

JANUARY 20, 2019
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



God's steadfast love brings joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

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| Sunday | John 2:1-11 | The wedding at Cana |
| Monday | Isaiah 62:1-5 | Jerusalem will be saved |
| Tuesday | 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 | Spiritual gifts |
| Wednesday | Lamentations 3:22-24 | God's steadfast love endures |
| Thursday | Hebrews 13:1-6 | Service well-pleasing to God |
| Friday | Romans 8:37-39 | God's love in Christ Jesus |
| Saturday | Psalms 36:5-10 | Human sin and God's goodness |
| Sunday | Luke 4:14-21 | Jesus returns to Nazareth |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. **Psalm 36:7 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and Loving God, thank you for the joy you bring to our lives and to our relationships through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, just as you blessed the feast at Cana, bless our eating and drinking. Fill us with love for you and for one another. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the precious and steadfast love of God fill you with joy and keep you safe. (Psalm 36:7)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Hallelujah! We Sing
Your Praises*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time that gave you great joy when you were with family or friends.
- What is it about God that gives you great joy?
- In Psalm 36:7 it says, "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings." Pick out a word that captures your attention and talk about why you chose it?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 2:1-11.

The Gospel of John gives clear attention to the wedding at Cana. The story concludes, "Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him." What Jesus did at the wedding pointed to his mission and ministry as the Word that became flesh (1:14). It reveals his glory, glory that will only become fully revealed in his death on the cross (17:1). It led his followers to believe in him. The sign of changing an excessive amount of water into wine adds to the joy of a wedding at Cana. The amount of "good wine" saved for last was crazy, about 180 gallons worth for celebrating. This theme is picked up again in John 10:10 when Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." In the Greek, the abundant life is life "overflowing," like the wine overflowing at the wedding of Cana. Jesus' first sign of his reign is about overflowing love and joy. How does Jesus' overflowing love and joy for you impact you today and change your life forever?

Pray: Joyous Lord Jesus, help us to remember how you bring joy to our lives and world. May we join in your eternal feast and celebration with faith toward you and love for one another. Amen.

SERVICE

In 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 we are all gifted by the Holy Spirit "for the common good." The larger world around us sees these personal gifts as something to shine a light on ourselves and our own success. For Christians, our gifts are for others, "for the common good." Make a list of the gifts you believe you have or others have told you they see in you. Then state each gift out loud by saying: "**Dear God, thank you for my gift of [name it]. Help me to use it to serve others.**"

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus' appearance at the wedding at Cana shows that God loves weddings and desires to bless married couples. This week is a good time for couples to share with family and friends about their own weddings and ways Jesus is part of their marriage. Ask a married couple you know if you can see the wedding photos taken on their special day. After visiting with them and hearing stories about their wedding, bless them with these words: **May God bless your life together as you continue to grow in your love for one another.**



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