

# **The Collect and Readings for The Third Sunday of Epiphany**

## **The Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your mighty power;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **Prayer after Communion**

Almighty Father,  
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:  
may your people,  
illuminated 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;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

## **Today's Readings**

**First Reading** Genesis 14:17-20

The presence of God Most High is made tangible for Abram who, having rescued nephew Lot from marauding kings, receives a priestly blessing and responds generously.

**Second Reading** Revelation 19:6-10

A heavenly wedding is described, where the blessing is not reserved for the principal participants but is instead extended to every invited guest.

**Gospel** John 2:1-11

Jesus, attending a wedding, understands that social ruin is impending and responds with an overwhelming generosity that turns disaster into blessing.

## First Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis

<sup>17</sup>After Abram's return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). <sup>18</sup>And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. <sup>19</sup>He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup>and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

## Psalm 128

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they all who fear the Lord,  
and who follow in his ways!

<sup>2</sup> You shall eat the fruit of your labour;  
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.

<sup>3</sup> Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine  
within your house,  
your children like olive shoots round about your table.

<sup>4</sup> Whoever fears the Lord  
shall thus indeed be blessed.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord bless you from Zion,  
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of our life.

<sup>6</sup> May you live to see your children's children;  
may peace be upon Israel.

**Whoever fears the Lord shall indeed be blessed.**

## Second Reading

A reading from the book of Revelation

<sup>6</sup>I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,  
'Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

<sup>7</sup>Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready;  
<sup>8</sup>to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure' – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

<sup>9</sup>And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.'  
<sup>10</sup>Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

## **Gospel Reading**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' <sup>6</sup>Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>'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.' <sup>11</sup>Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**