

Greetings from God the Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and from the Holy Spirit. Amen

Wherever Jesus is, Wherever Jesus is there is heaven also. As we gather for worship you are to consider yourself in heaven and earth at the same time. This is the difference of Christ being with you. In worship you are in heaven and on earth at the same time here and now! In worship, you are in fellowship with the Saints in heaven worshiping and praising God in His presence. You are in the presence of the Lord as Moses was at the burning bush. **YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.** Have you taken this for granted? Has worship become a routine that you do because it something to do? Your attitude sometimes is, "if I feel like it I will come." This casual attitude that it does not matter if you come to worship is a sin. It is another sin when the world's and, or the devil's temptation has you not coming to worship. Not coming so you lose out of the blessings and gifts the Lord wants to give you that day and for the week. I thank the Lord you have not been overcome by the temptation of the devil or your sinful flesh to not come today.

But there is another sin that we need to be on the guard against, even when we are faithful in coming to House of the Lord. As a faithful

child of God coming to God's House, we need to be on guard not to take God's presence for granted. Your sinful flesh can get hold of you and cause you to sin and not rejoice that you are in the presence of the Almighty Lord. You go around with a doom and gloom face or may be not with the face but your thinking is doom and gloom, even here in worship. You act as though Christ is not here and it is just something to do. You forget that you can unload the burdens and struggles of life, here in the PRESENCE OF LORD! He is here and is willing to take them from you!

Pause

Our theme today is: Jesus' presence is a blessing to you always; Jesus wants to share your joyous times and needful times and He will provide for your needs and more. Even when you are unaware of them, and He always gives you the best. He is Present Today, Here and Now!

Our Gospel text is about Jesus' presence at a wedding in Cana. Jesus came to the wedding because He was accepting an invitation to a wedding. Probably He is accepting an invitation from someone the family or He knew. Jesus came! WHAT A BLESSING for the couple to have Jesus' presence! Just the fact that Jesus took time from His ministry to come to their wedding is a blessing! Jesus is now doing His ministry, the purpose

for which He came, to proclaim the Good News and to come to be a ransom for the sins of mankind. The Baptism of our Lord marks the beginning of His Ministry. And His Baptism we have God the Father and the Holy Spirit confirming that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah promised. In the midst His ministry, Jesus wants to come and share in the fellowship and joy, rejoice with the couple, and bless them. Jesus was not too busy to be with this couple and to be present at their wedding banquet. Jesus wants to share in their joy. Jesus is not too busy for you. He wants to share in your joyous times with you as well as in time of need. The joyous times are gifts from Jesus. The time we spend here in worship is a joyous time and in the presence of our Lord. He rejoices with us in the blessings and gifts He gives to you today! He gives them freely because He wants to.

In the story we see the norm of human life even in the midst of joy a need arises. It could be lack of planning, laziness, or more guests came than planned. Whatever it is, things happen in life, sin or the devil has a habit of causing a problem to arise or ruin a good plan. The couple is unaware of the need but Mary the mother of Jesus is fully aware. Mary intercedes for the couple and asks Jesus to help. We as Christians should intercede for our neighbors or members on their behalf to ask Jesus to help

them. Jesus has provided for you and given you a blessing or a gift at sometime in your life that you were unaware of. Jesus answers Mary's request just as He answer your prayers always. He answers Mary's request with the BEST. Jesus provided the need of avoiding embarrassment of running out of wine for the guests. He also gave them the BEST wine. Jesus gave the gift that the host was honored among its guests because he served the best wine even after all have had their fill.

The BEST wine also symbolizes that Jesus is not another Moses to give another Law to you to follow. Jesus is the Messiah who fulfills the Law for you. Jesus came and died on the cross for your sins. The BEST wine symbolizes that Christ came to give His Best, His blood for you and for all. By shedding His Blood on the cross you are saved – you have the very BEST there is. And Jesus offers and gives this to you freely with no strings or law attached to His gift.

Jesus did the miracle of turning water into wine for another purpose, to strengthen faith and to cause faith. Jesus did His miracle to show His new disciples that He is the Lord, the promised Messiah. For the theme of the Gospel of John is given in John 20:31 "These [referring to miraculous signs] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of

God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.” This is the joy that we come to hear and see and it is exciting – being with the Lord and for Him to give you the BEST of His Blessings each Sunday! You come into His presence with the burden(s) of this life and sins. You leave with more than we could image and ask for each time. You leave with His forgiveness of sins; you are feed with His Word. You are feed with His body and blood to strength you. We leave with HIS BLESSINGS at the end of the Worship service. You are Blessed and truly you are Blessed in the Presence of the Lord!

And on that day when He calls you to Himself, He will call you to His Heavenly Banquet, the Marriage Feast of the Lamb. The Church, the true believers in Christ ... **you**, are His Bride. You will be rejoicing. Rejoicing that will never end. The struggles of this life are no more. No more tears, or pain or sin. You will be celebrating the paschal feast of the Lamb perfectly with all the saints forever! Where the wine of God’s Blessings will never run out but will last for eternity!

And may the peace of God, which is beyond all human comprehension, keep your hearts and minds through your faith in Christ Jesus. Amen