

Wine

Sunday 19th January



Duccio, di Buoninsegna, -1319?. Wedding at Cana, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=49263> [retrieved January 15, 2025]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Duccio_di_Buoninsegna_038.jpg.

Scripture: John 2.1-11

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. 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." 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. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. 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." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

To reflect

In today's Gospel reading we hear of Jesus' first earthly miracle and first public ministry. At a wedding, the wine runs out and his mother Mary prompts Jesus to resolve the issue. Wine continues to be part of celebrations in cultures around the world today.

Wine runs through the life of Jesus – and we see this in our Worship. Wine as part of Jesus' first public miracle, wine representing blood in the Eucharist, and sour wine at the Crucifixion. Scripture uses imagery around banquets to describe heaven.

What comes to your mind when you think of wine in the context of your Christian life – in faith practices and in your life as a whole?

Collect for Second Sunday after Epiphany

Almighty God, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

May your people, illumined by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known,
worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Cana by Thomas Merton

Once when our eyes were clean as noon, our rooms
Filled with the joys of Cana's feast:
For Jesus came, and His disciples, and His Mother,
And after them the singers
And some men with violins.

Once when our minds were Galilees,
And clean as skies our faces,
Our simple rooms were charmed with sun.

Our thoughts went in and out in whiter coats than
God's disciples',
In Cana's crowded rooms, at Cana's tables.

Nor did we seem to fear the wine would fail:
For ready, in a row, to fill with water and a miracle,
We saw our earthen vessels, waiting empty.
What wine those humble waterjars foretell!

Wine for the ones who, bended to the dirty earth,
Have feared, since lovely Eden, the sun's fire,
Yet hardly mumble, in their dusty mouths, one prayer.

Wine for old Adam, digging in the briars!

To Listen (these and other suggestions can be found on a Spotify playlist at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0F5bU2sf4OiOtQY3q78Rj2?si=a99cbbf61e7d4587>)

- 'Songs of Thankfulness and Praise' by Christopher Wordsworth, one version is by the Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge. This hymn narrates the miracles of Epiphanytide, including the turning of water into wine at the Wedding Feast at Cana.
- 'At the Wedding of the Canaanite' a Romanian Christmas Carol, one version is performed by the Madrigal Chamber Choir.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.