

The Second Sunday after the Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord  
St. John 2:1-11  
January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC  
Simpsonville, SC  
St. Michael and All Angels Evangelical Lutheran Mission, UAC  
Augusta, GA  
Pastor Jerald Dulas

## A Wedding in Cana

*In Nomine Iesu!*

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank Thee, that of Thy grace Thou hast instituted holy matrimony, in which Thou keepest us from unchastity, and other offenses: We beseech Thee to send Thy blessing upon every husband and wife, that they may not provoke each other to anger and strife, but live peaceably together in love and godliness, receive Thy gracious help in all temptations, and rear their children in accordance with Thy will; grant unto us all to walk before Thee, in purity and holiness, to put all our trust in Thee, and lead such lives on Earth, that in the world to come we may have everlasting life, through the same, Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one true God, world without end. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

In the season of Epiphany, the season we are in currently, our Lord + Jesus Christ reveals Himself to mankind as the Lord God. He reveals that He Who was born of a woman—a virgin—is both God and man. We see manifested His divine nature during the season of Epiphany. That is what “epiphany” means; it means “to be revealed” or “manifested.” The Lord + Jesus reveals and manifest to us poor, miserable sinners that He is the Lord God come in our flesh to redeem us—fallen mankind—so that we might have life in Him. Therefore, it is really no wonder that our Lord + Jesus in His first miracle changes water into wine. He Who created all things out of nothing, by His Word, creates wine out of water. He Who took on the flesh of mankind in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, without the seed of mankind, but by the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost, creates wine from water. He reveals to us that He is the Lord God, the creator of Heaven and Earth, come down from Heaven to dwell with us, His people.

The Evangelist and Apostle St. John records in his Gospel reading that our Lord + Jesus was invited and came to a wedding. Is it any wonder that He Who came to that house for a wedding came to this world for a wedding? He has a Bride here whom He has redeemed by His Blood and to whom He has given the Holy Ghost as a pledge. He wrested her—the Church; all those who believe on Him—from enslavement to the devil, He died for her sins. He arose again for her justification. Who will offer such great things to his bride? Men may offer some trinkets or other from the Earth money, jewelry, fine clothes and fancy meals, especially when they are courting a woman. But will anyone offer his blood; offer their life for their bride? For if a man gives his life for his bride, he will not be alive to take her as his wife. But the Lord + Jesus gave His life for His Bride—the Church—in order that when He arose from the dead, He might be wed to her whom He came down from Heaven to redeem.

The consummation of the marriage of Christ and His Bride—the Church—takes place eternally in Heaven. There in Heaven the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom will have no end. It will be an eternal celebration. And, the wine will not run out.

The wine had run out at this wedding in Cana, though. Our Lord's mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, informs our Lord + Jesus that they have no wine. We can see from our Lord's interaction with His mother that although she knew Who He was and from where He came, just as the angel Gabriel told her thirty years ago, the Lord + Jesus had not performed any other miracles. His time had not yet come. So, as the Evangelist and Apostle St. John says at the end of our Gospel pericope, this was the beginning of signs that He did to manifest and reveal that He was the Son of God.

Although He says that His time is not yet come, He still performs the miracle. This implies that what He was speaking about future spiritual matters. He was referring to His cross and Passion; to the time when He would offer His Body and His Blood as a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. This Body and Blood He would give to His Bride—the Church—as an eternal meal. We have a foretaste of this meal in the Lord's Supper. We are given bread to eat. Bread which is the true and substantial Body of our Lord + Jesus. We are given wine to drink. Wine that is the true and substantial Blood of our Lord + Jesus Christ. In this bread and wine which is the Body and Blood of our Lord + Jesus we are given the gifts He won for us when He gave His life and Blood for us—the forgiveness of our sins, eternal life, and salvation.

Those of us who believe on this promise and cling to it in faith are united to the Lord + Jesus. We are joined to His Bride—the Church—and will enjoy the fruits of Heaven with Him for all eternity. He will change our lowly earthly bodies that we have now into glorious heavenly bodies in Heaven. Just as He changed water into wine, He will give us new and glorious bodies in Heaven.

