



**Opening Prayer**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who govern all things,  
both in heaven and on earth,  
mercifully hear the pleading of your people  
and bestow your peace on our times.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Reflecting on Living the Gospel**

In antiquity, marriage celebrations followed cultural cues that we might recognize. In addition to a dinner feast with guests, the best wine is served before a lesser quality wine. Such norms are the background for Jesus' first sign, as narrated by the Gospel of John. (In the Gospel of John, Jesus performs seven signs rather than a myriad of miracles, and the signs are indications of his true identity.) Interestingly, this gospel is the only one to tell this story. The Synoptic Gospel writers neglect this story: they may not have been aware of it.

Although liturgically we are in Year (or Cycle) C when we read from the Gospel of Luke, we begin Ordinary Time with this reading from the Gospel of John, which does not refer to Jesus' mother by name, for she is never named in this gospel, but rather, Mary is called "the mother of Jesus." According to this gospel, not only is she present at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, but she will be present at the cross too, accompanied by the Beloved Disciple (who, like the mother of Jesus, remains nameless). For the Gospel of John, the emphasis is on Jesus to such a degree that the other characters do not even have names!

And this is a good point for us. Namely, our emphasis should be on Jesus and his true identity. It is easy to be drawn away from him and look to novelties or curiosities. But in the Fourth Gospel we have stories of seven signs that Jesus performs, each revealing his identity as Son of God, the Word made flesh. We need look no further. For the disciple, and certainly for the evangelist, the focus is on Jesus for he is the incarnation of the Word of God and his words are life eternal.

**Closing Prayer**

Lord, God Almighty, you sent your Son into the world as the incarnation of your Word. His identity was disclosed by the signs he performed. Give us the wisdom and insight to perceive the signs of your word in our midst today. May we have the strength to follow your Son wherever he may lead. We ask this in his name, who lives and reigns with you and the spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**



**For Reflection:**

• Jesus' signs disclose himself and the kingdom of God to us. What does today's gospel about the wedding feast in Cana reveal to you about Jesus?

**Suggestions for group and individual use:**

1. Pray aloud the "Opening Prayer" (in *The Roman Missal* called the "collect").
2. One person read aloud the gospel.
3. Each read prayerfully "Reflecting on Living the Gospel" and spend some time in personal prayer.
4. Share together responses to "For Reflection."
5. Pray the "Closing Prayer."

The readings from the *Lectionary for Mass* copyright © 2001, 1998, 1992, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Living Liturgy™ Sunday Bulletin.  
Liturgical Press, Collegeville,  
Minnesota 56321. © 2018 by  
Order of Saint Benedict  
www.litpress.org 1-800-858-5450

**Gospel John 2:1-11**

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee,  
and the mother of Jesus was there.  
Jesus and his disciples were also invited  
to the wedding.

When the wine ran short,  
the mother of Jesus said to him,  
"They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her,  
"Woman, how does your concern affect  
me?"

My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servers,  
"Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there  
for Jewish ceremonial washings,  
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus told them,  
"Fill the jars with water."

So they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them,  
"Draw some out now and take it to the  
headwaiter."

So they took it.  
And when the headwaiter tasted the  
water that had become wine,  
without knowing where it came from  
—although the servers who had drawn  
the water knew—,  
the headwaiter called the bridegroom  
and said to him,



"Everyone serves good wine first,  
and then when people have drunk  
freely, an inferior one;  
but you have kept the good wine until  
now."

Jesus did this as the beginning of his  
signs at Cana in Galilee  
and so revealed his glory,  
and his disciples began to believe in him.

**Readings for the week:**

**2nd Sunday  
in Ord. Time**  
Isa 62:1-5  
Ps 96:1-2, 2-3,  
7-8, 9-10  
1 Cor 12:4-11  
John 2:1-11

**Monday**  
Heb 5:1-10  
Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4  
Mark 2:18-22

**Tuesday**  
Heb 6:10-20  
Ps 111:1-2, 4-5,  
9 and 10c  
Mark 2:23-28

**Wednesday**  
Heb 7:1-3, 15-17  
Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4  
Mark 3:1-6

**Thursday**  
Heb 7:25-8:6  
Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9,  
10, 17  
Mark 3:7-12

**Friday  
Conversion  
of St. Paul**  
Acts 22:3-16 or  
Acts 9:1-22  
Ps 117:1bc, 2  
Mark 16:15-18

**Saturday**  
Heb 9:2-3, 11-14  
Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9  
Mark 3:20-21

**3rd Sunday in  
Ord. Time**  
Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10  
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15  
1 Cor 12:12-30 or  
1 Cor 12:12-14, 27  
Luke 1:1-4;  
4:14-21