

2nd Sunday of the Year C

*As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
so will your God rejoice in you. (Is 62:5)*



First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named "Forsaken", nor your land "Abandoned", but you shall be called "My Delight" and your land "The Wedded"; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus said "Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they filled them to the brim. "Draw some out now" he told them "and take it to the steward." They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, "People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now."

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him. After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and the brothers, but they stayed there only a few days.

Meditation

Jesus was invited to a wedding in Cana with his mother and his disciples. There he would perform the first of his signs. The evangelist reports this sign so that we may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, so that through our faith, we may have life in his name.

Fruit of the vine and work of human hands, wine is the wedding drink par excellence. Wine in such abundance was for Israel a symbol of the messianic age that was to come. Here it is poured forth at a wedding feast which calls to mind that the strongest image of God's relationship to humanity is that of espousal.

The ancient tradition of the Eastern Church celebrated in the Solemnity of the Epiphany three manifestations of Christ's glory: the revelation to the magi, the baptism in the Jordan, the wedding feast at Cana. The selection of this reading for this Sunday after Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord preserves this tradition.