

## News and Notes of Interest

Please use our new Narthex to enter and exit the Sanctuary! after the early Service, join us from 9:15am-9:30am for Coffee & Goodies in the new Fellowship Hall! This week is our Annual Voters' Meeting 9:30am-10:15am!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL and WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT RESUME:** May the Lord richly bless all parents, youth, children, teachers and volunteers! We Welcome Pastor Jack Kirk & wife Jo to our Wednesday Midweek Family Nights.

**Divine Service Schedule Change:** Starting Sunday, February 3, 2019 Divine Service will begin at 9:00 A.M. followed by coffee and dessert time at 10:15 A.M. Bible Study will follow beginning at 10:30 A.M. Elders

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:** 1/21 Kathy LeBeau 1/22 Carrie Lacy 1/23 Zach Zeisler 1/24 Alvin Reichert

**BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES:** 1/21 Kathy LeBeau 1/23 Joan Primrose 1/25 Michael Johnson 1/26 Jamie Thurin

**HIGHER THINGS DEVOTIONS & PORTALS OF PRAYER** available in the Narthex January 6-February 9, 2018. Please check in this weeks bulletin for Bulletin Study Notes for the Christian Layperson.

**VOLUNTEERS:** sign-up sheet on the Narthex table please prayerfully consider serving. Dale Bauman

**CARD SHOWER:** Carol Metzger 80 Years Young! PO Box 433 Lake Park Iowa 51347 Not to Late!

**CARD SHOWER & OPEN HOUSE:** Saturday, February 16, 2019 1:00-4:00pm for NADEEN'S "80th" BIRTHDAY. More Details Narthex Bulletin Board & Table. Nadeen's Family

**FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!** The 14<sup>th</sup> annual FIRE banquet returns on March 2, at the Adams Co. Fairgrounds in Hastings. Doors open at 5 pm; banquet at 6:30 pm with live and silent auctions to follow. Tickets are \$60/person or \$800 for a reserved table of ten. Zion Lutheran (462-5012), Christ Lutheran (744-4991).

**LIFEQUOTE** "Sixty million unborn children have died as a result of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions. However, through the right-to-life movement's determination to protect mothers and their children, we continue to see evidence that our efforts to educate America about the unborn child's humanity, and our efforts to enact protective pro-life legislation, are having a tremendous impact in moving our nation away from Roe's and Doe's deadly legacy." *Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

**EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE TOPICS, EXTOLLING CHRIST...** Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: Marijuana, Mental Illness and Violence, The Will of God, Vocation & Baptism, St. Timothy and more. You can listen live or at on-demand at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the LPR mobile app.

**LCMS (Second Sunday after the Epiphany)**

**John 2:5 - "His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'"** What must Mary have thought when Jesus replied, "What does this have to do with Me?" But she knew this: whatever her Son said to do would be a blessing, so she knows what advice to give to the servants: Do whatever He tells you. That's still good advice for us in every aspect of our lives - including in our generosity toward the Lord's work in the Church.

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 20th  
8:00am & 10:30am



**Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

906 N. California Ave Hastings, NE 68901  
402-462-9023

[www.peacelutheranhastings.org](http://www.peacelutheranhastings.org)  
[peacelutheranhastings@gmail.com](mailto:peacelutheranhastings@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Peace!

We are glad that you are here as we gather around the Word and Sacraments of our Lord Jesus Christ! If you have not already done so, we ask that you sign the Guest Book at the entrance to the church. Contact information can be written in the Fellowship Book located in the aisle side of each pew. If you do not have a church home and are interested in becoming a member here at Peace, please contact an Elder.

**The Lord's Supper is a Gift** . . . and as with all our Lord's gifts, we desire to give and receive them as He intends. The Lord's Supper is for our benefit, but it can be received unworthily. *"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 11:27). Therefore, in faithfulness to our Lord, and in love for you, Peace follows the practice of closed communion. If you are a fellow LCMS member, please let an Elder know beforehand!

**All Guests** should visit with any of our Elders before coming to the Altar to receive the Lord's Supper. If you do not have opportunity to visit with an Elder prior to the service check with our Head Elder, Roger Buck, during the week, see bottom of page for contact information.

**The Divine Service** utilizes beautiful Liturgies and Hymns that the Christian Church has passed down for generations, all the while retelling the story of salvation and enacting the work of Christ among us. This bulletin contains an outline to assist you in locating the various parts of the service within our Hymnal. The inserts have the Scriptures & Propers for the Day, as well as Notes about this particular Sunday or Festival of the church year. May God strengthen you today with His Word and Sacrament!

