

Ascension Lutheran Church

Pastor Godkin's Sermon for the week of January 17, 2010

Great Joy and Abundance in the Presence of Our Groom (John 2:1-11)

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. The text for today's homily is from the second chapter of the Gospel according to John. Our Lord says to us:

"The master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, 'Everyone serve the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believe in Him.

This is the Word of God.

Friends in Jesus Christ, today we are going to talk about weddings, about marriage, not my upcoming wedding but a different wedding. Now it seems that a lot of girls get married to guys who are, well, just like the girls' fathers. Maybe that's why so many mothers cry at weddings? Hmm...

Weddings show a lot of things; oftentimes the family and friends show deep emotions for the couple and, of course, the bride and groom show their deep love for each other by joining in that most sacred bond of holy matrimony for as long as they both shall live for better or for worse.

Yes, weddings are a time to be happy. They are a time to celebrate. And God feels this way too. He instituted marriage to be the building block of society and to be a reflection of His love and His unending commitment and faithfulness to His beloved people.

And so it's no coincidence that Jesus chose a wedding to show His first miracle. The joy of the wedding feast was really the perfect place for Christ to manifest His glory. And that is the meaning of this season of Epiphany. The word "Epiphany" means the manifestation in the Gospel readings from the past three Sundays.

These three readings capture the three inaugural events in the life of our Lord. To the Wise Men, the Magi from the East the boy Jesus was manifested to be the King of the Jews, the long-awaited Messiah. In the waters of the River Jordan God manifested Himself as the Son of God and Saviour who washes a way in. And at the wedding in Cana He manifests His glory as the Messiah showing that in His presence there is abundance and great joy.

Now Jesus' first miracle here is not like some of the more dramatic miracles. One might expect that the first miracle of His ministry might start off with more of a big bang. But He doesn't start off by raising the dead or giving sight to the blind or healing the sick. Instead, He changes water to wine. But you as a little bit stranger that He shows His divine glory by something that seems to just keep a party going?

But there is more than meets the eye going on here. There is something more going on than refreshments at a social gathering. There is something more going on as the water jars

Hewill surely lead us and bless our every effort as we inject new life into our church, Hewill give a new

and give us the new wine; then Hewill begining.

But if we neglect His Word in Scripture, if we forsake institutional social club, then the light will be extinguished.

et His vision, if we see church as a sort of deed go out. The choice is yours; the

Friends, we are married to Jesus. It is a bond where Hewill have good plans for you. When the wine is almost gone, when we're down in the dumps, discouraged and in His presence there is abundance, hope and life as His bride. Hewill replenish us with His feast at the Lord's Table. Hewill be a faithful groom and His love does not end. Hewill supply and shed for you. Hewill give a foretaste of the feast. And what a feast it is!

e Hewill share all things with us. And when our lives are empty, when the joy is beaten, Jesus is here. In His beloved bride. Hewill supply the wine. Hewill be here. Hewill remind us that Hewill supply us with His very body and blood, given to come in the heavenly kingdom.

Indeed, with Jesus there is new life, there is abundance. May we ever abide in Him. Amen. The peace of God that keeps your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

dants supply, and there is His great joy. His peace surpasses all understanding,