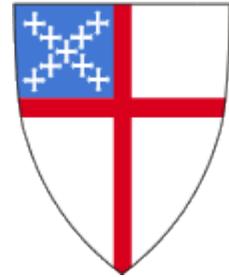


The Lessons Appointed for Use on the

Second Sunday after the Epiphany



Year C

- [Isaiah 62:1-5](#)
- [1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#)
- [John 2:1-11](#)
- [Psalm 36:5-10](#)

The Collect

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.

Isaiah 62:1-5

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.

The Psalm

Psalm 36:5-10

Dixit injustus

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

6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; *
you save both man and beast, O LORD.

7 How priceless is your love, O God! *your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

8 They feast upon the abundance of your house; *you give them drink from the river of your delights.

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

10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, *and your favor to those who are true of heart.

The New Testament

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now **there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit**; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same **God who activates all of them** in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

The Gospel

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**.

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Lindale, Texas**

The 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
January 20, 2019
John 2:1-11
The Reverend John P. Carr

“Follow Him”

In the first public miracle of Jesus that is recorded, we see that His greatness is exposed. He is exposed as someone who is beyond exceptional by His mother. His life is beyond the norm of human existence. When His disciples witnessed the water turned into wine they believed in Him. He had no doubt been teaching them but now He has moved beyond the status of Rabbi to something more glorious.

The miracle begins with an interesting exchange between Mary and her Son Jesus. Mary has experienced the miraculous before with Jesus because she has a clear expectation that he can instantly remedy the small crisis of running out of wine at a wedding feast. The time for secret miracles was over. Mary thought it was time for Jesus to go public with His abilities and begin to reveal His true ministry. He was not merely a teacher, He was someone well beyond anyone's expectations except for Mary. She knew. She tells the stewards to, “Do whatever he tells you to do.” The translation from the King James version reads, “whatsoever he saith unto you, *do it*.” That expression of the same thought given more meaning. It is imperative. She tells them to “do whatever He says,” because she knows what Jesus is capable of doing. Jesus complies with her wishes, and the stewards comply with her directions. At the direction of Jesus, the water is turned into wine in the presence of Mary, the stewards, Jesus and the disciples who were with Jesus.

Now think of this in a new light. That command from Mary could be a command for all people for all time. She said, “whatsoever He saith unto you, **DO IT**.” Mary said, “*just do it*” long before Nike came along and marketed the saying.

What did Jesus tell us to do? How has He instructed us? What is recorded in the Gospels that Jesus is directly telling us to do? Following the baptism of Jesus He began to preach even before calling His disciples. He returned to Galilee and moved to Capernaum. After He moved there and began to preach, His message was, *"The time has come," ... "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"* (Mark 1:15) This first item on Jesus' "to do" list recognizes that all have fallen into sin and needed to repent and believe. This action that Jesus preached was not an abstract thing. It had power. He said of belief, *"Don't be afraid; just believe."* (Mark 5:36) *"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."* (Matthew 21:22) This brings to mind what Jesus said about Himself and belief recorded in John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

Jesus told the people who believed to have faith. There are many stories in which Jesus does not claim the healing, but attributes it to the *faith of the person* seeking healing. He tells them that their faith has made them well. (Mark 10:52, Matthew 9:22) He speaks of faith in terms of dimension and power. *"If you only have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

As Jesus developed His ministry He drew people to Himself. He called His first disciples with two simple words, *"Follow me."* Jesus called the disciples from their boats, from their tax collection booth, from their everyday lives by telling them what to do. He told them what to do, He said, *"Follow me."* When preaching to them all he said, *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."* (Luke 9:23-25)

Jesus wanted those who heard him and those in the ages to follow to repent and return to the Lord. To believe in Him and have faith and follow Him. He is the path to eternal life because He came to save. He came to save us and not to judge.

Jesus had much to say about love. He began with combining two Old Testament teachings. He said to love God and to love your neighbor. This is the beginning of what it means to repent and return to the Lord; what it means to believe, have faith and follow Jesus. These were the things that he told us to do. To accomplish them we have to address some other things that Jesus told us to do.

