

**Sunday 16 January 2022,  
the Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**Collect:**

Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
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.

**Readings for this week:**

*Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11*

Marriage and gifts are two themes that run throughout this week's readings. We begin with Isaiah's description of God's relationship with the chosen people, Israel, being like a good marriage, one where the partners delight in each other – not just as they are, but for the gifts they bring to the table and the potential they have to grow together into their best possible selves. The Psalm extends this relationship – God is the well of life who gifts nourishment, spiritual and physical, for the flourishing of the people.

In the second reading, Paul is writing to the fractious, dysfunctional and wealthy Corinthian church community. He reminds them that their own personal gifts are not for them to keep to themselves but are spiritual gifts from God meant to be shared to help the community fulfil the Gospel vision. When we reach the Gospel of John we are at a wedding where out of the humble stuff of life, the water used for daily ritual washing, the abundance of God's gift of love overflows, enabling a marriage to begin well and a community to flourish.

God of glory,  
you nourish us with your Word  
who is the bread of life:  
fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that through us the light of your glory  
may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Readings for next week:**

*Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21*  
*The Third Sunday of Epiphany*