

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
First Sunday after Epiphany
January 9, 2022

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today in Cana of Galilee to celebrate.

Celebrate with a wedding party—the confetti has been flung, the wine is poured, the people are gathered, the wedding banquet is prepared, the feast is waiting, the music has begun.

You are the honored guests, welcome to the wedding! Come and enjoy the wine; come, let us worship God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Gather Us In

CALL TO CONFESSION

The grace of God overflows for us through Jesus Christ, who came into the world to save sinners. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of celebration, we gather here in your presence to offer our best to you, not our sense of obligation or empty words, but our whole selves.

Forgive us, Lord, for those times when we are selfish and greedy; when we forget who gives us all that we have.

Forgive us, Lord, for those times when we ignore the needs of others; when we choose not to share all that we have.

Remind us of your overflowing generosity and the generosity shown by your Son, Jesus. Help us to follow in his footsteps, today and every day.

We reflect in silence on the ways we have fallen short.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Amen. God's love for us transforms the bitter water of sin into the wine of forgiveness. Grace abounds, mercy overflows. Believe the good news of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

We encourage you to quietly reflect with joy on God's mercy as the music plays.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, quicken our understanding that we may receive the testimony of Scripture and believe in the signs that reveal your presence. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Psalms 104:1, 14-20, 24

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, you are very great.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,
to bring forth food from the earth,
and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees.
The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the conies.
You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.
You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

The Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Steve Thiel

SECOND READING

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Rev. Ben Shaw

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

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 Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

Per COVID-19 safety measures, we will not pass the offering plate for some time. As you feel called, you may leave your offering in the plate in the Gathering Room or donate online at MPChurch.net.

***DOXOLOGY**

In place of singing aloud, we encourage you to ponder God's blessings in your life as the music plays.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

... And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 debts
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***HYMN**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.

POSTLUDE