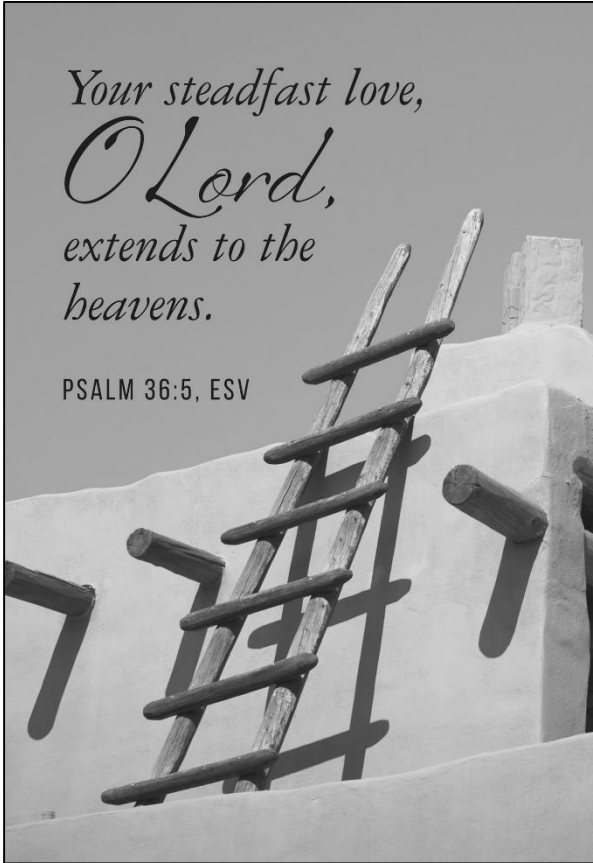


# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 19, 2025

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**



The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

*Stand*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
our creator,  
our protector,  
our wellspring of life.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,  
let us confess our sin.

*Kneel*

**P:** Merciful God,

**C:** **you speak blessing and compassion into the world.  
Forgive us for the ways we act  
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.  
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;  
we resist your call to oppose injustice;  
we give in to scarcity and fear;  
we assume the worst about one another.  
Cleanse us from our faults  
and release us from their grasp.  
Show us your lovingkindness.  
Restore our hearts and repair your world,  
that we may live in Christ's ways.  
Amen.**

**P:** God proclaims these words of assurance:  
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name. You are mine."  
In † Christ, you are forgiven.  
In the Spirit, you are made free.  
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,  
live anew as beloved children of God.

**C:** Amen.

Stand

**GATHERING HYMN**

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright! st. 1-3, 6..... LBW 76*

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** Amen

*Sit*

**WORD**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:1-5**

*The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.*

**A:** A Reading from Isaiah:

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> 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.

**A:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

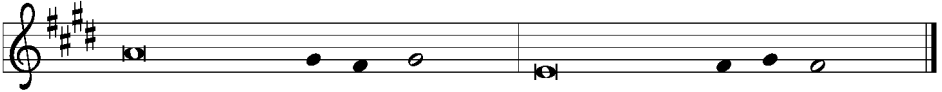
**PSALM: Psalm 36:5-10**

*The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*



We feast up - on the a-bun-dance of your house, O LORD.

*Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*



- <sup>5</sup> Your love, O LORD, reaches | to the heavens,  
and your faithfulness | to the clouds.
- <sup>6</sup> **Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice  
like | the great deep;  
you save humankind and ani- | mals, O LORD. R**
- <sup>7</sup> How priceless is your | love, O God!  
All people take refuge under the shadow | of your wings.
- <sup>8</sup> **They feast upon the abundance | of your house;  
you give them drink from the river of | your delights.**
- <sup>9</sup> For with you is the | well of life,  
and in your light | we see light.
- <sup>10</sup> **Continue your lovingkindness to | those who know you,  
and your favor to those who are | true of heart. R**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

*The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing their spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God's Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.*

**[A]:** A Reading from First Corinthians:

- <sup>1</sup> Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. <sup>3</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of

wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

**A:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**CANTOR:** Jesus re- | vealed his glory, and his disciples be- | lieved in him.

