

21<sup>st</sup> January 2017

## Epiphany 3

White



### 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. **Amen**

### Genesis 14:17-20 English Standard Version (ESV)

#### Abram Blessed by Melchizedek

14<sup>17</sup> After his 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 Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)<sup>19</sup> And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor<sup>[a]</sup> 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 a tenth of everything.

**Footnotes:** a. Genesis 14:19 Or *Creator*; also verse 22

**COMMENT:** Psalm 110, a messianic psalm has this in verse 4 ‘The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”’ Hebrews 7:1-4 provides commentary on this man; “For this Melchizedek, King of Salem, Priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, King of Righteousness, and then he is also King of Salem, that is, King of Peace. He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of

God he continues a priest forever.” Melchizedek through the note in Psalm 110 had already become a mystical figure; a King–Priest. Hebrews 7 argues that Jesus is this King–Priest on the basis of the Messianic Psalm. The Bread and Wine given in refreshment to Abram and his men is now seen as pre-figuring the Eucharist.

## **John 2:1-11** English Standard Version (ESV)

### **The Wedding at Cana**

2<sup>1</sup> On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2<sup>2</sup> Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. 3<sup>3</sup> When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” 4<sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” 5<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” 6<sup>6</sup> Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.<sup>[a]</sup> 7<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8<sup>8</sup> And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. 9<sup>9</sup> When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom<sup>10</sup> and said to him, “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.”<sup>11</sup> 11<sup>11</sup> This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

**Footnotes:** a. John 2:6 Greek *two or three measures (metr tas)*; a *metr t s* was about 10 gallons or 35 litres

**COMMENT:** John's Gospel took its shape from a series of signs revealing Jesus as the Messiah, Son of God, and Saviour of the world. This miracle story described the first of these signs. The marriage feast at Cana symbolized that the messianic age had begun. The changing of water for ritual purification to wine for the marriage feast indicated that Jesus would reinterpret Jewish religious tradition for the new age he inaugurated.

**Psalm 128** *Beati omnes* Grail Psalter

**℟ O blessed are all who fear the Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> *A Song of Ascents.*

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,  
and walk in his ways!

<sup>2</sup> By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. ℟

<sup>3</sup> Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive  
around your table.

<sup>4</sup> Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord. ℟

<sup>5a</sup> May the Lord bless you from Zion

<sup>5c</sup> all the days of your life!

<sup>66</sup> May you see your children's children

<sup>5b</sup> in a happy Jerusalem!

<sup>6b</sup> On Israel, peace! ℟

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

**COMMENT:** This psalm speaks about the blessing of a *family*. The Psalmist says that it is a real privilege and blessing to be able to provide the physical needs for your own *family*. Then comes the blessing of a productive wife and many children who are looked up to in the community. Added to the fact that when he reaches old age he will have the blessing of seeing his grandchildren. This was especially unique for people whose life span was shorter than it is today. All of this is promised to the *family* who has reverence and respect for the Lord and lives according to the principles of His Word.

### **Short Preface**

And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world, that all the nations may be brought out of darkness to see the radiance of your glory.

### **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. **Amen**

### **Blessing**

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among *you*, and remain with *you* always. **Amen.**