

**MINNESOTA VALLEY CHURCH**

**January 16, 2022**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**PRELUDE:** Carol Gustafson; Singers: Fugleberg

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Psalm 128*

*Blessed are all who fear the LORD,  
who walk in his ways.*

*2 You will eat the fruit of your labor;  
blessings and prosperity will be yours.*

*3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your house;  
your sons will be like olive shoots around your  
table.*

*4 Thus is the man blessed  
who fears the LORD.*

*5 May the LORD bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life;*

*may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem,  
6 and may you live to see your children's children.  
Peace be upon Israel.*

**HYMN #226 “Love Divine, All Love Excelling”**

**PASTOR:** *Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**CONGREGATION:** *We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen*

**PRAYER**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:** *Jesus’ First Miracle-John 2:7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," so they filled them to the brim.*

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** *Isaiah 62:1-5*

*For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,  
till her righteousness shines out like the dawn,  
her salvation like a blazing torch.*

*2 The nations will see your righteousness,  
and all kings your glory;  
you will be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.*

*3 You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand,  
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.*

*4 No longer will they call you Deserted,  
or name your land Desolate.*

*But you will be called Hephzibah,  
and your land Beulah;*

*for the LORD will take delight in you,  
and your land will be married.  
5 As a young man marries a maiden,  
so will your sons marry you;  
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,  
so will your God rejoice over you.*

**EPISTLE LESSON:** *1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. 2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3 Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.*

**READER:** Here ends the reading of God's Word.

**CONGREGATION SINGS:** God be praised, for His glad Tidings!

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:** I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen

**GLORIA PATRI:** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is not, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAISE SONGS:** 1 or 2 praise songs chosen by CAROL

**SERMON:** Pastor Tom Olson; **THE MARRIAGE AT CANA IN GALILEE**

**SERIES:** Last year most of my preaching was from the Epistles of the Apostle Paul. They are rich in the theology of salvation by grace and filled with practical instructions for the church and home. This year I am trying to follow the gospel lessons. If I were to give the messages a title of a series, I might want to call it something like "The Life of Christ." One author of a past generation called it "The Greatest Story Ever Told." God has given us four gospels. I think that means we are meant to focus on the life, ministry, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Colossians 1:15-19 puts it this way, *"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the*

*firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”* Jesus himself said the same thing much more simply, *John 14:9, “He who has seen me has seen the Father.”* Today we look at Jesus first public miracle as He and his disciples attended the marriage feast at Cana in Galilee. Let’s talk about it.

## **I. JESUS SANCTIFIED MARRIAGE BY HIS PRESENCE**

*John 2:1-2 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.*

QUESTION: Jesus went to a wedding. This brings up a burning question, “What is marriage?” Thirty years ago, that was nearly universally agreed upon. For thousands of years, marriage has been defined as a union of a man and a woman in holy wedlock. In recent years people are redefining marriage as:

- “SAME SEX MARRIAGE,” a union of a man and a man, or a woman and a woman.
- “POLYAMOROUS MARRIAGE,” a combination of men and women “married” at the same time.
- “OPEN MARRIAGE” where you are married to one person but with the understanding that you can be intimate with anyone you want at any time.

BATTLE: In Canada a recent law has made it illegal to teach that marriage is only a union of a man and a woman. They call that a myth and “hate speech.” Pastors and parents who teach what the Bible says are now going to be punished by the Canadian government. The Canadian government has literally waged war on the Bible. I have predicted for over thirty years that this same thing will happen in America and that I may end up in jail for teaching the Ten Commandments.

BIBLE: I have not done a wedding in several years because very few people want a church wedding anymore because so many of them have lived together and no longer accept what the Bible says about purity. When I have done a wedding, the ceremony states that “Holy matrimony is an estate instituted by God.” It goes on to say that the marriage ceremony was affirmed by Jesus by his attendance at this marriage at Cana in Galilee. If Jesus did not approve of marriage and marriage ceremonies, He would not have attended.

SATAN: Satan knows that if he can destroy marriage, that he can destroy our nation. Marriage and family are the building blocks of a solid nation. I used to do Bible studies in the Carlton County jail. I would say that the majority of men the I have met in jail have come from a troubled home situation. Satan’s attack on marriage is an attack on the foundation of our nation. The rejection of marriage is a serious problem in our world today. We need to fight to keep our marriages strong because JESUS SANCTIFIED MARRIAGE.