## Prayers of the Church

**New Members** + Marilyn Anthony + William & Elaine Beezley **Mourning** + Family of Lee Daley **Expecting** + Kayla Reutzler **Hospice, Surgery, or Hospitalization** + Patt Lentfer + Peggy Saddler + Hudson Quandt (Infant) + Rodney Rose + Deb Johnson + Al Kress + Cathy Richards **Health Issues** + LaVona Henkel + Carol Krause + Tammy Alber + Lindsay Brettman + Margret Herbert + Jean Thom + Randy Russell **Cancer** + Maria Gomez + Merna Urwin + Kent Cohagan + Angel Adz + Kathy Sneed + Barbara Classan + Andy Jacques + Ed Elshof + Marilyn Houston **Military** + Gary Thompson + Ross Peters

## In His Service

Presiding Minister: Rev. Jack Kirk, CDR & Chaplain, U.S. Navy, Retired  
 Organist: Dr. Phil Hesterman Cantor: Mr. David Witt A/V: Tim Yurk  
 Altar Guild: January: Mary Wolzen, Bertha Alvidrez Feb. Ethel S., Ruth Albers  
 Ushers: 8:00am Craig W., Ron F. 10:30am Glen K., Walt I.,  
 Elders: 01/20 Don N. 402-460-6430 01/27 Ernesto A. 402-705-3472  
 Bus Drivers: 01/20 Kevin H. 402-984-2904 01/27 Mike N. 402-469-4838

For emergencies during the Vacancy please contact Head Elder, Roger Buck at 308-390-3484 or email at personemlz@charter.net.

## Gifts of Time and Treasure

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>Last Week's Attendance</u> | 126         |
| <u>Last Week's Offering</u>   | \$ 3,141.01 |
| <u>Weekly Need</u>            | \$ 2,250.28 |

OTD II Capital Campaign Remaining Loan Balance as of 11/30/18 \$ 188,923

*For more Financial Information see monthly newsletter*

*A complete accounting of all financials are provided at each Quarterly Voters' Meeting.*

*Questions? Contact our Bookkeeper, Mrs. Jan Hinze jan@balancedbooksllc.com*

## The Lord's Week

|                         |         |                                |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday, January 20th    | 8:00am  | Divine Service                 |
|                         | 9:30am  | Annual Voters' Meeting         |
|                         | 10:30am | Divine Service                 |
| Monday, January 21st    | 7:00pm  | L.W.M.L. Quarterly Meeting     |
| Tuesday, January 22nd   | 9:30am  | Bible Study                    |
| Wednesday, January 23rd | 2:30pm  | Calling & Caring               |
|                         | 5:30pm  | Meal 6:00pm Classes, Choir     |
|                         | 7:00pm  | Worship 7:30pm Youth           |
| Sunday, January 27th    | 8:00am  | Divine Service-Install Leaders |
|                         | 9:30am  | Sunday School & Bible Study    |
|                         | 10:30am | Divine Service-Install Leaders |

*Church Office hours are 9:00am to 12:00 noon and 1:00pm to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. The office may be closed on occasion due to holidays and errands. Our Secretary is Mrs. Jeri Dush, Church Office 402-462-9023 or peacelutheranhastings@gmail.com*

## Jesus' First Miracle Reveals God's Glory

The coming of the Messianic kingdom means the restoration of creation. The sign of this restoration is that *"the mountains shall drip sweet wine"* (Amos 9:11-15). When the elements of a fallen creation fail and run short at a wedding feast, our Lord Jesus steps in to restore creation and miraculously changes water into an abundance of the very best wine (John 2:1-11). With this sign, Christ manifests His glory. The *"back"* of God (Ex. 33:12-23) is revealed to those who believe. The hour will come when Jesus will again manifest His glory by taking creation's curse into His own body to release us from its power. The Bridegroom will give His life for the Bride (Eph. 5:22-32), and from His side will flow water and blood, the holy sacraments by which she is cleansed and made one with Him. Through this sacrificial love of Christ we are enabled to *"love one another with brotherly affection . . ."* and to *"outdo one another in showing honor"* (Rom. 12:6-16).