He taught that we are to forgive not judge. He said *“forgive and you will be forgiven.”* (Luke 6:37) In the Lord’s Prayer we are told to forgive *as* we forgive others. We will be forgiven in the same measure as we forgive others. Think of it as a measuring stick. If we are not merciful in our forgiveness we are using a very short measure and this is the same measure that God will use to measure us.

Jesus told us to be merciful for a very simple reason. He said, *“be merciful, just as your Father is merciful,”* (Luke 6:36) and *“be merciful for the merciful will receive mercy.”* (Matthew 5:7) You might think also of mercy in the terms of Matthew 25. You recall the story that Jesus told of the end time when the sheep would be separated from the goats.

The king said to those on his right, *“come you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom is prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”*

This is a story of judgement based on love and mercy. Jesus told us to do what the merciful had done. Those who had done this were promised eternal life.

God is love and Jesus is God. He came to teach us ultimately how to love. The command was to love God and love our neighbor and this comes about with a change of heart. It comes about when we are merciful and follow the way of Jesus. He told us to be holy for He is holy. To be merciful because he is merciful. To love God because He first loved us.

He told us to abide in his love and keep the Father’s commandments. Why is this? Why does He want us to do this? It is because He loves us and wants to share the joy of the kingdom with us. He said, *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”* (John 15:9-17)

This is precisely what Jesus came to do, to lay down His life in love for us. It was the Father’s “to do” for Jesus and Jesus loved and obeyed the Father to the end.

Besides repenting and returning to God in faith and believing in the Son of God, we are called to love our neighbor and exhibit this love in acts of mercy following the things that Jesus taught us to do.

There was one last thing on our *to do* list with Jesus. It is a way for us to put all that we have learned through the love of God into action. He said, "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*" (Matthew 28:18-20)

He is telling us to continue his ministry and spread the love of God and the story of Jesus.

Jesus made the best wine from ordinary water. He is doing the same with us. We are ordinary people who are changed when we follow Jesus, believe in Jesus and love one another. We are changed into something better and eternal.

Jesus is telling us what *to do* to make that change. Now it is up to us to do it.

Amen

Repent

Matthew 4:16-17 ¹⁶the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." ¹⁷From that time on **Jesus** began **to** preach, "**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Believe

Matthew 21:22 ²²"If you *believe*, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

Mark 5:36 ³⁶Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "*Don't be afraid; just believe.*"

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, "*whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*"

John 3:16 ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Have Faith

Mark 10:52 And Jesus said to him, "*Go; your faith has made you well.*" Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.

Matthew 17:20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Follow

Matthew 4:18-20 Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.*" Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

Matthew 9:9 As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "*Follow Me!*"

Mark 2:14 As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, "*Follow Me!*" And he got up and followed Him.

Matthew 16:24 ²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, *"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."*

John 1:43-45

The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip and Jesus said to him, *"Follow Me."*

Matthew 19:21

Jesus said to him, *"If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*

Luke 9:23-25

And He was saying to them all, *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."*

John 8:12

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, *"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."*

John 12:26

"If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him."

How we follow

John 13:12-17

So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, *"Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."*

Forgive

Luke 6:37

³⁷*"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. **Forgive**, and you will be forgiven.*

Matthew 18:21-22

²¹Then Peter came to **Jesus** and asked, "LORD, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²²Jesus answered, *"I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

Matthew 6:9-15

⁹"This, then, is how you should pray: *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' ¹⁴For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not **forgive** your sins.*

Be Merciful

Luke 6:36

³⁶**Be merciful**, just as your Father is **merciful**.

Matthew 5:7

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. "

Luke 6:36

"Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

Matthew 9:13

"Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

How are we merciful:

Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ...

Matthew 6:14

“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,”

Love

John 12:23-25

And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Matthew 22:37-39

And he said to him, *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

John 15:9-17

*“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this; that someone lay down his life for his friends. ...”***”

John 13:34

*³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my **disciples**, if you **love one another.**”*

“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.”

1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore **go** and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and **teaching them** to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*