

**Stewardship 2025
United in Christ**



**Yesterday,
Today and
Tomorrow**

Psalm 46:7 "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold."

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 19, 2025
9:15 AM Worship Express**

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz
Lector: Mike Warwick
Acolytes: Autumn Wendorf & Greta Hanson
Ushers: Darla and Jason Estervig
Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

Epiphany means "reveal." Throughout the Sundays of Epiphany we read stories about Jesus and ask the questions - "What does this story tell us about Jesus; who he is and what he is about?" Today we have the story of the Wedding at Cana, the first of Jesus' miracles. What does it reveal to us about Jesus? Whatever it is, it is going to be good because weddings are all about celebrating life and love.

CALL TO WORSHIP "Here I Am to Worship" First Class Ringers

Words to meditate on...

*"Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You
Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God"*

WELCOMING GOD'S PEOPLE

P: God gathers God's People together to encourage them with the WORD and strengthen them with the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

All: Amen!

CONFESSION

P: Blessed be God our Creator, Jesus our Protector and the Holy Spirit who gives us life.

C: Amen

P: God hears our words and knows the thought of our hearts. To one who knows us so well, let us confess our sin.

Brief silence for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

Right Side: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the times we are judgmental, cruel, or simply don't care.

Left Side: Forgive us for the times we ignore the needs of our neighbors and when we do not respond to your call to oppose injustice.

Right Side: Forgive us for the times we are afraid there will not be enough for me, let alone anyone else.

All: Forgive us for our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Repair our hearts that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

FORGIVENESS

P: God shouts these words of assurance so all can hear: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." Jesus forgives us. The Spirit frees us. God's mercy is full of grace. Let's live God's beloved children.

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING SONG: "We Are Marching in the Light of God" ELW #866

**vs. 1: We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God. (2 times)
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God. (2 times)**

vs. 2: We are dancing...
vs. 3: We are singing...

LITANY

P: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the WORD was with God and the WORD was God.

P: In the WORD was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

P: The WORD became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

SONG OF PRAISE: "Alleluia" Dakota Road Anthology #128

Alleluia, Alleluia. I am the light of the world.

Alleluia, Alleluia. I am the light of the world.

Those who follow me will not walk in darkness.

Those who follow me will have the light of life.

Alleluia, Alleluia. I am the light of the world.

Alleluia, Alleluia. I am the light of the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

All: O Lord, time and again through your words and actions you showed us who you were and what you were about. Many believed because of them. We pray that we may be counted among them. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: "Open Our Eyes"

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him and say that we love Him.**

**Open our eyes, Lord, help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

Lector: The Good News according to the John the 2nd chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOOD NEWS READING: John 2:1-11

Lector: Three days later there was a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee.

Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were guests also. When they started running low on wine at the wedding banquet, Jesus' mother told him,

Mary (Women and Girls): They're just about out of wine.

Jesus (Men and Boys): Is that any of our business, Mother—yours or mine? This isn't my time. Don't push me.

Lector: She went ahead anyway, telling the servants,

Mary (Women and Girls): Whatever he tells you, do it.

Lector: Six stoneware water pots were there, used by the Jews for ritual washings. Each held twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus ordered the servants,

Jesus (Men and Boys): Fill the pots with water.

Lector: And they filled them to the brim.

Jesus (Men and Boys): Now fill your pitchers and take them to the host.

Lector: And they did. When the host tasted the water that had become wine (he didn't know what had just happened but the servants, of course, knew), he called out to the bridegroom,

Host (All): Everybody I know begins with their finest wines and after the guests have had their fill brings in the cheap stuff. But you have saved the best till now!

Lector: This act in Cana of Galilee was the first sign Jesus gave, the first glimpse of his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Lector: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sit

THE WORD: A Visit from Mary, Jesus' Mother

Stand

SONG OF THE DAY: "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

**vs. 1: Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.**

**Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**vs. 2: Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
Ev'rything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**vs. 3: Open my mouth, and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see;
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Between prayers we will sing the refrain to "O How I Love Jesus"

P: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church the world and all of creation.

A Brief Silence

P: Giver of gifts, you form each member of the church to serve. Inspire us to boldly use gifts of welcome and healing, service and teaching, leading and preaching, for the sake of your work in the world. God of grace...

O how I love Jesus! O how I love Jesus!

O how I love Jesus, because He first loved me.

P: God of steadfast love, as Jesus celebrated at Cana, nurture marriages and relationships in mutual care; in times of separation or divorce hold tenderly broken hearts and broken dreams. Be present to all who are sick, grieving or in any need. God of grace...

O how I love Jesus! O how I love Jesus!

O how I love Jesus, because He first loved me.

P: Spirit of peace, celebrating this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for neighboring congregations and ministry sites. Nurture our shared commitment to embody Jesus' love, justice and healing. God of grace...

O how I love Jesus! O how I love Jesus!

O how I love Jesus, because He first loved me.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen.

GOD'S PEOPLE SHARE THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all!

All: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERING SONG: "This Little Light of Mine"

**vs. 1: This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; (3 times)
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**vs. 2: Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; (3 times)
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness. The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Music is played as those who wish to come forward for communion come forward and kneel at the communion rail. Others are invited to commune in your pew. All are welcome.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace till life everlasting.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

C: God, you have nourished us at your table with the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Strengthen us for service and send us out into the world to be your hands and feet and voice in this world, healing its pain and freeing those who are oppressed. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BENEDICTION

P: May God our Creator, Jesus our Provider and Life Giving Spirit + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion and send you out to live.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Live in hope!

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE "God Extends an Invitation" Kolling/Young