

Readings: *Isaiah 62: 1 – 5; Ps 95 (96): 1 – 3,7 – 10; 1 Corinthians 12: 4 – 11; John 2: 1 – 11.*

Today the lectionary interrupts the sequence of readings from the Gospel of Luke to give us the third of the 'Three Miracles' which traditionally make up the mystery of the Epiphany the revealing of the glory of Jesus as the Son of God.

In both the Common (ecumenical) and Roman Lectionaries we hear from the Gospel of John of the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. This is the first event recorded by the evangelist after the calling of disciples by Jesus. The first person to be mentioned is *the mother of Jesus*. It is she who – despite the apparent rebuttal of her appeal to her son – makes possible the mysterious action. *His mother said to the servants “Do whatever he tells you”*. They follow her and her son – and *the water...turned into wine*. It is the faith of *the mother of Jesus* which inspires the obedience of the servants to the command of Jesus, allows *his glory to be seen* in this *the first of the signs*, and leads the disciples to *believe in him*.

This sign is the first example of the fulfilment of the words of John's prologue *We have beheld his glory, glory as of the only-begotten Son from the Father*. There will be more “signs” – healing of the official's son (4: 46 – 54); healing of a paralyzed man (chapter 5); feeding of the five thousand (6: 1 – 14); walking on the sea (6: 16 – 21); healing of a blind man (chapter 9); raising of Lazarus (chapter 11). In each of these the glory of Jesus is revealed – but this revelation of glory will not be complete until the “lifting up” of the Son of Man on the cross.

It is on that occasion that *the mother of Jesus* appears for only the second time in the fourth Gospel. She, together with *the disciple whom Jesus loved*, witnesses the coming of the hour of the glorification of her son – the hour of which he had said to her at the wedding *My hour has not come yet*, but which he recognized in his prayer to the Father: *For this purpose I have come to this hour... when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself* (12: 27 – 33).

So, the mother of Jesus is presented to us as the first who – although she did not yet understand the destiny of her son – knew that his disciples must *do whatever he tells* them. She is, therefore, the *Mother of Believers*, whose example we pray that we may have the grace to follow.