

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God the Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Amen!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

[Intro]

"It will be a miracle if I make this light."

How many of us have said that or thought that when driving?

I had that thought during this past week. I was running behind and I was not sure I was going to make it passed that green light. There wasn't traffic, but that light had been green for a while. Thankfully, I got through that intersection while it was still green.

"Do you believe in miracles?" Al Michaels screamed that question when he called the action for ABC Sports' coverage of Olympic Ice Hockey game between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1980.

At the Lake Placid Olympic Winter Games, the United States hockey team did what no other nation's hockey team could do – something that no other hockey team had done since 1960. The Soviet Union had won the previous four gold medals for ice hockey. And the outcomes weren't even close. During their reign as champions, the Soviet Union outscored their opponents 175 to 44. Against the United States, the Soviets led 28 to 7 in scoring margin during that period.

Then on February 22, 1980, Team USA hockey defeated the unbeatable Soviet Union 4 to 3. The team with the best goalie in the world had been defeated.

"Do you believe in miracles?!" That game would forever be remembered as the "Miracle on Ice."

[Miracle]

Miracle? Was it a miracle that I made it through that stop light? Was it a miracle that Team USA beat the Soviet Union?

What is a miracle anyway?

A miracle is an unusual or wonderful event. That is why some say that a miracle is caused by the power of God. A miracle is God working through supernatural means. But to many, a miracle implies doubt.

I questioned if I was going to make it through that light. Al Michaels questioned if the Americans would beat the Soviet Union. Even in those final seconds approaching the light and the final seconds of that game, there was doubt.

Will this happen? How could it happen?

[The Wedding at Cana]

Now, Mary did not doubt her son.

She knew how it could happen. She knew it could happen.

She knew He could find a solution to the problem.

Jesus and his disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana. As was the Jewish custom, the wedding feast would last seven days. This was day three and the wine has run out. This was turning into a crisis. The party isn't even halfway over and there was nothing left to drink. Could this party end early?

Mary came up to Jesus and said, ***“They have no wine.”*** She knew Jesus could do something.

Then Jesus replies, ***“Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”***

In today's context, we may think, *“How could Jesus address his mother like that?!”*

During that time period, addressing a female as “woman” was seen as conveying deep respect and distinction.

Then Mary said to the servants about Jesus, ***“Do whatever he tells you.”***

You see, Mary has no doubt that this crisis will be averted.

[Doubt]

If you were an eyewitness at this wedding feast, would you doubt if Jesus could solve the wine problem?

Do you think the disciples doubted Jesus' ability to calm the situation?

In our daily lives, we are uncertain about things all the time. We doubt. We doubt a lot. It is in our sinful nature to doubt.

Which one of us has never doubted yourself when taking a test? I have. I've changed a correct answer to a wrong answer. We all do it.

I'm sure many of us have thought, how can that little round wafer and that little cup of wine truly be the true body and true blood of Christ?

[Jesus' solution at Cana]

What is Jesus going to do? Was he going to let down his earthly mother? No.

He manifests His glory.

He has the servants fill up six stone water jars to the brim with water. He then tells the servants to share what is in those jars as the beverage for the wedding party.

Then the master of the feast, the host, after drinking the new beverage said, ***“Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.”***

Jesus created perfect wine. His wine had no imperfections. It was the perfect wine for a wedding feast.

At the end of this text, John the Apostle wrote how this changing of water into wine is to be understood.

“This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.”

[Sign]

You see, Jesus never doubted his power over nature. After all, He is Almighty God in the flesh.

What Jesus did by turning water into wine is not just a miracle.

This was done by Jesus, who knew just what to do for this situation at the beginning of Creation.

What Jesus did is a sign. It was a sign of His glory.

So what is the difference between a miracle and a sign?

A sign is something indicating the presence or existence of something else.

- This is Jesus manifesting His glory.
- This making his glory clearly visible.
- This is making his glory obvious. Explicitly obvious.

Throughout this gospel, John uses the word “sign” 17 times to demonstrate Jesus is the Messiah – the Son of God.

This gospel lesson is perfect for the season of Epiphany. As John wrote, “*And (Jesus’) disciples believed in him.*”

An epiphany is a moment in time when you suddenly see or understand something in a clear way. It was clear to the disciples that Jesus was not just a prophet. Jesus is God in the flesh.

[Don’t Doubt]

If we were there with the servants that day, we would not doubt a word Jesus says. For they witnessed Jesus turn water into wine.

Doubting will happen in our lives, but don’t doubt the promises of God. For God does not lie.

For this reason, God the Father sent His Son Jesus Christ to serve as a sacrifice for our sins.

Through Jesus’ perfect life, his death and resurrection – the signs of His glory – we have forgiveness, life and salvation through Jesus!

We have life through the water and the Word in Holy Baptism!

We have life through Jesus’ true body and true blood – in, with and under – the very bread and wine.

Jesus established this supper for Christians who are weak in the faith but repentant, to comfort them and to strengthen their weak faith.

Although our faith in God waxes and wanes, God’s love for us never diminishes. You are His! Amen!

Now let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Amen!