

CHRIST CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany – The Week beginning January 19, 2025



Read John 2:1-11:

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.

Background:

In Isaiah 62:5 and Hosea 2:14-23, the prophets had pictured the old covenant—the relationship between God and the Israelites—as a marriage, where God was the bridegroom and Israel the bride. “As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you,” said Isaiah (62:5). Therefore, it was no accident that Jesus’ first sign took place at a wedding. At Cana, the water used for Judaic rituals was replaced by the choicest of wines. This was a sign that the existing religious customs and rituals had lost their meaning and had been replaced by the true path to God—Jesus himself. Jesus later explained this explicitly to Thomas: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

Talking Points:

- Who do you relate to most in this passage?
- If you had been there, would you recognize that a miracle had happened, or would you be oblivious to the work of Jesus in that very room?
- What do you imagine prompted Mary to ask for Jesus’ help? What do you think she expected?
- Think of the people you spend the most time with: In what ways can you imagine asking Jesus to help them with their problems?
- When have you been surprised by God working in a situation in a way you never imagined?

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.