|                                    |                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Prelude & Ringing of Bells         |                              |
| Processional Hymn                  | #398                         |
| <b>Confession &amp; Absolution</b> | p.184                        |
| <b>Service of the Word</b>         |                              |
| Introit                            | <i>insert</i>                |
| Gloria Patri                       | p.186                        |
| Kyrie                              |                              |
| Gloria in Excelsis                 |                              |
| Salutation & Collect               |                              |
| Old Testament Reading              |                              |
| Gradual                            |                              |
| Epistle Reading                    |                              |
| Alleluia & Verse                   |                              |
| Gospel Processional                |                              |
| Apostles' Creed                    |                              |
| Hymn of the Day                    | #402                         |
| Sermon                             | John 2:1-11                  |
|                                    | <i>"The Wedding At Cana"</i> |
| Offertory & Offering               | p.192                        |
| Prayer of the Church               |                              |
| <b>Service of the Sacrament</b>    |                              |
| Preface & Proper Preface           | p.194                        |
| Sanctus & Lord's Prayer            |                              |
| The Words of our Lord              |                              |
| Pax Domini & Agnus Dei             |                              |
| Distribution                       | #624 #408 #514               |
| Dismissal & Nunc Dimittis          |                              |
| Thanksgiving & Collect             |                              |
| Salutation & Benedicamus           |                              |
| Benediction                        |                              |
| Recessional Hymn                   | #394                         |
| Postlude                           |                              |

# Second Sunday after the Epiphany

20 January 2019 Anno Domini

**INTROIT** (Ps.66:1-5, 20; antiphon: Ps. 66:4, 92:1)



*All the earth worships you and sings prais- | es to you;\**  
*they sing praises | to your name.*

**It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,\***  
**to sing praises to your name, | O Most High.**

*Shout for joy to God, | all the earth;\**  
*sing the glory of his name; give to him | glorious praise!*

**Say to God, “How awesome | are your deeds!\***  
**So great is your power that your enemies come cringing | to you.**

*All the earth worships you and sings prais- | es to you;\**  
*they sing praises | to your name.”*

**Come and see what | God has done:\***  
**he is awesome in his deeds toward the chil- | dren of man.**

*Blessèd | be God,\**  
*because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast | love from me!*

**Glorify be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*All the earth worships you and sings prais- | es to you;\**  
*they sing praises | to your name.*

**It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,\***  
**to sing praises to your name, | O Most High.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**GRADUAL** (Ps. 107:20-21)

**He sent out his word and | healed them,\***  
**and delivered them from their de- | struction.**  
**Let them thank the LORD for his | steadfast love,\***  
**for his wondrous works to the chil- | dren of men!**

## Old Testament: Exodus 33:12–23

<sup>12</sup>Moses said to the LORD, “See, you say to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ <sup>13</sup>Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” <sup>14</sup>And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” <sup>15</sup>And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.”

<sup>16</sup>For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?” <sup>17</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” <sup>18</sup>Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” <sup>19</sup>And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.” <sup>20</sup>But, he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” <sup>21</sup>And the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, <sup>22</sup>and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup>Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

## Epistle: Romans 12:6–16

<sup>6</sup>Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup>the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited.

## Holy Gospel: John 2:1–11

<sup>1</sup>On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. <sup>3</sup>When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” <sup>6</sup>Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. <sup>9</sup>When the master 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 master of the feast called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup>and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” <sup>11</sup>This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.



## Instill Hope

Imagine that you just found out you were pregnant and you had other plans than being a parent. It is easy to feel hopeless and powerless. A young woman in that very place came to the clinic right before Christmas. She is considering what she wants to do. We want her to know there is hope and while the road ahead of her will be hard, she can parent and we will encourage her and support her in her journey.

We invite you to consider a gift to help support Wellspring, a Christ centered pregnancy care center. We desire to reach more women in 2019 who are listening to a culture that says abortion is the quick and easy fix.

Mary Hall, Executive Director  
Wellspring Pregnancy + Health Center  
223 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 202  
Hastings, NE 68901  
Email: [clientservices@wellspringhastings.com](mailto:clientservices@wellspringhastings.com)  
[www.wellspringhastings.com](http://www.wellspringhastings.com)  
Located Inside the Crosier Park Professional Center



## Nebraska Walk for Life: Saturday, January 26, 2019

The Nebraska Walk for Life will begin at 10 a.m. at the State Capitol in Lincoln, 14<sup>th</sup> and K St., on the north side. The walk is seven blocks through downtown to the University of Nebraska Student Union at 14<sup>th</sup> and R Streets, to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Ballroom & Centennial Room. Catherine Adair will be the Keynote Speaker about noon.

