

*This Sunday at St. Luke's Blue Ridge  
January 21, 2018*

# The Third Sunday after Epiphany



## **The Marriage Feast in Cana**

The marriage feast in Cana has been associated with the Epiphany from very early times. Here is an occasion when Jesus manifested (Greek: *epiphany*) His glory to a wider company of people. (William Sydnor)

## **The Wedding at Cana: An Overview**

The Wedding of Cana contains another "showing" of Jesus. Who brings forth wine out of water (via grapes and the natural process of fermentation) year in and year out? God. In this account, we find Jesus doing what only God can do. What does this say about Jesus? He is more than a prophet: He is Immanuel -- "God with us." He is the real deal!

The American Prayer Book of 1928 transferred the Wedding at Cana from the Second Sunday after the Epiphany to the Third in order to insert the story of Jesus' Baptism, the chief Epiphany story of the Eastern Church. (The Rector)

## ***The Collect for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany***

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **THE EPISTLE (H.C.) – Romans 12:16-21 (J.B. Phillips)**

*Let us have real Christian behaviour*

**12<sup>16</sup>** Live in harmony with each other. Don't become snobbish but take a real interest in ordinary people. Don't become set in your own opinions.

**17** Don't pay back a bad turn by a bad turn, to anyone. Don't say "it doesn't matter what people think", but see that your public behaviour is above criticism.

**18** As far as your responsibility goes, live at peace with everyone.

**19** Never take vengeance into your own hands, my dear friends: stand back and let God punish if he will. For it is written: 'Vengeance is mine. I will repay'.

**20-21** ... these are God's words: 'Therefore if your enemy hungers, feed him; if he thirsts, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head'. Don't allow yourself to be overpowered with evil. Take the offensive—overpower evil by good!

NOTE: The closing section of Romans 12 deals with the way those who seek to do God's will cope with their enemies. "Love your enemies," counsels our Lord, "do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you" (Luke 6:27-28). In a hot and arid country a cup of water was a symbol of great blessing (Mark 9:41 and Matthew 25:35,40). The apostle points out that giving drink to the thirsty is a way to "overcome evil with good." (William Sydnor)

## **THE GOSPEL (H.C.) – St. John 2:1-11 (J.B. Phillips)**

*The Son of God and a village wedding*

**2** Two days later there was a wedding in the Galilean village of Cana.

<sup>2-3</sup> Jesus' mother was there and he and his disciples were invited to the festivities. Then it happened that the supply of wine gave out, and Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

<sup>4</sup> "Is that your concern, or mine?" replied Jesus. "My time has not come yet."

<sup>5</sup> So his mother said to the servants, "Mind you do whatever he tells you."

<sup>6-11</sup> In the room six very large stone water-jars stood on the floor (actually for the Jewish ceremonial cleansing), each holding about twenty gallons. Jesus gave instructions for these jars to be filled with water, and the servants filled them to the brim. Then he said to them, "Now draw some water out and take it to the master of ceremonies", which they did. When this man tasted the water, which had now become wine, without knowing where it came from (though naturally the servants who had drawn the water knew), he called out to the bridegroom and said to him, "Everybody I know puts his good wine on first and then when men have had plenty to drink, he brings out the poor stuff. But you have kept back your good wine till now!" Jesus gave this, the first of his signs, at Cana in Galilee. **He demonstrated his power and his disciples believed in him.**

## **LESSONS FOR MORNING PRAYER** **(10 a.m. service)**

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Deuteronomy 16:18-20, 17:8-11 (ESV)**

#### *Justice*

<sup>18</sup> "You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the Lord your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgement. <sup>19</sup> You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. <sup>20</sup> Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

#### *Legal Decisions by Priests and Judges*

<sup>8</sup> "If any case arises requiring decision between one kind of homicide and another, one kind of legal right and another, or one kind of assault and another, any case within your towns that is too difficult for you, then you shall arise and go up to the place that the Lord your God will choose. <sup>9</sup> And you shall come to the Levitical priests and to the judge who is in office in those days, and you shall consult them, and they shall declare to you the decision. <sup>10</sup> Then you shall do according to what they declare to you from that place that the Lord will choose. And you shall be careful to do according to all that they direct you. <sup>11</sup> According to the instructions that they give you, and according to the decision which they pronounce to you, you shall do. You shall not turn aside from the verdict that they declare to you, either to the right hand or to the left.