To show us that this is true; that He is able to do this wonderful thing, we are given this miracle at Cana. There were, we are told, six waterpots of stone used for the purification of the Jews. This information is not just supplied to tell us the amount of wine that is produced. Each jar was about twenty or thirty gallons. If each jar was thirty gallons that would be about one hundred and eighty gallons of wine that were produced. But this is not the point of the Evangelist telling us this information. For, he tells us that the jars were used for the purification rite. In other words, these jars were never used for wine. No one would be able to say that the Lord + Jesus just filled the jars with water, but there was a little wine in the bottom, so it only appeared that He made wine. These jars were never used for wine. Their sole purpose was to contain water for purification.

The other thing that the Evangelist mentions that confirms that this is truly a miracle is that he informs us that the Lord + Jesus told the servants to fill the jars "to the brim." Again, this is to show that nobody came along and topped the jars off with left over wine to make it only look like He had changed water into wine. The third proof that this is truly a miracle is the testimony of the master of the feast. He tastes the wine and declares that it is the best of wines. This would not be the case if the jars contained water mixed with wine to only give the appearance of a miracle.

Our Lord changes water completely into wine. He shows that He is the Lord of all creation. He Who created the Heaven and the Earth out of nothing with His Word, has authority to change nature to benefit us, His creation. It is not a great leap to see from this miracle that our Lord can do all things. He took upon Himself our flesh. By the power of the Holy Ghost He was conceived in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was made man for us. He made Himself man for us. If He can change water into wine, is it any wonder that He can also assume our human nature, too? He is both God and man.

And although He changes water completely into wine at Cana, in the Lord's Supper He gives us both bread and wine which are the very Body and Blood of Himself. If He can be both God and man—

two things that are not supposed to be able to go together—He can make His Body and His Blood be united in, with and under the bread and wine with we eat and drink for our salvation. If He can do this with the bread and wine which we eat in the Lord's Supper, it should be no surprise to us that He can also do the same thing to our bodies on the Last Day. He will take our lowly earthly bodies and make them into glorious heavenly bodies. He put on our flesh. We will put on the flesh of heavenly bodies in Heaven.

He does this because He loves His creation. He loves us. He willingly sacrifices His life for us. He gives His Bride—the Church—His blood; His life, so that we might have life eternal with Him. This is what love truly is. It is not feelings of affection for another person, like our world would have us believe. Love is being willing to sacrifice your life for another person. There are certainly men who would sacrifice their life for their brides; who love their brides enough to sacrifice all things for them. But only the Lord + Jesus is able to take up His life again after offering it on the tree of the holy cross for us. If we were to show our love by giving our life for the ones we love, they would no longer have us with them. For we cannot raise ourselves from the grave. But, our Lord + Jesus can not only give His life, but He can take it up again. Indeed, He has been raised from the dead. And as He has raised Himself from the dead, He will also raise us up from the dead, and take us to our eternal home in Heaven.

This beginning of signs that our Lord + Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, reveals Who our Lord + Jesus is. He is the Lord of all creation. He is the One Who took upon Himself our flesh and Who gives us His Body and Blood in, with and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins in the Lord's Supper. He came for a wedding in Cana in our reading for today. But He came to earth from His throne in Heaven to prepare a wedding for us in Heaven. He came so that He might give His Blood—His life—for the Church. The Bridegroom has come forth from His bridal chamber to claim His Bride. He has begun the work of drawing all mankind to Himself. He has stepped down from Heaven to give His Bride an eternal feast; a feast that we enjoy a foretaste of when we come to this holy altar.

Therefore, let us do as the Psalmist said in our Introit, and worship and praise God, and sing praise to His Name. Let us make a joyful shout to the Lord God, and sing out the honor of His Name. For He is awesome in all His doings toward the sons of men. For the Lord God has sent His Word to heal us, and He has delivered us from eternal destruction in Hell, and given us an eternal home in Heaven. A home that our Bridegroom, the Lord + Jesus Christ, has purchased and won for us with His own innocent and precious Blood. Let us rejoice and give thanks for all His benefits. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:**

We thank Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, that Thou didst hallow and adorn the holy estate of matrimony by Thy presence, and we humbly beseech Thee Thou wouldst continually preserve and bless this holy ordinance, protect us from impurity and offenses, and evermore dwell in all Christian homes, relieving all their necessities in Thine own good time, O Thou, true God and faithful Friend of men, Who, having power over all things, livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

**The Votum:**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*