



LIVING THE GOSPEL

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 19th 2025**

Theme: "Do whatever he tells you."

Gathering Prayer

All: Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Exploring the Word

Gospel Reading: John 2:1-11

¹ On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; ² Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. ³ When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. ⁹ When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Gospel Focus

In John's gospel, Jesus begins his ministry with an unusual miracle. Most of Jesus' miracles are about healing, restoring their recipients to a baseline level of physical or spiritual health. Here, though, Jesus shows that he does not just care about the bare necessities. His desire for us is *abundance*. In this instance, there is no real need, just a party about to wind down. In response, he makes wine flow freely—the gospel is specific about the amount, but it is hard to envision this quantity: each of these stone jars can fill about a hundred of our standard bottles of wine. Jesus cares about our basic bodily needs, and he cares that we experience joy, friendship and love—the fullness of life for which we were created.

Gospel Reflection

In the United States, a soon-to-be married couple usually registers at a major department store of the gifts; they would most like to receive for their wedding. They choose the pattern of china they like, the glassware, and the silverware. They list small appliances and other useful items for the home they desire. Friends and relatives choose gifts for the couple from among these items, and the store keeps track of whether or not someone else has already purchased them. It is a very efficient system, but not at all like the way the Spirit gives gifts.

There is no predictability about how the Spirit distributes the various charisms. One might ask God for a particular gift, and it may or may not be granted. A totally unexpected gift may land in one's lap, bringing surprise and delight—something you might never have thought to ask for, something that ends up a perfect fit! Sometimes there are unsolicited gifts that can be “re-gifted.”

In the second reading today, Paul lists a whole array of gifts that the Spirit gives, each one carefully chosen for the individual for whom it is intended: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, mighty deeds, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretation. We might picture the Spirit delighting in choosing a gift for each one—a gift that weds the recipient to the Holy One and impregnates each with God's fruitful power. None of the Spirit's gifts are meant to be kept under wraps. They are always meant to bear fruit, not only in the recipient's life, but also in service toward others.

The wedding scene in today's gospel depicts Jesus as hesitant to open his Spirit-given gifts in public. He thinks the time has not yet come. However, as his mother rightly discerns, the need is urgent. Like all prophets, Jesus is reluctant and objects, just as Jeremiah protested that he was too young and Moses avowed that he could not speak well, Jesus' mother, however, seems to take on the role of the wedding planner. She works behind the scenes, using her gifts of insight and knowledge, setting the stage for the sign that Jesus will perform. She knows that the time has come for her Son to offer his gifts publicly to bring the marriage between humanity and divinity to consummation.

Just as a wedding is, only the beginning of a lifelong love affair, so the sign Jesus performs at Cana is the beginning of his many signs that revealed his glory. It is also the beginning of the disciples' belief in Jesus, who himself is the bridegroom, as John the Baptist acknowledges (Jn 3:29). The gift of Jesus himself is one that far surpasses any other that we could have on our “wish list”!

Old/New Testament and CCC links

First Reading — Isaiah 62:1-5

¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ² The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name which the mouth of the LORD will give. ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Responsorial Reading — Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10

R: "Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations."

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all you lands.
Sing to the Lord; bless his name. **(R)**

Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds. **(R)**

Give to the Lord, you families of nations,
give to the Lord glory and praise; give to the Lord the glory due his name! **(R)**

Worship the Lord in holy attire. Tremble before him, all the earth;
say among the nations: The Lord is king. He governs the peoples with equity. **(R)**

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Catechism of The Catholic Church

486. The Father's only Son, conceived as man in the womb of the Virgin Mary, is "Christ", that is to say, anointed by the Holy Spirit, from the beginning of his human existence, though the manifestation of this fact takes place only progressively: to the shepherds, to the magi, to John the Baptist, to the disciples. (Cf. Mt 1:20; 2:1-12; Lk 1:35; 2:8-20; Jn 1:3 1-34; 2:11) Thus the whole life of Jesus Christ will make manifest "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power." (Acts 10:38)

495. Called in the Gospels "the mother of Jesus", Mary is acclaimed by Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Spirit and even before the birth of her son, as "the mother of my Lord". (Lk 1:43; Jn 2:1; 19:25; cf. Mt 13:55; et al) In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly "Mother of God" (*Theotokos*). (Council of Ephesus (431): DS 251)

1335. The miracles of the multiplication of the loaves, when the Lord says the blessing, breaks and distributes the loaves through his disciples to feed the multitude, prefigure the superabundance of this unique bread of his Eucharist. (Cf. Mt 14:13-21; 15:32-39) The sign of water turned into wine at Cana already announces the Hour of Jesus' glorification. It makes manifest the fulfillment of the wedding feast in the Father's kingdom, where the faithful will drink the new wine that has become the Blood of Christ. (Cf. Jn 2:11; Mk 14:25)

1613. On the threshold of his public life Jesus performs his first sign - at his mother's request - during a wedding feast. (Cf. Jn 2:1-11) The Church attaches great importance to Jesus' presence at the wedding at Cana. She sees in it the confirmation of the goodness

of marriage and the proclamation that thenceforth marriage will be an efficacious sign of Christ's presence.

2618. The Gospel reveals to us how Mary prays and intercedes in faith. At Cana,(Cf. Jn 2:1-12) the mother of Jesus asks her son for the needs of a wedding feast; this is the sign of another feast - that of the wedding of the Lamb where he gives his body and blood at the request of the Church, his Bride. It is at the hour of the New Covenant, at the foot of the cross,(Cf. Jn 19:25-27) that Mary is heard as the Woman, the new Eve, the true "Mother of all the living."

Sharing and Discussion

1. Mary tells the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." What does this say about her faith? How can her example inspire us to trust God in uncertain situations?
2. Think of a time when you have felt flooded by goodness. When has Jesus provided for you in a way that felt abundant?
3. How can you contribute to bringing a sense of celebration and abundance into the lives of others, inspired by this miracle at the wedding feast?

Closing Prayer

All: Lord God, all glory and praise are yours. Hear our prayers this day, and may we announce your salvation day after day through the witness of our lives. We ask these through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

**Living The Gospel bible study/sharing via Zoom.
Every Wednesday
Time: 8 – 9.30 pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2760073734?pwd=cDRZR2JQMGRobVkwkTY3ZVF5L1BwZz09>

**Meeting ID: 276 007 3734
Passcode: 1WordOfGod**

All are welcome!

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References:

- (1) Gospel Notes are taken from The Navarre Bible
- (2) Gospel Reflection and Living Liturgy are taken from "Living Liturgy for Sundays and Solemnities" by Order of St Benedict. Published by Liturgical Ministry, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota
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- (3) CCC references are taken from Catechism of The Catholic Church