## **II. GENUINE MIRACLES ARE FOR A DIVINE PURPOSE**

*John 2:3-10 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." 4 "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. 8 Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, 9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.*

*Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."*

FLIPPANT: It is clear from this passage that Jesus did not use miraculous powers flippantly. He knew that there was a time and a place to perform a miracle. The purpose of a miracle was to testify that He was the Messiah, the Son of God, the Savior of the World. When John the Baptist was in prison and started to have doubts, Jesus told John's disciples to tell him this report: *Luke 7:21-22 At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. 22 So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.*

DANGER: One of the great dangers of having the gift of healing is that it will draw attention to us and not to the Lord. Faith healers have always struggled with the attention they get from being able to pray for miraculous healing. Miracle faith is not a gift than many can handle. When the miracles don't happen, they are tempted to fake them because they are addicted to the attention it gives them. **The whole purpose of miracles is to testify that Jesus is the Christ so that people might believe in Him.**

RELUCTANT: Jesus did go on to turn water into wine. I can't say if it was premature. I don't totally understand what Jesus said to Mary. But you will see that it turns out well. **THE MIRACLE PRODUCED GREAT FAITH** in those who knew what had happened. But don't forget that when the miracle happened, only his disciples and the servants knew about it. Jesus kept it as secret as possible. If the servants told people what happened, most would not believe it anyway. Jesus honored his mother's request. For some reason, Jesus was reluctant to do public miracles at that point. When he did, it was hard to preach the Word of God because he was constantly surrounded by people who wanted healing rather than salvation of their souls! Healing is wonderful **BUT THE SALVATION OF LOST SOULS IS INFINITELY MORE IMPORTANT.** Jesus made that clear in his ministry.

BOASTING: The apostle Paul refused to boast about the miracles and visions he had experienced. He summarized the topic this way in *Galatians 6:14 "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..."* Pastor Maynard Halvorson was an extremely lovable man. He said parishioners would come to shake his hand after the service and say, "Pastor we love you so much." But he said to me he would much rather hear them say, "Pastor, I love Jesus so much." This great man of God didn't want to take any attention away from Christ. **MIRACLES ARE FOR A DIVINE PURPOSE.**

### **III. THE DISCIPLES PUT THEIR FAITH IN JESUS**

*John 2:11-12 This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him. 12 After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.*

FAITH: The miracle produced FAITH. One topic that we probably don't mention enough is FAITH. Notice the result of this miracle did two things:

**HE REVEALED HIS GLORY  
HIS DISCIPLES PUT THEIR FAITH IN HIM**

IMPORTANT: Jesus knew that his disciples needed faith and that this was an opportunity to create it. Let me remind you how important faith is:

**Hebrews 11:6** *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

**1 John 5:4** *“This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”*

**Matthew 13:58** *And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.*

**TRANSFORMATION:** What happens when we get a strong faith in the Lord? It transforms our life. It chases away worry. It opens the door to opportunities and provision. The life of worry and the life of fear is a very frustrating way to live. But the life of faith is an exciting adventure. Many of us lose our joy and enthusiasm because we have a weak faith. We don't have confidence that Jesus is on the throne and then Satan can really play with our minds and steal our joy.

**LESSON:** Today's faith lesson is the same for us as it was for Jesus' disciples. Here it is: “The same Lord Jesus Christ who turned water into wine lives inside of you and me.” We trust Him and obey His promptings. The result is peace of mind and happiness.

- **Romans 10:17** *“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”*
- **Romans 8:28** *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*
- **Psalms 124:8** *Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

**TRUST:** Today we looked at MARRIAGE, MIRACLES AND FAITH. When the disciples saw the water turn to wine, they put their faith in Jesus. That same Jesus is watching over us night and day and he will see us through. All we need to do is to TRUST AND OBEY. Amen

**HYMN #517 “Trust and Obey”**

**PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER:** *Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen*

**BENEDICTION:** The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and grant you peace. Amen

**Closing Song chosen by Carol**

**POSTLUDE:** Carol Gustafson

**FIRST LESSON** *Isaiah 62:1-5*

*For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,  
till her righteousness shines out like the dawn,  
her salvation like a blazing torch.*

*2 The nations will see your righteousness,  
and all kings your glory;  
you will be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.*

*3 You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand,  
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.*

*4 No longer will they call you Deserted,  
or name your land Desolate.*

*But you will be called Hephzibah,  
and your land Beulah;  
for the LORD will take delight in you,  
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*5 As a young man marries a maiden,  
so will your sons marry you;  
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,  
so will your God rejoice over you.*

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