

Readings and Prayers for 24 January 2021: Epiphany 3

Genesis 14:17-20

God has marked out Abram for his own but has not yet entered into a covenant with him. In the meantime he has to fight his own battles.

¹⁷ 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).

¹⁸ And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; ²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

Psalm 128

¹ Happy is everyone who fears the LORD,
who walks in his ways.

² You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.

⁴ Thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the LORD.

⁵ The LORD bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

⁶ May you see your children's children.
Peace be upon Israel!

Revelation 19:6-10

John's vision is reaching its climax, marked here by a further glimpse of heaven celebrating the wedding feast of the Lamb.

⁶ Then 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.

⁷ 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;
⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.'¹⁰ 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.'

John 2:1-11

This incident, unique to John's Gospel, holds an important place as Jesus' first sign.

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

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

¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Collect

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Almighty Father, whose 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; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.