NOTE: This passage contains part of Moses' advice to the judges of the people of Israel: Judge the people with righteous judgment with no respect to persons. Only this pattern of action will be pleasing to God. (William Sydnor)

## **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – James 2:1-13 (J.B. Phillips)**

*Avoid snobbery: keep the royal law*

**2** <sup>1-7</sup> Don't ever attempt, my brothers, to combine snobbery with faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ! Suppose one man comes into your meeting well-dressed and with a gold ring on his finger, and another man, obviously poor, arrives in shabby clothes. If you pay special attention to the well-dressed man by saying, "Please sit here—it's an excellent seat", and say to the poor man, "You stand over there, please, or if you must sit, sit on the floor", doesn't that prove that you are making class-distinctions in your mind, and setting yourselves up to assess a man's quality?—a very bad thing. For do notice, my brothers, that God chose poor men, whose only wealth was their faith, and made them heirs to the kingdom promised to those who love him. And if you behave as I have suggested, it is the poor man that you are insulting. Look around you. Isn't it the rich who are always trying to "boss" you, isn't it the rich who drag you into litigation? Isn't it usually the rich who blaspheme the glorious name by which you are known?

<sup>8-11</sup> If you obey the royal law, expressed by the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself', all is well. But once you allow any invidious distinctions to creep in, you are sinning, you have broken God's Law. Remember that a man who keeps the whole Law but for a single exception is none the less a law-breaker. The one who said, 'Do not commit adultery', also said, 'Do not murder'. If you were to keep clear of adultery but were to murder a man you would have become a breaker of God's whole Law.

<sup>12-13</sup> Anyway, you should speak and act as men who will be judged by the law of freedom. The man who makes no allowances for others will find none made for him. It is still true that "mercy smiles in the face of judgment."

NOTE: This passage reads like part of an early Christian sermon. The Lord Jesus Christ expects at least the same high standard of righteous dealing which Moses demanded. (William Sydnor)

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

ST. Luke's Annual Parish Meeting will be held this Sunday at 9 a.m. All St. Luke's members and friends are encouraged to attend.

# THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- **8:15 a.m.** – Holy Communion (said service)

*A quiet meditative service:*

Celebrant: The Rector

Preacher: The Rev. Ronald O. Wikander

Lector: Sam Sartain

Acolyte / Server: Finn Thoresen

- **10:00 a.m.** – Morning Prayer and & Sermon (choral) \*

*Classic Anglican morning service with hymns and exposition of the Scriptures.*

Preacher: The Rector

Acolyte: Sally Hess

Lay Reader: Don Hess

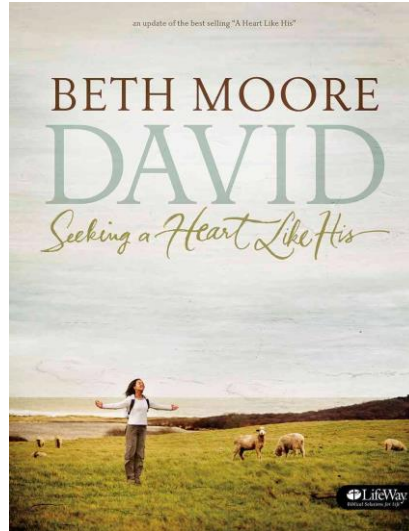
Ushers: Roger and Ruth Johnson

\* Anyone wishing to receive Holy Communion (reserved from the 8:15 service) should assemble in the Jennus Chapel following the organ postlude.



## *Journey in Faith Class Continues*

The second of the Rector's five-week "Journey in Faith: Exploring the Anglican Way" class will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, in the Yellow Room. This week's topic is "The Church and Her Worship". The class is open to all: seekers, persons wishing to be confirmed or received into the Anglican family, as well as those wanting a refresher course. Coffee and a sweet will be served.



### ***Learn about Israel's great King David***

The 2018 ECW Bible begins Wednesday, Jan. 24. Entitled "David", classes will be held in the Yellow Room at noon each Wednesday. For information about the purchase of workbooks, contact facilitator Judy Brooten



### **Rector to attend Prayer Book Society conference**

Mr. Morgan will be in Savannah beginning Wednesday, Jan. 24, for a the annual Prayer Book Society conference. He will return on Saturday and be at St. Luke's on Sunday. The event is being held at St. John's Church, Savannah.

**Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2018**

*As stewards of God's gifts and in gratitude for all blessings, I pledge the following amount to the work of Christ through  
St. Luke's Church for 2018*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_\_\_ Yearly

(Please tick the appropriate blank)

*Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him to store, as God has prospered him. 1 Corinthians 16:2*

# REMEMBER THE NEEDY

## EVERY TIME YOU COME TO CHURCH



*Please bring one or more item for the needy -- paper, soap products, tinned and dried food, etc. Leave in Narthex. Items will be distributed through North Georgia Community Action Agency*



### NEW SIGN-UP SHEET FOR 2018 IS AVAILABLE

A sign-up sheet for Altar flowers is available in Thomason Hall for 2018. Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate.

---

St. Luke's Church, "The Parish Church of the Mountains," 7 Ewing St., (POB 1821), Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513; [\(706\) 632-8245](tel:7066328245); [www.stlukesblueridge.org](http://www.stlukesblueridge.org); [stlukes@tds.net](mailto:stlukes@tds.net).