

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

THE COLLECT:

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING - ISAIAH 62:1-5

Persia has conquered Babylon and has permitted the people of Israel to return to a small parcel of land round Jerusalem. The land is ravished, and after initial elation, the people feel that God has ceased to care for them. Now God breaks his silence.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Book of Isaiah, Chapter 62, beginning at the first verse.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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.

For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

The Word of the Lord

The people: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 36:5-10

This psalm exults in the boundless love of God, saving humans and animals alike. God is the fountain of life, and in God's light, we see light.

5. Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens,*
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

6. Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep;*
you save both man and beast, O LORD.
7. How priceless is your love, O God!*
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.
8. They feast upon the abundance of your house;*
you give them drink from the river of your delights.
9. For with you is the well of life,*
and in your light we see light.
10. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you,*
and your favor to those who are true of heart.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son:*
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now:*
and shall be forever. Amen.

THE SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

Early in this letter, Paul has noted that the Christians at Corinth “are not lacking in any spiritual gift”; even so, they appear to have written to him on the subject. He now teaches them more about gifts provided through the Holy Spirit.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 12, beginning at the first verse.

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance 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 the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

The Word of the Lord

The people: *Thanks be to God.*

THE GOSPEL JOHN 2:1-11

John uses symbolism extensively in his telling of the good news. As he says near the end of the book, "these signs are written so that you may come to believe that

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.” Now John tells us of the first sign, revealing Jesus' glory.

Gospeller: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to Christ Our Saviour.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of Christ

The people: Praise to Christ our Lord.