

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP 1

SO GOOD IT CATCHES YOU BY SURPRISE

This Week's Gospels

John 2:1-11, Matthew 13:31-32

The Gospel of St. John

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. 9 When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom 10 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." 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of St. Matthew

³¹ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Homily Holden Rouze

Jesus says, "The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed," and is telling us the good news is so good it catches us by surprise and I think the good news here is that, no matter how small something is whether it is a small deed or a big one it can mean a lot.

In here Jesus is comparing the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed; a tiny mustard seed to the giant kingdom of heaven, even though they are way different in size. In my life I compare this to Kids Club because when I started to help out at Kids Club in 7th grade it did not seem that big; it sounded like a small thing. But now it means a ton to me and that took me by surprise. Seeing things like the kid's huge smiles and hearing the kids laughing at the table while they are talking about their day; and that makes me grateful that I get to be a part of that.

Being a part of Kids Club has also helped with my faith a lot from refreshing what I learned if I had started to forget to helping me feel more like a disciple of God by getting to spread Gods word myself to these kids. Because just like disciples spread Gods word I spread the good word of God. And Calvery does this by giving food to NEED and going and serving our seniors, by cleaning up their yards on service day, and giving us each week a small piece of bread and a sip of wine.

The good news is surprising because of how meaningful small things can be; it can just catch us by surprise! Whether you make someone laugh, visit someone when their sick, or even just saying "Good Morning". These small things you do for others can make a big impact.

Homily Reagan Waller

In John 2:1-11, Jesus, his mom, and his disciples go to a wedding in Cana of Galilee. While they were at the wedding, the wine ran out. When Mary told Jesus about the wine, he said, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.". That surprised me, first because he called his mother Woman, if I did that it would not go over well. Second of all, because he knew what he could do.

Whenever Jesus told the servants to fill the jars with water, they did so willingly. And then whenever they went to give a glass of it to the Chief Steward, it was good wine. The good news in this scripture is that Jesus showed that he cared even about the little problems. While running out of wine may have appeared like a smaller problem, it was bigger than it seemed.

I think about that story whenever life feels overwhelming, or when I'm faced with something that seems small but weighs on me. The constant presence he has in our lives can catch us by surprise because we take for granted how good that news is. It's easy to overlook the little moments, the tiny troubles that, stacked together, can feel like a mountain. Sometimes, I wonder if Jesus cares about my worries, the things that don't draw much attention but still matter to me. But just like at that wedding, where he quietly helped without making a big deal, I believe he notices. He doesn't always step in with a miracle, but sometimes he offers just what I need, in unexpected ways. So, when things get tough or when I feel stuck, I try to remember the jars at Cana that were filled with ordinary water and transformed for a purpose. I'm not saying that he will go and fix all of your problems, because we would never grow if that happened. To me, the story shows that he cared enough to address the problem. Jesus also didn't choose to make a big deal about turning the water into wine, he did it to show his disciples that he was worth believing in. This act of turning water into wine was the first of his signs that revealed his glory.

I used to be in the hospital a lot because of my migraines. I remember one time when I had a really bad one and I had been in the hospital for almost a week. One evening, I noticed a beautiful sunset outside my window. Even though it may not seem like much, to me it was almost calming because to me that was a sign from him that was showing that he was there. Now, that didn't fix my migraine, but it helped me get through it because it seemed like he was there helping me. Sometimes all somebody needs is a sign that somebody is there that knows what they are struggling through and cares enough to address it. It is reassuring to know that even when it doesn't seem like it, he is there. He won't go and fix your problems for you, that's on you. But he can help guide you through those problems. Small things like sunsets or something that makes you stop and relax for a second can be a sign that he is there for you, helping you slow down and get control of things. It could be a kind word from a friend, or a pretty sunset, or maybe even the assurance that, even if things don't change

right away, I'm not alone. The story reminds me to look for those small signs, those gentle nudges that help me keep going. Jesus never promised that life would be easy, but he did promise to be present. That presence, even in the background is sometimes all the encouragement I need. My struggles won't disappear, but maybe something good can come from them. In the end, it's not about the problems being solved, but about knowing that someone cares enough to walk with me through them, showing up in ways both big and small, helping me to pause, breathe, and find hope throughout everything.

Maybe that's why the story of the wedding at Cana sticks with me. It's about paying attention to the moments when kindness shows up, especially when it's least expected. The wine didn't have to be replaced, but Jesus did it anyway. In my own life, I try to hold onto that truth. Even if my circumstances stay the same, those moments help me shift my perspective and remind me that hope can be found anywhere if you look hard enough. That's enough to help me keep going, one day at a time.

I realize that it isn't just about miracles, it's also about quiet moments of connection. There are days when I feel unnoticed or overwhelmed, but then I remember how Jesus responded at Cana: not with a grand gesture meant to attract attention, but with compassion and understanding. The story of the wedding at Cana gives me hope that even when my needs seem insignificant or my troubles seem invisible, there is still someone watching, guiding, and supporting me. It's not always easy, especially when life feels heavy. But knowing that Jesus cared enough to help the wedding guests encourages me to trust that he cares for me and us. That is the real miracle.

Offering *Stay With Us* (WOV 743)



1 Stay with us, till night has come: our praise to
 2 Walk with us, our spir - its sigh: hear when our
 3 Walk with us, the road will bend: make all our
 4 Talk with us, till we be - hold a joy - ful
 5 Stay with us, till day is done: no tears nor



you this day be sung. Bless our bread, o - pen our
 wea - ry spir - its cry. Feel a - gain our loss, our
 weep - ing, wail - ing end. Wipe our tears, for - give our
 life you will un - fold. Heal our eyes to see the
 dark shall dim the sun. Cheer the heart, your grace im -



eyes: Je - sus, be our great sur - prise.
 pain: Je - sus, take us to your side.
 fears: Je - sus, lift the heav - y cross.
 prize: Je - sus, take us to the light.
 part: Je - sus, bring e - ter - nal life.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
 Music: STAY WITH US, Walter L. Pelz, b. 1926

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Worship Leaders

Homily Holden Rouze and Reagan Waller
Cantor
Lector Ethan St. Clair
Prayers Elle Kammerdiener
Sound Gary Graeber

2026 Mid-Week Lenten Series: *Seven Last Words*

**Holden Evening Prayer each
Wednesday @ 7pm during Lent**

March 4 - Great news for God and neighbor!
Luke 6:36-50, Matthew 25:35-40

March 11 - Together the impossible is possible!
Mark 6:32-44, Ephesians 3:20-21

March 18 - Protection and care for the vulnerable!!
Matthew 19:13-15, Deuteronomy 24:17-22

March 25 - Rooted in justice, mercy and faithfulness!
John 8:2-11, Matthew 23:23



Two Ways to Give

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