

JANUARY 19, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



Jesus' ministry overflows with joy and love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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	Psalms 16:7-11	Song of trust in God
Thursday	Jeremiah 33:10-13	Healing after punishment
Friday	Philemon 1:4-7	Philemon's love and faith
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

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. Isaiah 62:4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, you take delight in bringing us joy when we are discouraged; help us to use our abilities so that others may see Jesus as the source of your abundant goodness. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant care, we thank you for this food and all that you provide us, signs of your constant love for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of abundant love give you joy.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesus, Come! For We
Invite You*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What gives you joy?
- When has faith in Christ brought you hope in difficult times?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 2:1-11.

In the Gospel of John, the first sign of Jesus that pointed to his glory (his death and resurrection) is seen in water turned to wine. That moment leads us to a deep understanding of Jesus' entire ministry. It is about abundance that brings joy, not gloom and doom. The amount of wine Jesus provides from the water jars was excessive, and it tasted very good. Wine in the Bible was meant to gladden the heart. It was associated with a future divine banquet as well as daily hospitality and celebration. The sign of changing water into wine at a wedding feast introduces Jesus' ministry as overflowing with goodness, joy, and love. It turns our shame and embarrassment (like a bridegroom's shame for running out of wine) into simple delight without limits, without measure. It leads us to long for more of what Jesus has in store for us.

Discuss: When is a time that Jesus' overflowing joy and love made a difference in your life?

Pray: **God of love, give us joy in your presence that we may be a sign of your love to others through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you share God's overflowing love and joy with someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 we learn that all Christians are given gifts from the Holy Spirit. These gifts are given "for the common good" (v. 7). The larger world around us sees these personal gifts as something that emphasizes our own success. For Christians, our gifts are meant to serve others. Write a list of the gifts you feel you have or that others see in you. Take a moment to say each gift aloud.

Then pray: **Dear God, thank you for the gifts I have been given. Help me to use them to serve others in your name. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org