

JANUARY 16, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



God's abundant goodness brings joy.

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

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:

Dear God, your love and faithfulness brings joy; may we use our gifts so that others may see Jesus as the source of your abundant goodness. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant harvests, we thank you for this food, a sign 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:

- Think of a friend of yours. How does that person bring you joy?
- Epiphany reveals God's saving grace in our lives. Where have you seen God's handiwork?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 2:1-11.

The wedding at Cana contains Jesus' first public sign of his glory. The full intent of the sign is not completely disclosed for his hour has not yet come. His hour of glory that shows the depth of God's love and mercy will happen with his death on a cross. This first sign points to a deep understanding of Jesus' whole ministry. It is about abundance that brings joy. 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 have you experienced God's abundant love 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 this week, how can you share God's abundant goodness by using your gifts and talents to care for others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The wedding at Cana reminds us of how the Bible uses weddings and feasts to express the joy that God intends for us. To experience this joy during the Epiphany season, plan a special meal this week and invite friends. Begin by reciting Psalm 36:7-8: *How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.*

During the meal talk about what these verses mean to you. End by reciting the verses again.



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