

JANUARY 20TH, 2013
Second Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

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Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will grow spiritually and in numbers as we serve Christ. We will reach out and address the hurts and hopes in our community. We will maintain a church home that is reverently joyous and extend a welcome to all who seek to join us in our mission.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

Sunday, January 20, 2013/Second Sunday after Epiphany Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of the glory of God to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at the baptism of Jesus—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people "as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride." 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.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"** **# 275 ELW**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

P: Let us be honest with ourselves, our God, and with each other and confess our sins in order that we might receive the forgiveness of God and experience the joy of the community of Christ.

All: God, we sin by what we think, what we say and what we do. We continue to pull away from you even through you love us with an everlasting love. Today in worship, we recognize our failures and our weaknesses. We confess our sins of omission and commission. We confess we do not love our neighbors as ourselves. We come to you now, as brothers and sisters in Christ, who need your power and forgiveness.

P: In the name of Jesus, the Christ, I speak his word to you: *"I belong to you as you belong to me. I am one of you, I know you. I died and rose for you so your sin might be forgiven. I feel what you feel and I live through your life. I forgive your wrongs and with that forgiveness give you power to change your condition as you live lives which are pleasing in my sight."*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC by Randy & Laurina Tofteland

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 his 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.

The 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.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

You 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.

For 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.

PSALM: Psalm 36:5–10

Refrain: We feast upon the abundance of your house, O LORD. (Ps. 36:8)

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

**Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep;
you save humankind and animals, O LORD. R**

How priceless is your love, O God!

All people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

They feast upon the abundance of your house;

you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light.

Continue your lovingkindness to those who know you,

and your favor to those who are true of heart. R

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. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When 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 and 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." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

HYMN:

“Be Thou My Vision”

793 ELW

SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called by the Holy Spirit into relationship with a loving God, we pray for the church, all in need, and the whole creation.

A time for silent prayer.

Continue to pour your steadfast love upon the church, O God, so that we may share your abundant grace with the whole world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You love your creation, O God. Grow our sense of responsibility for animals entrusted to our care. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You lavish care on all people, O God. Help leaders to act in ways that spread your peace to all the earth (*especially in . . .*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your Spirit gives gifts to each one of us, O God. Let us use our gifts to care for all who suffer; the homeless or unemployed; those who are ill or in pain (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Use this congregation, O God, helping us to serve you in whatever way we are called. Help us to share your love with a thirsty world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made.

Sustain us in the gift of baptism until we gather with all your saints from every time and place to share new wine around one table. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we place ourselves and all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

798 ELW

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF JANUARY 20TH, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Del & Dianne Jones
Ushers: Wally & Bev Swensen
Lector: Joyce Rimer
Coffee Servers: Joyce Rimer & Jan Phillipp

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (1/13/13)

Attendance: 9:00 – 113

Offering: \$ 3,250.00 Building Fund: \$ 412.50

\$ 3,077.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses.

\$ 580.00 – Weekly amount (building fund) needed for mortgage payment.

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA JANUARY 20TH THRU JANUARY 26TH, 2013

Mon., Jan. 21 st	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Jan. 22 nd	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., Jan. 23	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Praise Team
Thurs, Jan. 24	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO REGINA JOHNSON as she celebrates her 96th birthday this month. Come join us for cake & coffee in the Fellowship Hall after today's service.

The **2013 offering envelopes** are available on the table by the Fellowship Hall door.

The **2012 Year End Statements** are also available on the table by the Fellowship Hall door.

The **Poinsettias** by the entry door are available to anyone who would like to give a plant or two a home. Please take them.

We are in need of **Coffee Servers** for February 3rd. Please check the sign up sheet next to the kitchen serving window and sign up if you are able. Thank you. Remember: No coffee servers means no coffee and goodies for that Sunday.

THE FIRST MIRACLE

Today's gospel presents the first miracle of Jesus, the turning of water into wine at a wedding. At first glance, it may seem a bit frivolous for a debut miracle. Maybe Jesus rebuffs his mother at first because he had a different debut in mind.

We may not realize how huge a humiliation it would have been to run out of wine at a wedding during the first century. Wedding feasts could last a week, and the family would have been expected to plan accordingly. The beauty of this miracle is that Jesus was not so focused on his plan that he couldn't act compassionately. This miracle allows the celebration to go on and the family to save face.

This miracle also foreshadows one of the central messages of the ministry of Jesus. The celebration would likely have involved the whole village. By saving the wedding feast and enabling it to continue, Jesus enacts a sign that unites the newly married couple and the wedding party to one another, at the same time conveying their commitment to the larger community. How fitting that this first miracle of Jesus both celebrates and cements community.

This miracle also reminds us of God's abundance. Jesus doesn't create just enough wine to get to the end of the feast. Each of the six jars holds twenty or thirty gallons: that's a lot of wine! And it's good; Jesus doesn't create an undrinkable vintage.

We live in a world plagued by fear of scarcity. Many of us believe that resources are finite, and thus, when one group gets goodies, the rest of us will have to make do with less. Jesus reminds us that our vision is not God's vision. God gives us more resources of every kind than we can possibly use.

God wants to provide for us abundantly. God wants to celebrate with us. How can we not respond to this generosity?

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