

Sunday, January 19, 2025 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

4-5 - The LORD delights in you. For as a young man marries a young woman, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

*How did you feel about your spouse on your wedding day?
Does that give you an idea of how God feels about you?*

Psalm: Psalm 36:5-10

5 - Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, and your faithfulness to the clouds.
7 - How priceless is your love! All people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

*When and how have these two verses been true for you in your life?
When and how have you experienced God's love and faithfulness to be boundless and priceless?
When have you taken refuge in him?*

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing their spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God's Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.

There are three places where the apostle Paul discusses the issue of spiritual gifts – Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4.

I do not believe that this list of spiritual gifts is intended to be exhaustive, but it does say several things –

We all have at least one spiritual gift.

No one has all the gifts.

All gifts are important.

The gifts we have are intended to be developed and used for the benefit of the whole church.

Difference between role and spiritual gift.

What spiritual gift(s) do you have?

Have you ever taken a spiritual gifts inventory?

Are you discovering, developing, and using your spiritual gift(s) for the benefit of the whole church?

How can I determine if something for me is a spiritual gift?

Do I find joy in doing it?

Am I particularly good at it?

Do I find that when I do it, it produces more than normal results?

Do I receive confirmation from others?

Does it meet a real need in the church and/or in the world?

3 - No one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

4 – Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

7 - To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

8-10 - To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge, to another faith, to another gifts of healing, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

11 - All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Gospel: John 2:1-11

1-2 - On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

Some believe that this was the disciple John's wedding. If so, Mary would have been the sister of the groom's mother. Does that account for why she was concerned about the supply of wine?

3-5 - When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

John 12: 23 – Jesus answered, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."

John 13: 1 – Jesus knew that his hour had come.

John 17: 1 – "Father, the hour has come."

6-7 - Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

Sermon – "180 Gallons of Grace" – "Oh, pastor, that is too much grace."

John 1: 16 – From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

8 - He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it.

9-10 - When the steward tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

Matthew 9: 17 – Neither is new wine put into old wineskins.

11 - Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

In Mark 1: 18 and 20, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John left their nets, father, and boat and followed Jesus.

Here they come to faith in Jesus.

When did you start following Jesus? When did you come to faith in Jesus?