Catherine was only 19 when she was pressured into having an abortion. Several years later, she began working at the largest Planned Parenthood abortion facility in New England. After witnessing thousands of abortions and seeing the aftermath of a second-trimester abortion, she could no longer participate in the horror of what she was doing. Catherine is now a married mother of five, and she is dedicated to telling the truth about abortion. She credits God with giving her the strength to share her story.

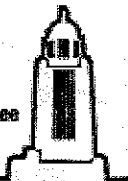
Dress warmly and bring the children. Parking is available east, south, and west of the Capitol, and in downtown metered stalls and parking garages. The event concludes at 1 p.m. This is a wonderful experience. Plan to participate. Talk with Joan Primrose if you have questions.

NOTE: Lincoln Area Lutherans For Life invites pro-life friends to a pre-Walk event at 9 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church at 12<sup>th</sup> & H Streets for coffee, donuts, fellowship and a worship service led by Pastor Daniel Wing before going to the Capitol. Plus there is a parking lot available here.

Sponsored by:

# Nebraska Right to Life

State Affiliate to the National Right to Life Committee



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## **A Highlighted Summary of "The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel"**

- Both are equally necessary because both have for their final aim... mankind's salvation.
- Law ever since the fall cannot lead us to salvation; it can only prepare us for the Gospel. Furthermore, it is through the Gospel that we obtain the ability to fulfill the Law to a certain extent.
- The Law has nothing to say about forgiveness, about grace. It issues only commands and demands. The Gospel, on the other hand, only makes offers. It contains nothing but grace and truth!
- Wherever in Scripture you come across a threat, you may be assured that that passage belongs in the Law.

| <b>Law</b>   | <b>Gospel</b>   |
|--|---|
| 1) Tells us what to do, but does not enable us to comply with its commands   | 1) Offers and gives us faith. It plants love into the heart and makes him/her capable of all good works   |
| 2) Law uncovers man's sin and offers no help to get out of them.   | 2) Takes all terror, all fear, all anguish, from him/her and fills them with peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.  |
| 3) Law produces remorse. It brings forth the terrors of hell, death, and wrath of God. It eventually drives them to desperation. | 3) Does not require anything good that mankind must do: not a good heart, not a good character, no improvement of his/her condition, and no godliness. It issues no orders, but it changes man. |
| 4) Says "Do"   | 4) Says "Done"  |

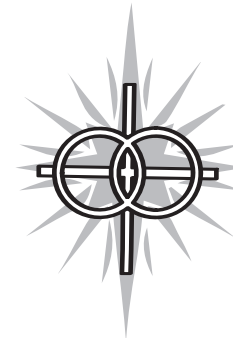
- The Law is to be preached to people who are secure in their sins. The Gospel is to be preached to those who are alarmed of their sins.
- When the law convicts a person, immediately present the Gospel.
- No Gospel element must ever be combined with the Law. Anyone sharing the Law shamefully perverts it by injecting grace into it. (Grace = loving-kindness, forgiveness, and patience of God.)
- When sharing the Law there must remain in it nothing pleasant to lost and condemned sinners
- Even if you were to quit your habitual cursing, swearing, and the like, that would not make you a Christian.
- The Law must be proclaimed before the Gospel otherwise the Gospel will have no effect.
- Secure sinners must be preached into hell before they can be preached into heaven. They must be made to realize that they are sick unto death before the Gospel can restore them to health. The Law must first reduce them to nothing in order that they may be made to be something, to praise of the glory of God, by the Gospel.
- Salvation is not a question of what man must do, but what Christ has done.
- Feelings follow faith, not faith from feelings. If a person's faith comes from feelings, it is not genuine faith; for faith requires a divine promise which it lays hold of.
- Love must not be added to faith but grow out of it.
- The way of to salvation is this: We are doing nothing, absolutely nothing, towards our salvation, but Christ has already done everything for us, and we must merely cling to what He has done, draw from His finished work of redemption and trust in it for our salvation.
- First a person is saved then he becomes godly.
- As long as a person has not been reduced to the state of a poor, lost, condemned sinner, he has no serious interest in the Savior of sinners.
- The trouble is that people frequently do not really go to Jesus; they call themselves poor sinners, but are not; they want to bring before God some works of their own.
- All we can offer God is our sins, nothing else! We deny Him if we come to Him offering Him something for what He gives us (grace).
- The Law kills, but the Spirit, that is, the Gospel makes alive.
- The ultimate aim in our proclaiming the Law must be to preach the Gospel.
- What makes a person a Christian is this believing knowledge, that he/she is a miserable, accursed sinner, who would be lost forever if Christ had not died for him/her.
- A Christian must regard him/herself as a lost and condemned sinner, or all his/her talk about faith is worthless.

