

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 17, 2010 – Good Shepherd Parish

Scripture Reading Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch.

Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the LORD. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem held by your God. No more shall people call you "Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," but you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused." For the LORD delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

Psalm: Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10

R. (3) 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.

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

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

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Give to the LORD, you families of nations,
give to the LORD glory and praise;
give to the LORD the glory due his name!

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

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.

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Brothers and sisters: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another, the expression 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, mighty deeds; to another, prophecy; to another, discernment of spirits; to another, varieties of tongues; to another, interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

Gospel John 2:1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from — although the servers who had drawn the water knew —, the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

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INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God.

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud.

As you listen to the gospel be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

A new season of the Church year is upon us. Yes, "Ordinary Time" has replaced the Christmas season. Maybe we could talk about seasons of the Church year for a moment. Last Sunday climaxed the stories of Jesus' birth, baptism and early life. Now it is time to hear about his work as a full adult, as the man who was also God's Word. That is the content of "Ordinary Time," in spite of the season's mundane name. How long will Ordinary Time last? It will include every Sunday that is not in the Advent/ Christmas season, the Lent/Easter season, or any other special celebration. There are three years worth of Ordinary Time Masses, with the clever names, A, B, and C. In each of these years one particular Gospel writer is featured. This is year C, and we will hear the Gospel according to Luke. Before it each Sunday the following words will be proclaimed: "A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke." Before we begin with Luke, however, the Church is giving us a brief transition this Sunday, a preparation for hearing the narrative of Jesus' life according to Luke. This Sunday is meant to console us and raise our expectations concerning the Messiah who is now a man.

So, here we go. In the [First Reading](#) Isaiah says he will not be quiet until Jerusalem is set free, till it "shines forth like the dawn." He will keep preaching even though the land is "desolate," and the people are "forsaken," thirsting for hope and for good news. If you look around, that is us. What is it that Isaiah preaches? That God is going to give his people a new name. They will be called "My delight." Their land will be known by the name "Espoused." The Lord will marry them and bring forth abundance from their lands. Isaiah is repeating the promise God had made in the midst of trouble, a promise that is irrevocable: "I will be your God and you will be my people." Can you hear that promise? It is repeated in the [Gospel](#), John 2:1-11, but in a much different way. Just as the Father can change a forsaken people into ones that delight him, so Jesus is able to transform water into the very best wine—a symbol of making our lives into his delight. It is a wonderful image of people who are fresh out of hope and need to drink of the promise and its satisfaction. This is the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee, and the wine has run out. Only God in Jesus can supply the real thing. Mary says simply to Jesus, "They have no wine." In other words, the human race has no real life left in it. Jesus replies that it is not yet "his time." That is, his public life has not yet begun. He will have to preach, heal, suffer, die and rise again. But Mary knows him too well. She says to the servants, do whatever he tells you. Mary does not take seriously all the reasons why God's promise cannot be fulfilled at this time. She knows that the people need the full, rich wine of life, which is love, and she trusts her son. This Sunday we begin to watch Jesus make us into "his delight." Let us watch.

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

1. Why does Isaiah use intimate marital imagery when explaining the relationship between God and the people? Does love between human beings help you understand how much God loves people?
2. Why do you think people are given talents such as Van Gogh's and Bach's or spiritual gifts such as the ones mentioned in the reading? Should everyone have the same talents? Are you using the talents God gave you?
3. Surprisingly, when his own mother said, "They have no wine," Jesus replied, "How does your concern affect me?" Wasn't this a rude answer? Why did he say it? In spite of his response, Mary trusted that he would somehow solve the problem. If her trust rates "ten" on a scale of ten, where would you put your own trust when you go to God with your concerns?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with the following:

Father of heaven and earth, hear our prayers, and show us the way to peace in the world. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen