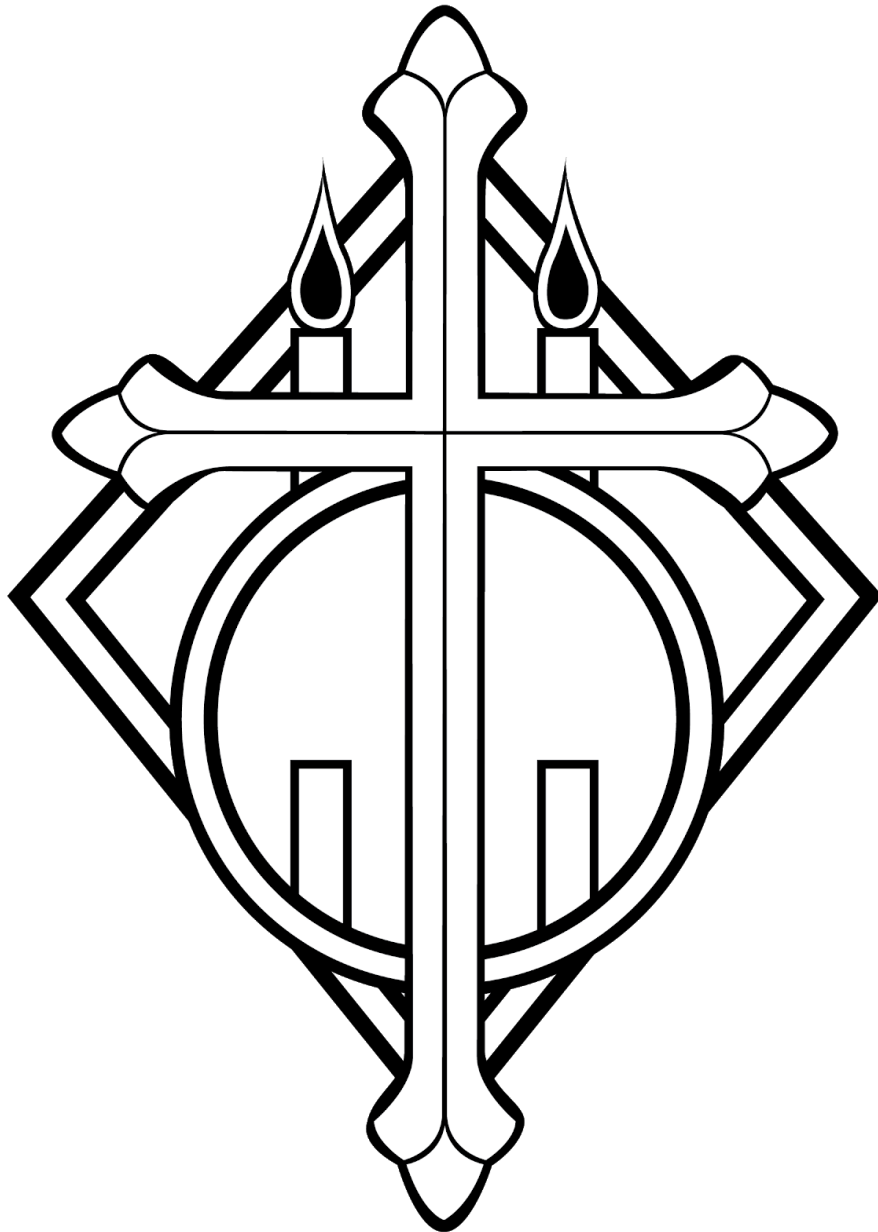


The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us
Advent Devotions
by Rev. Michael G. Lilienthal



The Second Week of Advent
See the Bridegroom Coming

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**Presented as a Virgin to the Bridegroom
Advent 2 - Sunday**

H: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

F: Amen.

H: 2 Corinthians 11:2 -

You see, I am jealous about you, with a godly jealousy, because I promised to present you as a pure virgin to one husband, Christ.

H: This is the Word of the Lord.

F: Thanks be to God.

The Hymn: #100:3, 4 - "The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us"

H: St. Paul was a pastor to the Corinthian congregation. That meant that he had spiritual charge over them. His task, therefore, was to teach them what they should believe and do so that when Christ returned for them, they would be found spotless and holy for their Bridegroom.

The Corinthians, like all of us, were sinners, corrupted in their trespasses and in the sinful flesh that clung to them. By rights, they should have been rejected by God, as we all should.

H: What caused God instead to betroth us to himself and make us his?

F: It is all solely because of God's love for us in Christ. In Jesus, we are counted righteous and holy, because we are baptized in him.

H: The holiness of all Christians is received as a gift, a gift given by Christ in his Word and Sacraments. The ministers of the Church are entrusted as stewards and caretakers of precisely the same Word and Sacraments. Pastors, therefore, are to give and distribute these means of

grace, so that the people of God may constantly be forgiven their sins and strengthened in holy living.

H: How can we be made sure of our life and salvation?

F: **There is no other way to be made sure except in the Word and Sacraments instituted by God himself. There are many false prophets and false gods and religions trying to take our faithfulness away from our Bridegroom, but our sanctuary is in the means of grace.**

H: Therefore we return regularly to the Word in devotion and study, and especially in the Divine Service where we are also returned to our Baptism in repentance and receive the Supper of our Lord's body and blood. Our constant prayer is that these means of grace, Word and Sacraments, would strengthen us and protect us from being enticed by those who wish to take our worship away from the true God.

H: Let us pray:

Grant us your Word, O Lord, in which you teach us what you would have us believe and do. Strengthen us by your Sacraments, and cause us to yearn for them ever more constantly, so that we are not drawn to lust after idols and allies of the Devil that pose as the true Bridegroom.

Spread your protecting hand over us, and remind us of your mercy and grace that caused you to shed your precious blood for our salvation. *[Especially we ask you to encourage _____ as he/she faces (sickness, surgery, travel, etc.), and to strengthen him/her by your means of grace.]* In Jesus' name, who also taught us to pray:

F: Our Father, who art in heaven....

[The Hymn: #94:4-6 - "O How Shall I Receive Thee"](#)

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H: The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

F: Amen.

Clothed with God's Righteousness
Advent 2 - Monday

H: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

F: Amen.

H: Revelation 21:9-11 -

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

H: This is the Word of the Lord.

F: Thanks be to God.

The Hymn: #100:3, 4 - "The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us"

H: Jesus instituted Baptism with the words, "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19). We hear those same words in the Invocation of the Divine Service, and when the pastor pronounces the forgiveness of sins in the Absolution. By these words, we are constantly reminded that we are clothed in the white robes, the glory and holiness of our Baptism. As St. Peter wrote, "baptism now saves you – not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 3:21).

H: How can Baptism save us, when Christ alone is our Savior?

F: Baptism saves us because it unites us with Christ through faith and thus makes us partakers of all the blessings he has won for us.

H: Baptism in fact *gives* us the glory of our Bridegroom. St. John described the Bride of the Lamb as “having the glory of God.” God’s own glory is given to the Church, to the Bridegroom - to each one of us.

Consider the symbolism: when an individual is baptized (especially a child), traditionally he or she is clothed in a white gown or robe.

Likewise, when one is confirmed, he or she wears a white robe.

When a woman is married, traditionally she wears a white gown.

All of these are essentially the same garb, symbolizing the purity not that these people have in themselves, but that is given to them by Christ Jesus himself. This is all given to us through Baptism.

H: From the Small Catechism: How can water do such great things?

F: **It is not the water that does these things, but the Word of God which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without the Word of God the water is simply water, and no baptism; but with the Word of God it is baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says, Titus 3, 5-8: “According to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; that having been justified by His grace, we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying.”¹**

H: By virtue of our Baptism and the faith it gives us, in God’s eyes we are beautiful as a Bride on her wedding day, having “radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.” The beauty of Christ is given now to us.

H: Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you have clothed us with Christ’s righteous robes in Baptism. Through your Word and Sacraments

¹ SC IV.3, *ELH* p. 34.

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continue to strengthen our faith, so that we may always be presented to you as righteous and holy. Through our Savior's righteousness, let us be given access to the wedding feast of the Lamb in his Kingdom.

Remind us that we are united to Christ, so that in our conduct we show him honor always. Foster our holiness, and forgive us our trespasses, comforting us that our salvation is secure in Christ. [*Especially we ask you to comfort _____ as he/she faces (sickness, surgery, travel, etc.), that his/her sins are all forgiven in Christ*] in whose name we pray, who also taught us to pray:

F: Our Father, who art in heaven....

The Hymn: #94:4-6 - "O How Shall I Receive Thee"

H: The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

F: Amen.

**Vows of Love and Honor
Advent 2 - Tuesday**

H: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

F: Amen.

H: Ephesians 5:21-33 -

submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

H: This is the Word of the Lord.

F: Thanks be to God.

[The Hymn: #100:3, 4 - "The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us"](#)

H: In holy matrimony, husbands and wives make vows, unbreakable promises, to one another. Wives vow to submit to and honor their husbands. Husbands vow to love and cherish their wives. When both parties remember their promises and keep them perfectly, marital bliss cannot be broken.

H: What relationship has God established between husband and wife?

F: **God has established the husband as the loving head of the wife, and has appointed the wife as his companion and helper.**

H: God's divine order follows: "the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God" (1 Cor. 11:3). This is an order that on the one hand prevents chaos, and on the other hand promotes the giving of love and grace. If a man were to forsake the headship of Christ, that is the sin of Adam and Eve, seeking to make himself his own god.

If a wife seeks to forsake the headship of her husband, that is likewise a prideful and selfish act.

Perhaps worse would be for a husband to forsake the love of his wife. That is tantamount to God abandoning his people. If God stopped loving us, we would be condemned to eternal death and hell. A husband who does not treat his wife in love is committing an atrocity.

H: Where does the holiness of the Church come from?

F: **The holiness of the Church is Christ's own holiness, given to her in Baptism and received by faith, so that although she does not have any righteousness of her own, she is considered to have the righteousness of the Son of God himself.**

H: The profound mystery of the union of Christ to the Church illustrates the beauty of the union of man and wife in matrimony. Through their vows, the wife promises her devotion to her husband, and that devotion is

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in return for the love of the husband - love which is a reflection of Christ's love. A husband's vow, therefore, is to always offer forgiveness and grace to the wife, to view her as holy and perfect, to support her in her weakness, and to care for her body and soul.

A wife in response praises her husband, honors and respects him, returning forgiveness and grace to him as well.

All of this is because of the forgiveness and grace we have all received from our Bridegroom, Christ, whose love caused him to sacrifice himself on the cross for our salvation.

H: Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, you have given all to us in love. Cause us to likewise love and submit to one another, sharing with one another the forgiveness you have won for us. Especially cause husband and wife to love and honor each other, reflecting the relationship you have with your Bridegroom, the Church.

Continue to shed your love and grace and forgiveness upon us, so that even when we prove unfaithful, you remain faithful to your promise. *[Especially we ask you to comfort _____ as he/she faces (sickness, surgery, travel, etc.), and support him/her with your unshakeable promises.]* In Jesus' name, who also taught us to pray:

F: Our Father, who art in heaven....

[The Hymn: #94:4-6 - "O How Shall I Receive Thee"](#)

H: The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

F: Amen.

**Sealed with the Holy Spirit of God's Promise
Advent 2 - Wednesday**

H: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

F: Amen.

H: Ephesians 1:13, 14 -

In him, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and in him, when you also believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. He is the down payment of our inheritance until the redemption of God's own possession, so that his glory would be praised.

H: This is the Word of the Lord.

F: Thanks be to God.

The Hymn: #100:3, 4 - "The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us"

H: Traditionally in the United States our marriages are sealed with an exchanging of rings. When the bridegroom gives a ring to his bride he says something like, "Receive this ring as a pledge and token of wedded love and faithfulness." If she gives him a ring (something far more common now than it once was), she will say the same thing. The intent, then, is that when a wife looks at the ring on her finger, she can remember that *her husband promised to love and be faithful to her until they are parted by death.* This is a very comforting thought.

H: What are some signs and seals of God's promises that he has left for us?

F: The rainbow is a reminder that God will never again destroy the world through a flood. Earthquakes and other natural disasters are signs that God will return to end the world. Even better: the Word, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper are signs of God's unending love

in Christ, sealed to us with his truly inspired Word, the washing of regeneration, and Jesus' true body and blood.

H: Before Jesus departed the earth visibly, he told his disciples about the Holy Spirit he would send: "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells in you and will be in you" (John 14:16, 17). St. Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit is a "seal" and "down payment of our inheritance." If we have the Holy Spirit, that is our wedding ring, by which God promises never to leave us nor forsake us, but to give us an eternal, glorious inheritance in heaven.

H: How do we get this seal and down payment of the Holy Spirit?

F: **St. Paul says that we received him "when [we] heard the word of truth, the gospel of [our] salvation, and...when [we] also believed." The Holy Spirit comes to us through the means of grace (Word and Sacraments), and is received by the faith he creates in our hearts.**

H: Everything Jesus accomplished on the cross, purchasing our souls for himself, paying our debt, assuaging God's wrath, is credited to us when the Holy Spirit comes to us through the Gospel, as we confess in the meaning of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed:

F: **"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; just as he calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives me and all believers all our sins; and at the last day He will raise up me and**

all the dead, and will grant me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.”²

H: Let us pray:

Dear Lord, you have promised us an eternal inheritance on the basis of Jesus’ merits, which are given to us in the holy means of grace. Teach us to value these holy things, and constantly remind us of your sure promises in them.

Cause us also to remain faithful to you, for you know that there are many things that tempt us away and would seek to cause us to go after our own fleshly lusts. Lead us not into temptation, therefore, but deliver us from evil. [*Especially we ask you to deliver _____ as he/she faces (sickness, surgery, travel, etc.). Cause him/her to be reminded of your goodness and mercy which are assured by the Holy Spirit.*] In Jesus’ name, who also taught us to pray:

F: Our Father, who art in heaven....

[The Hymn: #94:4-6 - “O How Shall I Receive Thee”](#)

H: The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

F: Amen.

² SC II.3, *ELH* p. 32.

**Unhindered Prayers
Advent 2 - Thursday**

H: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

F: Amen.

H: 1 Peter 3:1-7 -

Wives, in the same way, be submissive to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they might be won over without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your respectful and holy behavior. Do not let your beauty be something outward, such as braided hair or wearing gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather let your beauty be the hidden person of your heart – the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in God’s sight. In fact, this is also how the holy women of the past who put their hope in God made themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, just as Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord. You are her daughters if you do what is good and do not fear anything that is intimidating.

Husbands, in the same way, continue to live with your wives with the knowledge that, as the wife, she is the weaker vessel.³ Also continue to accord them honor as fellow heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

H: This is the Word of the Lord.

F: Thanks be to God.

The Hymn: #100:3, 4 - “The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us”

³ *Weaker vessel* is a literal translation. Some understand *vessel* as a reference to the body ([1 Samuel 21:5](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:4](#)) and to physical weakness. Others understand *vessel* as a reference to God-given roles ([Acts 9:15](#); [2 Timothy 2:20-21](#)) and to more limited authority. It may include both ideas.

H: St. Peter's message is very similar to St. Paul's, when that apostle wrote his commands to husbands and wives in Ephesians 5 (see Tuesday's devotion, "[Vows of Love and Honor](#)"). The role of the wife is to submit to and honor her husband, and the role of the husband is to love and cherish his wife. St. Peter, however, gives a few extra details.

For the wife, true beauty is found not in the external details (heels and pearls, or whatever secular society might idealize in a woman).

H: Where is a woman's true beauty found?

F: A woman's true beauty is found in her faith and devotion to God, which will also present itself in her execution of her vocations, such as that of wife, honoring her husband.

H: For the husband, true strength is also not found in external details (a paycheck, a car, physical muscles, or whatever secular society might idealize in a man).

H: Where is a man's true strength found?

F: A man's true strength is found in his faith and devotion to God, which likewise will present itself in his execution of his vocations, such as that of husband, uplifting and caring for his wife.

H: St. Peter describes some of the benefits of the situation in which husband and wife properly execute their roles in a marriage, specifically that "your prayers will not be hindered." Indeed, if husband and wife reject their roles in marriage, and their duties to one another, that is tantamount to claiming their own lordship over the other, selfishly and unjustly demanding their own way.

In the marriage service, a series of prayers follow after the husband and wife are properly married. The point is to direct their eyes to their true Lord and Savior, the Bridegroom of us all, recognizing the gifts he has given and still gives. We, too, whenever we pray (be it for the blessing of food, for comfort in sickness, for safety in travel, or for spiritual blessings),

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we are directing our eyes and faith to the true God, the Savior who has purchased us from hell by his own blood. Through our prayers, we remember who God is; and through our prayers, our true God hears and cares for us.

H: And so, let us pray:

Dear Lord, you promised to hear our prayers. Hear them now as we come before you, your faithful people. We know, however, that we have failed in many ways, frequently seeking our own lordship. Forgive us our transgressions and restore us to a right relationship with you and with one another.

Continue to give us the words to pray, and the faith to believe that you still hear and answer our prayers for Jesus' sake. [*Especially we ask you to hear our prayers for _____ as he/she faces (sickness, surgery, travel, etc.). Hear his/her prayers and answer them according to your will, providing them your grace and mercy.*] In Jesus' name, who also taught us to pray:

F: Our Father, who art in heaven....

[*The Hymn: #94:4-6 - "O How Shall I Receive Thee"*](#)

H: The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

F: Amen.

**The Wedding Music
Advent 2 - Friday**

H: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

F: Amen.

H: Revelation 19:6-8 -

And I heard what seemed to be the roar of a large crowd or the roar of many waters or the sound of loud rumblings of thunder, saying:

Alleluia!

For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory,
because the wedding of the Lamb has come.

His bride has made herself ready,
and she was given bright, clean, fine linen to wear.

(In fact, the fine linen is the “not guilty” verdicts pronounced on the saints.)

H: This is the Word of the Lord.

F: Thanks be to God.

The Hymn: #100:3, 4 - “The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us”

H: We are making ourselves ready for our wedding feast with our Bridegroom, the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. The culmination will come when he returns in glory to bring us, body and soul, to live with him forever. Although we are not yet there in the glorious wedding celebration, we are already part of the glorious wedding singing.

H: Name an occasion when the heavenly hosts sang a joyful song.

F: When the Savior and Bridegroom was born on Christmas morning, “suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

**‘Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is
pleased’” (Luke 2:13, 14).**

H: The wedding joy began when Jesus became incarnate, became Man. That joy continues over each sinner who repents (Luke 15:7). That joy will come to its climax on the Last Day. Our wedding joy, you see, is all centered in Christ Jesus.

Likewise, our earthly weddings have music, but in Christian wedding services we don’t sing “popular music,” but reverent music that sings the truths of God’s Word for all present to hear and learn.

H: What was the point of the song sung by the heavenly host in the Revelation text?

F: They sang of God’s reign and the Lamb’s wedding, which means that his Bride (his people - us) have received his righteousness. Their hymn sings the Gospel for us to hear and believe and rejoice in.

H: All our churchly music is designed around the same purpose: we sing for one another to hear, in order to strengthen one another’s faith. The feelings of joy accompanying our music are *true* feelings based in the doctrines that our hymns teach us, especially the doctrines of who Jesus is (true God and true Man) and what he has done for us (in his humiliation: living a perfect life and dying an innocent death in our place; in his exaltation: proclaiming his victory in hell and rising from the dead in glory, after which he ascended into heaven to take rulership of all creation as our brother and Lord, after which he will return in glory to take us to be with him). This is true cause for us to sing with those in heaven: “Alleluia!”

The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us

H: Let us pray:

Alleluia! Praise the Lord: for you have saved us from sin, from death, and from the power of the devil with the shedding of your precious blood and your innocent suffering and death. Strengthen our faith through your constant Word, and cause us to sing ever more joyfully to you and for the benefit of one another.

Sometimes, Lord, we do not feel like singing. Nevertheless, continue to remind us that you are faithful to us and will hear us, with your Spirit interceding for us even in groanings too deep for words. *[Especially we ask you to hear _____ as he/she faces (sickness, surgery, travel, etc.). Strengthen his/her faith in you, and let his/her Christian brothers and sisters be witnesses of the faith for him/her even in this difficulty.]* In Jesus' name, who also taught us to pray:

F: Our Father, who art in heaven....

[The Hymn: #94:4-6 - "O How Shall I Receive Thee"](#)

H: The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

F: Amen.

**Feasting with Guests and Witnesses of the Wedding
Advent 2 - Saturday**

H: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

F: Amen.

H: John 2:1-11 -

Three days later, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.

When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no wine."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with you and me? My time has not come yet."

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

Six stone water jars, which the Jews used for ceremonial cleansing, were standing there, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." And they did.

When the master of the banquet tasted the water that had now become wine, he did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew). The master of the banquet called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when the guests have had plenty to drink, then the cheaper wine. You saved the good wine until now!"

This, the beginning of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

H: This is the Word of the Lord.

F: Thanks be to God.

The Hymn: #100:3, 4 - "The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us"

H: Jesus blessed the wedding at Cana with his presence, and with the gift of the best wine the guests had ever tasted. This was, as the apostle writes, the first miracle Jesus performed in his public ministry.

That wedding, which should have been a great joyous affair, was about to lose its lustre and become a bit of a disappointment to all the guests and witnesses, because the feast was running out of wine. But the Virgin Mary knew where to go - she took the concern to her Son, her Lord. "Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no wine.'"

H: Where should we take our concerns, even if they seem small?

F: **We are blessed to come before our Lord, because Jesus intercedes on our behalf. We know that God hears us when we call on him.**

H: Although Jesus seemed at first reluctant to help, his mother trusted him, knowing he would help according to his divine will. Even so, our prayers may not always be answered right away. Sometimes, in fact, we will never receive what we ask for. But we may be certain that God will hear us and give us what he knows we need.

In this case, Jesus showed his love for mankind, and placed his blessing upon the holy marriage of a man and woman in Cana. Just as God instituted marriage in the perfection of the Garden of Eden, Jesus blesses marriage with his presence and with abundance.

H: In today's wedding celebrations, usually there is a reception following the ceremony, including food, drink, and music. In what ways may we see the marriage feast of the Lamb in his kingdom reflected in these celebrations?

F: **The heavenly marriage feast is a truly joyous occasion, in which we will be blessed to feast on the greatest food and drink our God has to offer, and we will be in the presence of the angels and saints singing to the Lord, with our voices joined to theirs.**

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H: In our Divine Services now we are blessed to eat heavenly food and drink heavenly wine - which are Jesus' true body and blood. Because he gives us these blessings on this side of heaven, we know that, having received the forgiveness of sins which he won on the cross through this feast, we will feast with him also on that side of heaven, when we join all the saints who have gone before us.

H: Let us pray:

Lord God, you have given us the blessing of your Son's body and blood in the Sacrament of the altar. Lead us to worthily eat and drink, so that through that Supper we may have the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Strengthen our faith through all the means of grace so that we may endure until your Son's coming, when we shall be admitted to the heavenly wedding feast.

Instill in us true joy over the blessings we are given, and lead us never to forsake our true Bridegroom, recognizing that he never forsakes us. [*Especially we ask you to give joy and comfort to _____ as he/she faces (sickness, surgery, travel, etc.). Do not forsake him/her, but give him/her enduring faith in your Son.*] In Jesus' name, who also taught us to pray:

F: Our Father, who art in heaven....

[*The Hymn: #94:4-6 - "O How Shall I Receive Thee"*](#)

H: The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

F: Amen.

The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us

Get the devotions for week 3 at church on Sunday!

