



Celebrate

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 19, 2025

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.

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.

For 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.



We feast up - on the a - bun - dance of your house, O LORD.

Your love, O LORD, reaches ¹ to the heavens,
and your faithfulness ¹ to the clouds.

**⁶Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
your justice like ¹ the great deep;**

you save humankind and ani - ¹ mals, O LORD. **R**

⁷How priceless is your ¹ love, O God!

All people take refuge under the shadow ¹ of your wings.

⁸They feast upon the abundance ¹ of your house;

you give them drink from the river of ¹ your delights.

⁹For with you is the ¹ well of life,

and in your light ¹ we see light.

**¹⁰Continue your lovingkindness to ¹ those who know you,
and your favor to those who are ¹ true of heart. **R****

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.

Now 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

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.

On 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.

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Giver of gifts, you form each member of the church to serve. Inspire us to boldly use gifts of welcome and healing, service and teaching, leading and preaching, for the sake of your work in the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Refuge of creatures, you place all the living under the shadow of your wings. Lead us in ways that tend to the needs of wild and domestic animals, creatures threatened by extinction, and the environment we share. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Voice of the oppressed, you call prophets throughout time. We remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a voice for racial and economic justice and for peace. Guide our nation in continuing to heed your prophetic call. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 145. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Agnes, martyr, c. 304) 1 Corinthians 1:3-17. **Wednesday** Luke 5:33-39. **Thursday** Psalm 19. **Friday** Romans 12:1-8. **Saturday** (Conversion of Paul, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends) Galatians 1:11-24. **Third Sunday after Epiphany** (commemoration of Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries) Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21.

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God of steadfast love, as Jesus celebrated at Cana, nurture marriages and relationships in mutual care; in times of separation or divorce hold tenderly broken hearts and broken dreams. Be present to all who are sick, grieving or in any need (*especially*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Spirit of peace, celebrating this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for neighboring congregations and ministry sites (*especially*). Nurture our shared commitment to embody Jesus' love, justice, and healing. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Wellspring of life, in living and dying we trust in you. We give thanks for the saints (*especially Henry, Bishop of Uppsala*). Guide us in our living until, at last, we rest in you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**