**A Highlighted Summary of Law and Gospel has been prepared by Matthew R. Richard**

Direct Quotes Taken From:

- Walther, C.F.W. *God's No and God's Yes: Condensed Version* by Walter C. Pieper (Concordia Publishing House, 1973)

- On top of that, Jesus does this sign at a wedding. He shows that weddings are a time of great joy for God and man alike. Jesus stands to support His institution of marriage. Jesus brings joy and delight to the marriage. This is what He does for the marriages of His people. Jesus sweetens marriage and every cross that comes in it. A Christian marriage is the greatest gift, which Jesus Himself comes to help and support.
- Jesus is the true Bridegroom, who comes to lay down His life for the Bride, the Church. He sacrifices Himself for her. He takes all her filth and wickedness on Himself. He gives her His innocence, and covers all her sins. She is regarded as righteous and holy again. This is the joy and great benefit of faith in Christ. Praise God for such a sign as this! God shows His delight in men and sweetens their crosses in life.



# THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Study Notes for the Christian Layperson

by: Rev. Travis Loeslie

## Collect of the Day:

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Introit:

Psalm 66:1-5, 20 (antiphon: Psalm 66:2; 92:1) – *It is good to give thanks to the LORD*

## Psalm:

67 (antiphon: v. 1) – *May God be gracious to us*

## Old Testament Reading:

Exodus 33:12-23 – *Moses intercedes for the people*

## Gradual:

Psalm 107:20-21 – *He sent out His Word and healed them*

## Epistle:

Ephesians 5:22-33 – *Wives and husbands*

## Verse:

Psalm 148:2 – *Alleluia. Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts. Alleluia.*



## John 2:1-11 ESV

### Author and Date:

The Holy Spirit inspired St. John to pen his Gospel. Traditional dating of John is around 90 AD. John's Gospel was written with the end "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

**<sup>1</sup> On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.**

- This account begins with Jesus, as He attends a wedding at Cana. In Jewish custom, wedding feasts usually lasted a week. Mary was with Jesus, and the disciples were with Jesus as well.
- Jesus is early in His ministry. By attending this wedding, Jesus dignifies the wedding as a God-pleasing event. The couple must have been delighted to have such a guest.

**<sup>3</sup> When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."**

- The thirsty guests finished off the wine. Surely the bridegroom must have started to get nervous. The wedding party was just getting going and the wine was out! These were no teetotalers, neither were they a bunch of drunks. They were rejoicing in the event of a wedding.
- Mary takes the problem of the lack of wine on herself. She goes to Jesus. Jesus' phrase, "Woman, what does this have to do with me?" sounds harsh, but it is to say something greater. It's not yet Jesus' "hour." His time is not yet.
- Jesus' hour will come when He goes the way of the cross (John 3:14; 8:28; 12:32). There He will answer for the sins of the world. That hour will bring in the salvation of the world. That hour is not yet.

**<sup>6</sup> Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it.**

- The water jars remind us that these people were still under the Law. They had to purify themselves by washing for the wedding and for the meal. Jesus uses these water jars to His advantage, showing us here that His attitude toward the Law is to use it to serve the neighbor in love. Just as Jesus is "Lord of the Sabbath," here He does what no other teacher would dare to do: He turns the water of the purification jars into wine. Jesus may have looked like a wine-bibber and a libertine to the legalists. But He is the Lord of the Law and all creation.

**<sup>9</sup> When the master 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 master of the feast called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now."**

- The master of the feast was impressed with this wine. Jesus shows that He is the true Creator exerting His omnipotence, transforming the water into wine. Jesus is the Word (*Logos*) whom the Father spoke forth of old to carry out the creation of all things (John 1:1). Jesus does a miracle, wholly in character with Jesus' activity in creation. Jesus serves the good wine!

**<sup>11</sup> This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.**

- This first "sign" of John's Gospel, it is regarded as His first miracle in His ministry. This is very important for us. Jesus manifests His glory. He shows us that He is divine. It is an epiphany of divine glory. He shows us that His divine and human natures work together in the unity of His person to exert omnipotent force over creation.
- Jesus' disciples believed Him. The miracle confirmed their faith in Jesus. He is truly the Messiah of God. By faith in Him, every disciple of Jesus is justified before God. We can take great comfort in this Gospel.