**C:** Repeat the Alleluias

### **GOSPEL: John 2:1-11**

*Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to 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 standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. <sup>9</sup> 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 <sup>10</sup> 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.”<sup>11</sup> Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

**P**: The Gospel of the Lord

**C**: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

**SERMON** ..... Pastor Amme

Stand

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Jesus, Come! For We Invite You*



1 Je - sus, come! for we in - vite you, guest and mas - ter,  
 2 Je - sus, come! trans-form our plea - sures, guide us in - to  
 3 Je - sus, come! in new cre - a - tion, heav'n brought near in  
 4 Je - sus, come! sur - prise our dull - ness, make us will - ing



friend and Lord; now, as once at Ca - na's wed - ding,  
 paths un - known; bring your gifts, com-mand your ser - vants,  
 pow'r di - vine; give your un - ex - pect - ed glo - ry,  
 to re - ceive more than we can yet im - ag - ine,



speak and let us hear your word: lead us through our need or  
 let us trust in you a - lone: though your hand may work in  
 chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine: rouse the faith of your dis -  
 all the best you have to give: let us find your hid - den



doubt - ing, hope be born and joy re - stored.  
 se - cret, all shall see what you have done.  
 ci - ples— come, our first and great - est Sign!  
 rich - es, taste your love, be - lieve, and live!

Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938  
 Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958  
 Text © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*A brief silence is held after the introduction.*

**P:** With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*After each petition:*

**P:** God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P:** We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**C: Amen**

**PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you. **R:** Peace be with you.

Sit



**MEAL**

**OFFERING**

*The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

**ANTHEM**

***In Remembrance of Me..... Jean Atkins/J. W. Snyder***

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY**

*As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



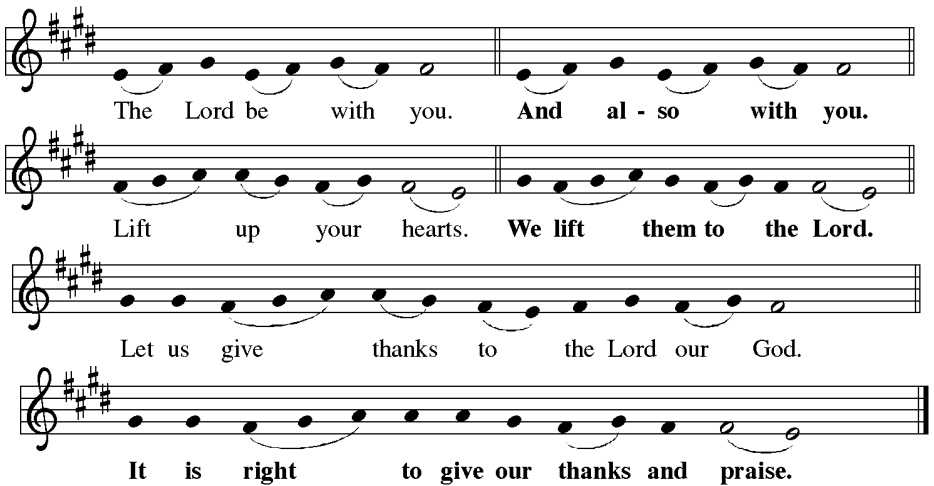
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray:

**C:** God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.  
Bless what we offer to your service:  
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.  
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always.  
Amen.

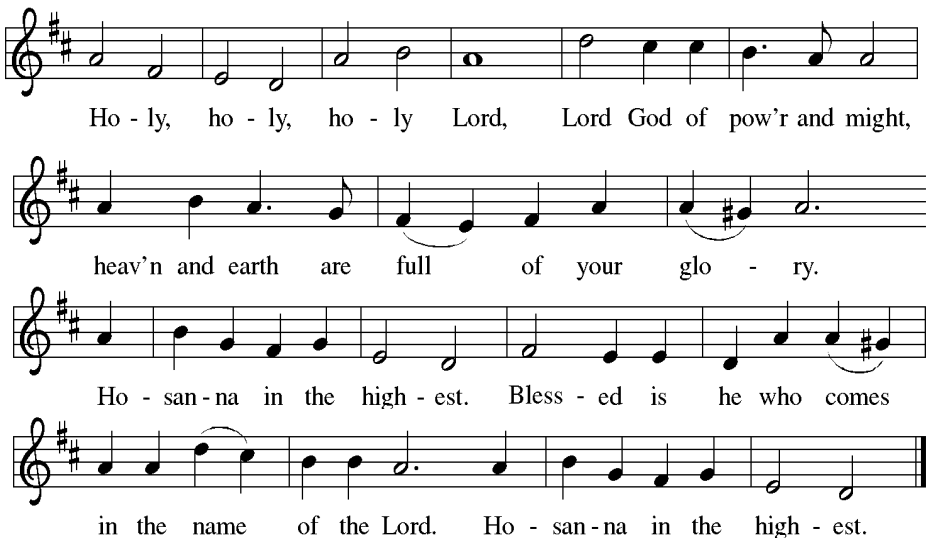
**GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P**: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him should not perish,  
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**C**: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P**: In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P:** The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Sit*

**COMMUNION**

*All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:*

**The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*The communicant may say: Amen***

**COMMUNION HYMN**

***Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness.....LBW 224***

*Stand*

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A**: Let us pray.

