

GOSPEL LESSON—John 2:1-11

The sinful world is always looking for a sign that will bring security and happiness. They use stars, and mind games to assure themselves. The Word of God uses signs to reveal the glory of God in Christ Jesus. He alone is our security and assurance for the present and the future. At a wedding in the town of Cana in the area of Galilee, Jesus, performed His first miracle as a sign. The sign pointed to Christ as the Messiah, and to God as the giver of all good things. This sign (miracle) was done to solve a problem, to help people in a jam. Christ Jesus came as our Savior from the "jam" of sin. He worked us out of the jam with His life, death and Resurrection. And, He is willing to involve Himself daily in our life.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ⓟ Almighty and ever-living God, in Jesus Christ Your Son You have given the light of truth for all who are in the darkness of error and falsehood. You have granted that all might have true life in His name. We thank You that You have called us into this true and living faith and bestowed on us manifold gifts of grace.

Hear now our prayer, heavenly Father, that Your people may be shining lights in this world's darkness. To this end grant that we may be united in love and zeal to do the Holy work You have set before us. Keep us grounded in the purpose of our calling, loyal in every test of faithfulness, joyful in our anticipation of Heaven, steadfast in every trial, benevolent toward all people, generous in hospitality, and holding fast to all that is good. Grant that we who are called out of darkness into the marvelous light of Christ may show forth His praise.

Help us as we strive to be with Jesus. Set our hearts and minds on attendance at worship in His presence. Give us the ability to see Him, to be with Him in our time of devotions and in our hour of worship. Help us find the courage to speak, for those times when we most earnestly desire to declare the Messiah to our family and friends. Be with us and improve our witness to the truth of the wonder of the Gospel. Send Your Missionaries and Pastors to the far corners of the Earth that everyone everywhere is invited to spend their days with Jesus.

We implore Your mercy, O God, for all who may be in any special want or need of body or soul. Manifest Yourself to them as their deliverance. Keep us all from evil. Give us joy in our mourning, anticipation in our despair and victory in our defeat. We pray that You would heal all for Whom it is Your will and allow everyone to know Your presence.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**

All these things, our Eternal Father, in fellowship with Your Son, we bring to You in His name and for the purpose of the Church.

© Amen.

EPIPHANY TWO

Chant Tone



Introit

[The Lord] brought me to the ban | queting house,*

and His banner over me | was love.

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the — heavens,*

Your faithfulness | to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the moun | tains of God;*

Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast You save, — O Lord.

How precious is Your steadfast love, — O God!*

The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow | of Your wings.

They feast on the abundance | of Your house,*

and You give them drink from the river of | Your delights.

For with You is the foun | tain of life;*

In Your light do | we see light.

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.

[The Lord] brought me to the ban | queting house,*

and His banner over me | was love.

*(Antiphon, Song of Solomon 2:4;
Psalm 36:5-9)*

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, Who governs all things in Heaven and on Earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Praise the Lord, all — nations!*

Extol Him, all — peoples!

For great is His | Love toward us,*

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for — ever.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due His name;*

bring an offering and come in | to His courts!

(Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord God, heavenly Father, You have been gracious to us and blessed us. The Earth has yielded its increase, and Your way is being made known to many nations. For bringing the knowledge of salvation to our nation and increasingly to other nations, we adore Your most Holy name. Give us the courage and the strength to be more faithful in inviting others to follow You. Empower Your Holy Spirit to motivate us actively to share Christ with others by our words and in all our actions. Allow all people to know Your Love in Christ. Give strength to the weak and companionship to the lonely. This we ask in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

WE WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US IN THIS EPIPHANY SEASON. We come as did the Magi, following the light, the star that leads to our Savior. Jesus devoted all of His time on Earth in service to others. His role as servant was never more evident than in the quiet, uneventful first miracle. Not many people were witnesses to the miracle, essentially Mary and the few servants who assisted. We can suppose that if they had kept it to themselves no one else would have known. Instead, it appears that they told everyone who would listen. We are witnesses to the miracle of our own conversation. It is a miracle of our life that we are allowed to believe. It is worthy then that we would spend our time telling others what Jesus has done for us.

THEME OF THE DAY:

The First Miracle

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Song of Solomon 2:4;) Psalm 36:5-9

The Gospel Lesson is the historic lesson for this day. All the other Propers are from the first change to a three year cycle, except the Introit. A part of the Song of Solomon has never before been read in worship. We are using it because it mentions a banquet. Psalm 36 was written by David and specifically compliments God for how good He is to His people. It was previously prescribed to Holy Monday.

COLLECT

"Govern" comes from a Latin word that means, "to steer." As the architect Who laid out all things, we ask (with David from our Introit,) that God would drive our thoughts and mind that we would be given peace, a true peace based on repentance and forgiveness. The peace that grants salvation.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 62:1-5

The words of our Old Testament Lesson are directed toward Jerusalem, which in this context means, the church. Righteousness and salvation are not something that Jerusalem deserves or merits as a work of their own hands. They will be given these things as a gift from God. The church then will receive a new identity, no longer a group of sinners, but those made over into saints through the work of the Savior. God is zealous for our redemption. Through the Savior, God delights in us. God is motivated by His own grace to give us the gifts of righteousness and salvation. He is motivated by the work and person of His Son to grant them to our flesh.

GRADUAL—Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8

Psalm 117 (a two verse Psalm) is a general song of praise for all God has done for us. Psalm 96 was sung as the Ark was moved into Jerusalem. It looks beyond that event to the reign of the Christ and especially when the Gentiles will join in the celebration of the kingdom.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Here Paul took up a concern of the Corinthian Church that addressed spiritual gifts and the use of them within the church. He began by reminding us that we were once pagans and outside of the plan of salvation. We have all received the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit; He lives in us through the water and Word of our Baptism. Next the several gifts given because of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit are enumerated. These gifts of the Spirit are given from the grace of God, not earned. The connection to the Old Testament Lesson stands. God is motivated by His Own grace to give us these gifts. The gifts are given to make our lives better, more productive and sound as believers in His kingdom.