **master** of the banquet, who knew more than a little bit about the **quality** of wine, told the groom, *“Everyone serves the **good wine first**, and when the guests have had plenty to drink, then the **cheaper** wine. You saved the **good wine until now!**”* As is so often the case, Jesus provided **More** than had been **Asked Or Expected**.

Everybody has **problems** from time to time. Sometimes we wish our problems would be as **simple** as just running out of **wine**. But unfortunately, our problems can be much more **complicated**. What we need to **remember** is that no matter how **complex** the situation, the **solution** will always remain the same. When

it seems as if there are **no answers** - when it seems as if there is **no way out** - when it seems as if everything we try is just doomed to **failure** from the very **start** - then remember to ask **Jesus** for help. Or better yet, don't **wait** until disaster strikes. Why not just **talk** to Jesus and ask for His **help** on a **daily** basis. Communication with our **God** is **vital** important, so **pray** to Him - pray **regularly**, pray **often**, and pray **fervently**. None of our requests can ever be too **big** or too **small**, because Jesus has promised that not only will He **hear** us - He'll **answer** us.

Jesus may very well ask us to do some things which seem unusually **strange** or **difficult** in our lives, but we will always be **wise** if we **listen** to Him, and **do** what He says. The Psalmist says, *"Trust in the **LORD** with all your heart, and do not rely on your **own** understanding."* We may not know **why** the LORD makes us suffer some hardships, but we do know that He will turn them into **good** for us.

What Jesus did in our text for today was **more** than obeying his **mother** - it was **more** than saving a **party** - it was **more** than sparing that couple some embarrassment - it was so **much** more. In the **final** verse of our text John tells us, *"This, the beginning of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his **glory**, and his disciples **believed** in him."* And that takes us back to the **first 3 words** of today's text. Do you **remember** them? *"Three days **later**."* This miracle at Cana took place just **3 days** after Jesus had **called** His first **full-time** disciples. We don't know **how much** they had already **learned** about Jesus in those first 3 days, but here we see that Jesus gave them so much **more**. We're told that as Jesus revealed His **power** and **glory** in this miracle, it **confirmed** the **fact** for them that Jesus was the promised **Savior**, and the Son of **God** - someone they would want to **follow** for the rest of their **lives**.

Jesus wants to confirm **our** faith in Him too, and He **does** it in **many** different ways. We don't need to have **water** changed into **wine**, but who can deny that there are so many things which **need changing** in our lives? We run out of **patience** and **love** for one another - we run out of **time** to spend with our aging **parents**, our **spouse**, our **children**, and our **grand-children**. **Sin** turns our lives **sour**, and **condemns** us to an eternity of **weeping** and **anguish** apart from our God, and we have **no excuse**. But Jesus changed **all** those things for us, and so much **more**. In fact the **greatest** display of the changes which Jesus has brought about for us occurred at the **cross**. There Jesus met our **greatest** need. While we were totally **helpless**, He displayed His **glory**. As Paul told the **Romans**, *"While we were sinners, Christ **died** for us."* He took away **all** of our sins, and set us **free** from them **forever**.

Through His **death** and **resurrection** Jesus gave us **More Than Anyone Could Ask Or Expect**. He did it in **His time**, He did it **His way**, and not only did He give us **more** than we **asked** for - He gave us **better** than we **deserved**. At the end of his **gospel** John tells us the **purpose** he had in mind for **writing** it. John said, *“Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many **other** miraculous signs that are **not** written in this book. But **these** are written that **you** may believe that Jesus is the **Christ**, the Son of **God**, and that by **believing** you may have **life** in his name.”* As we look at the **miracles** of Jesus, let’s recognize that Jesus is in **tune** with our lives, and He knows **exactly** what we need. When we run out of **strength**, and our faith is getting **weak** - when there seem to be no more **answers** to our problems - let’s turn to **Jesus** with the **assurance** that He will **continue** to supply **all** of our needs, and that the gifts He chooses to give us will be **More Than Anyone Could Ask Or Expect**. Amen.

### **Prayers:**

O Jesus Christ, King of kings, and Lord of lords, let all the earth **honor** and **revere** You. Blessed is the nation whose God is the **Lord**. We thank You for clearly speaking to us in Your **Word**, that we who labor under a heavy burden of **sin** and **troubles** may come to You, and find **rest** for our souls. Through the **love** which You have shown us by suffering and dying for our sins, give us **boldness** to call on Your name for **all** our needs. Give us **courage** to ask for Your forgiveness when we sin, and to seek Your **comfort** and **assurance** in all our troubles. Whenever we need a **greater** measure of strength to carry out our daily tasks and Christian duties, or **guidance** to conduct our everyday affairs, teach us to ask these things from **You**. Let us never hesitate to approach Your throne of grace for **healing** from sickness, **help** from troubles, **solutions** to problems, and **rescue** from peril. Lead us to pray **daily** for the promised gift of Your Holy Spirit, because we **need** Him to open the Scriptures for our **understanding**, that we may always recognize **Your** voice in Your **Word**.

Blessed Jesus, give us **faith** to trust that You are our **Savior** from sin; and our **Lord**, who has all **power** in heaven and earth. Enable us to always be **confident** that You will hear and answer us. Give to all those who have been **careless** in spiritual matters a **second chance** to repent of their backsliding, and to strive, with the Holy Spirit’s aid, to be **fruitful** in good works. Lord, **help** us so we don’t become weighed down with **earthly** matters, and give us the desire to apply our hearts to **heavenly** wisdom. Have **mercy** on our human weaknesses, and **forgive** our many sins. Amen.

**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.**

**New Hymnal #375 - *"Arise and Shine in Splendor"***

**Arise and shine in splendor;  
Let night to day surrender.  
Your light is drawing near.  
Above, the day is beaming,  
In matchless beauty gleaming;  
The glory of the Lord is here.**

**See earth in darkness lying,  
The heathen nations dying  
In hopeless gloom and night.  
To you the Lord of heaven -  
Your life, your hope - has given  
Great glory, honor, and delight.**

**Lift up your eyes in wonder -  
See, nations gather yonder  
From sin to be set free.  
The world has heard your story;  
Her sons come to your glory,  
Her daughters haste your light to see.**

**Your heart will leap for gladness  
When from the realms of sadness  
They come from near and far.  
Your eyes will wake from slumber**

**As people without number  
Rejoice to see the Morning Star.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people 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.

**The Blessing:**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

**Hymn #365 - *“Love Divine, All Love Excelling”***

**Love divine, all love excelling,  
Joy of heav’n, to earth come down,  
Fix in us your humble dwelling,  
All your faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, you are all compassion,  
Boundless mercy from above.  
Visit us with benediction;  
Comfort us with heav’nly love.**

**Take away our love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be.  
End of faith as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.  
We would ever seek your blessing,  
Serve you as your hosts above,  
Pray and praise you without ceasing,  
Glory in your perfect love.**

**Sanctify your new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us trust your great salvation,  
Won for us on Calvary,  
Till we lay our crowns before you,**

**Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till in glory we adore you,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.**