Nourishing God,  
at this table you have refreshed us  
with holy gifts of food and drink.  
Strengthen us for service,  
and send us out to embody your good news  
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray,

**C**: Amen

***SENDING***

**SENDING OF THE EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

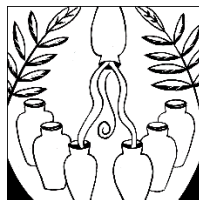
**P**: Gracious God,  
loving all your family with a mother's tender care:  
As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,  
assist us in this ministry on which we are sent forth.  
In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom  
we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood of  
your Son we may all know the comfort of your abiding  
presence.

**C**: Amen

**BLESSING**

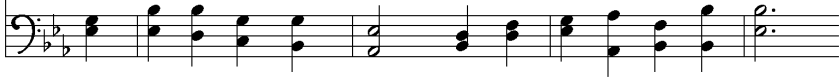
**P**: The Spirit of the triune God  
✠ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love.

**C**: Amen



**SENDING HYMN**    *We All Are One in Mission*

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
 2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.  
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
 Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:  
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
 to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.



Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

**DISMISSAL**

**A**: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**C**: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

### **SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

**Ushers:** Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee  
**Lay Assistant:** Georgette Copp; **Communion Assistant:** Mary Schultz  
**Acolyte:** Jordan Morris; **Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower  
**Greeters/Communion Presenters:** Jean Weaver, Paul Weaver  
**Cantor:** Bob Schweppenheiser; **Flower Delivery:** Charles Luppert

### **IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of George and Helen Stroup on their wedding anniversary, January 19<sup>th</sup>, with love from their children, Georgie, Kathy, Larry, David and families.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome to Messiah Church!** It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

**Eucharistic Ministers** will be sent out this morning.

**Bible Study and Fellowship** will continue on Wednesdays at 6:30. *All are Welcome!*

**The Mountie Backpack Program continues into the Spring Semester to make sure no child goes hungry.** We are in need of volunteers to take a turn to deliver the food bags on each Friday by 11 a.m. to Central Elementary School. We are now scheduling for January through May, 2025. To schedule a Friday please contact Connie McLaughlin, 570-326-3618, or Mary Schultz, 570-772-8021. We pack the food bags in Shaheen Hall on Thursday afternoons (starting between 12:30-1:00 p.m.) if you would like to come join us. *Thank you in advance.*



**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING**  
**JARED GIST, ORGANIST**

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702  
(570) 326-9171 | [www.messiahsouth.org](http://www.messiahsouth.org)

### **Jesus *Does* Care**

There is humor to be found in the words “And his disciples believed in him” . . . because he could turn water into wine! Really? That’s it? This small miracle performed at a wedding was *all* that was required at the start of Jesus’ ministry to gain his disciples’ faith and trust?

That such a minor event could prove so significant might sound silly if we are tempted to think God cares only about big things, such as war, environmental justice, and world hunger. But if we pay attention, we notice that many people encounter God in the most mundane moments of life: sitting quietly in a deer stand, floating on a calm lake while fishing, breastfeeding an infant and rocking in a chair, or holding the hand of an aged neighbor.

Jesus cares about all manner of small things—the grief of one widow, dis-ease in the life of a teenager, the lack of wine at a wedding. While these things may seem small to an outsider, we know they are big to the one experiencing them. Thank God, no matter how large or small our concerns, Jesus does care!

At all times, and in all places, God is at work using ordinary things and people to produce extraordinary results. At the Cana wedding, Jesus turned ordinary water into wine to provide an extraordinary blessing: continued joy and celebration among family and friends. Today Jesus often uses coffee and cookies to create bonds among people—just ask the fellowship committee in your congregation! Jesus does care about our fellowship with one another. We are even commanded to gather around tables, to break bread and drink wine to remember him.

This season after Epiphany, may you catch sight of the ways Christ is present at your tables and in your gatherings, deepening relationships and spreading joy.

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