

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
“Trusting in the coming hour of Jesus” John 2:2-5  
January 19, 2025  
Rev. Ed Weber

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany is from our Gospel reading, John 2:2-5.

**“2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” 4 Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.” 5 His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”**

So far the text...

It was a good thing that Jesus was at this wedding at Cana. The wedding guests usually bring a gift for the bride and groom to the reception, but they aren't asked to bring a miracle. These days, an invitation will sometimes include a link to a bridal registry or simply some money tree. To help with wedding costs, some are even selling tickets to come. Well, it's not to the point of requiring a miracle for your presence yet, or a miracle tree.

But, that is exactly what Jesus, the special wedding guest provided. His first miracle. What a gift to the bride and groom and all at the wedding! Jesus provided what they were lacking. He changed water into wine! What a joy for the guests to have His presence with them! Jesus not only gave them wine, but the best wine! For whatever He does, is always the best. His will is always good.

Mary knew that and trusted in her Son, her very human Son but also she knew that He was Divine – the Son of God! So, Mary presented the problem to her Son. She simply presented the need to Him – and then told the servants to do “whatever” He tells them to do. For Mary trusted in her Son's good will. Though Jesus had not performed any miracles yet, she trusted that if His hour was at hand to perform one, He would.

In all earthly needs, we also lift our prayers to God according to His good will, in the Jesus' name – trusting that if it is the hour to answer our prayer with a yes, we will be glad. And also, knowing, that “whatever” is Jesus' good will, it will be the best outcome!

The good news is that Jesus is present in our lives always! He's present at our weddings, and birthdays, and school days, and work days, and holidays and every day! At all times whenever we see the needs in our lives we lift them up to Jesus and ask Him to help us in whatever way is His good will!

And yes, there is much that we are lacking. There is much that we need. We pray in the Lord's Prayer that Jesus taught us to ask for our daily bread. And our daily bread includes our food, clothes, home, our church home, our work, health, family, friends, good government, good weather, ...etc. – everything that we need for this body and life.

Do we sometimes have needs in any of those areas? Do we lack good health at times? Yesterday when the Polka band arrived and started setting up, there was a lot of good humor banter back and forth about how they were all getting old ...how it's that much more difficult to set things up...how they had this trouble and that trouble. One musician doesn't drive anymore because of his poor eyesight, but he can still play. Another needs a pacemaker. Yes, they have to allow extra time to set up, but they still play pretty good!

As with all of us, with age comes some limitations on what we're able to do and not do. We have different needs that we lift up to God in prayer, that He would help us with according to His good will. And every one of us, of course, has a need of an immortal body. We can't perform a miracle on ourselves and change this mortal body into an immortal one. Nobody can...except Jesus!

And He did! Jesus' hour came at various times in His ministry to raise Jairus daughter from the dead, the widow's son, Lazarus – Jesus' good friend. And the greatest of miracles was that He raised Himself from the dead!

As we heard last week at Jesus' baptism, our greatest need – our debt to sin was paid for on the cross. And our sins were buried at the cross so that everyone who is baptized in Jesus' is raised to new life! Our baptism is a miracle! For the Triune God creates anew what was dead and enslaved to sin, death and the devil! In your baptism, you are a new creation! And you walk in newness of life with the promise of eternal life – immortality with a new and perfect body when Jesus returns.

When the hour was right, according to God's good will, He who foreknew, and predestined you to be His child, called you by the Gospel and washed your sins away in your baptism! You are a living miracle each and every day. God provides daily for your washing of your sins through your baptism!

You are no longer called "Forsaken" as we heard in the Old Testament reading because of your sins. But God who has called you into His church, washed you in the blood of Jesus as His bride, and presented you pure and holy to Himself, calls you Hephzibah. That means "My delight is in her". Jesus delights in His bride, the church, whom He loved and gave His life for.

And your land is called "Beulah". It is the land to which you are married – your heavenly land – your fatherland! What great gifts God gives to you in the miracle of your baptism! He does the best for you!

And when your hour, Jesus' hour, comes to take you to your heavenly home, you will lack nothing to stand before His throne, pure and holy as His beloved bride. We heard the Father say to Jesus at His baptism last week, "You are My beloved Son in who I am well pleased." ...in whom I delight! For Jesus did His Father's will by offering Himself on the cross for all that righteousness that we lack.

So that, in Jesus, united with Him through faith, we are now His beloved sons and daughters. And at our last hour, we are judged innocent Jesus' righteousness. We are the ones who are robed in the white robe of Jesus' righteousness, washed in the blood of the Lamb!

So Jesus tells us in John 5:

**24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. 25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. John 5:24-29**

Because in Jesus, all our works are presented as pure and holy. They are the good fruits of faith in Jesus. But those who do not believe in Jesus, lack His holiness and their works are evil. Theirs is a resurrection of condemnation. Theirs is a resurrection to the winepress of God's wrath upon them for their lack of righteousness! So Psalm 75 tells us:

**“But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another.**

**8 For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, And the wine is red;**

**It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the**

**earth Drain and drink down. 9 But I will declare forever, I will sing praises to the**

**God of Jacob.10 “All the horns of the wicked I will also cut off, But the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.”**

That is, the power of the wicked shall be cut off forever in condemnation.

But God's people sing praises to the God of Jacob. We will sing in our closing hymn these words.

*I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee; Trusting Thee for full salvation,  
Great and free.”*

His great full and free salvation He gives to us through His Word and sacraments. And as you receive Jesus' very body and blood, in with and under the bread and the wine, you receive His full pardon – given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. What a miracle He gives to you!

*“I am trusting Thee for pardon; At Thy feet I bow, For Thy grace and tender mercy  
Trusting now.”* We trust that at this hour, Jesus' hour, He comes to us with His grace and mercy, not forsaken but loved by God!

*“I am trusting Thee for cleansing In the crimson flood; Trusting Thee to make me holy  
By Thy blood.”*

Indeed, we lift all our needs of body and soul to God and trust that His good will, His “whatever” timing is always good! He saves the best for last always!

*“I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead, Ev'ry day and hour supplying  
All my need.”*

**Amen. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)**