

The Second Sunday after the Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord
St. John 2:1-11
January 16th, 2022
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

Jesus Manifested His Glory

In Nomine Iesu!

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

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

O Lord God Almighty, Who dost endue Thy servants with diverse and singular gifts of the Holy Ghost, leave us not, we beseech Thee, destitute of Thy manifold gifts, nor yet of grace, to use them always to Thy honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

The Lord + Jesus, the Christ—the Anointed One of the Lord God—reveals Himself in the season of Epiphany to be the Lord of All Creation. This is what Epiphany means. It means to manifest, or make known, or reveal, one's self. The Lord + Jesus shows His Apostles, and the people of Israel, and us, that He is the Maker and Creator of Heaven and Earth. In other words, He reveals that this Man + Jesus is in fact the Lord God Almighty Who made Heaven and Earth.

The Lord God is the One Who in the beginning made man and woman. He made man from the dust of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life, giving man His very own spirit. Woman He made from a rib of Adam, giving man a suitable helpmate to be fruitful and multiply and fill this Earth that He had made with the human race. One of the things that is clear if one reads the Scriptures is that after making woman—after making our first mother, Eve—the Lord God gave her to Adam. The Father of All Creation gave His daughter, Eve, to His Son, Adam. Our first father was given our first mother by the Father of All Creation.

What does this signify? It signifies that Adam and Eve were married, contrary to the lies of modern society. Marriage is when a father gives his daughter to a man in holy wedlock. Our heavenly Father gave Eve to Adam in the bonds of holy matrimony. For this reason, Moses says in his first book commonly called Genesis, a man shall leave his father and mother and cling to wife. This is one of the first acts that our Lord God does for us His creation. He provides man and wife with the gift of marriage.

Therefore, my dear friends, it is not surprising that in our Lord's first miracle we find Him celebrating at a wedding in Cana. Marriage is the Lord God's gift to man and woman. The bond of holy matrimony is a reflection of the bond that our Lord has with His people. In fact, the Lord + Jesus is often called the Bridegroom, and the Church is often referred to as the Bride of Christ. This symbolizes the union that only the Lord God can put asunder. The bond between the Christ and His Bride, the Church is severed when the Church becomes unfaithful; when she forsakes His Word and His Commandments, and teaches and lives other than He would have her live and teach. Only the Church can be unfaithful, for the Lord + Jesus is always faithful to His Bride, the Church.

He has sacrificed Himself for her by humbling Himself to come down to Earth and take upon Himself our flesh, so that He might fulfill the Law perfectly. He also sacrificed His life on the tree of the

holy cross to win for His Bride, forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation. He remains faithful to His Bride, the Church, by continuing to give out the gifts He won on the cross through the means of grace. He remains faithful to us who daily and often sin and are unfaithful to our Lord and Savior; who are unfaithful to the Bridegroom Who bought us with the dowery of His very own Body and Blood offered on the tree of the cross. He washes us clean and free from sin through His Blood in the waters of Holy Baptism. He gives us His Body and Blood to eat and drink in the Blessed Sacrament through the means of bread and wine. He remains faithful to us by continuing to forgive the sins of all those who are penitent and repent of their unfaithfulness—their sinfulness—through the words of Absolution spoken by His minister into our ears.

Through water and wine our Lord + Jesus shows His faithfulness to us. It is no wonder then that our Lord's first miracle involves both water and wine. It is no wonder that our Bridegroom, who gave us the gift of holy matrimony, is first found at a Wedding in Cana. This miracle recorded by the Apostle and Evangelist St. John is telling us some deep theological teachings. The Lord + Jesus chooses to first reveal that He is the Maker and Creator of Heaven and Earth; that He is the One Who gave Eve to Adam at Creation, by changing water into wine at the Wedding in Cana.

The water that was used was poured into jars used in the purification rites. This water was used after someone who had been unclean, on account of a sin, disease, or dealing with the dead, was now declared clean. The now clean person would wash in this purification water which contained the ashes of a heifer and hyssop—to symbolize the sacrifice made; the blood spilled for the sins of the penitent. The now clean person would take hyssop and wash himself in these waters of purification. This is what David talks about in Psalm 51 when He says wash me with hyssop and I shall be clean. His confession of sin understood that the forgiveness of sins had to come from the Lord God. It was only the Lord Who could create in Him a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within Him. This is why this water filled to the brim in the jars used for purification clearly are a foreshadowing of Holy Baptism.

Our Lord + Jesus then tells the servants—the deacons in the Greek language—to take some of this water to the master of the feast. When he tasted it, it became wine. Not just any wine, but by the words of the master of the feast it was the best of wines. We see in this wine a clear foreshadowing of the Lord's Supper. Indeed, the Lord's Supper is a wedding celebration. It is where we are united with our Lord + Jesus, and the entire Church, in a remembrance of our Lord's faithfulness to us. It is a remembrance of His sacrifice that won for us forgiveness, life and salvation. Through this meal our Lord + Jesus reunites with us, and declares that all of our unfaithfulness has been forgiven. It is no longer remembered. It is hidden from His eyes.

The Bridegroom, our Lord + Jesus, loves His Bride, the Church. He will ever remain faithful to her, and when she is unfaithful to His Word, He will continue to call her into repentance; to forsake her false teachings and return to the pure preaching of the Word and to the right administration of the Blessed Sacraments. This picture of the Lord + Jesus being united to His Bride, the Church, is why one of our Lord's most common illustrations is of weddings, specifically of the wedding feast. In our Church's year we have at least two parables of wedding feasts, where our Lord God prepares a feast for all those whom He invites. We of course, in the parables, reject the invitation, and the Lord God invites others in our place. This is just a picture of our continuing unfaithfulness to the faithful Lord God.

Today, our Lord + Jesus reveals Himself to be the Maker and Creator of all creation, by turning water into wine. He does this simply by His Word. He refreshes our sin-sick souls with just His Word of Absolution, too. There is no sin which He does not have power to forgive to those who desire forgiveness. He has already won forgiveness for us. His perfect sacrifice has already been made. The wedding feast has already been prepared. He desires to be united to His Church in perfect fellowship and union. He has revealed that He can change water into wine, that He is the Maker and Creator of Heaven and Earth. This Lord + Jesus also reveals Himself to us through His sacrifice on the holy cross

as our Redeemer from sin, death and the power of the devil.

In the beginning the Lord God created the heavens and the earth. In the beginning He created man and woman and gave them the bonds of holy matrimony which no man, only the Lord God, can put asunder. In the beginning He created male and female that we might be united to Him in a perfect union of faithfulness. We have been unfaithful on account of our sins, but our Bridegroom has remained faithful to us, and has won for us by His death, forgiveness of our sins, eternal life with Him and all the saints in Heaven, and rescue and deliverance from all our spiritual enemies. Let us give Him thanks, my dear friends, that He has revealed Himself to be our Savior, and let us give thanks that we get to enjoy a foretaste of the eternal heavenly wedding feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom which has no end. Thanks be to God! 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 that 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, 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!