

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said: A man shall leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. Christ is the true Groom, the new and better Adam. His Virgin mother is a type of the true Bride, the Holy Church, the new and better Eve. He left His Father and descended into the earthly realms to take on Flesh, to take on the flesh of His Bride, to be of one flesh with Her.

How perfect it is that His first miracle, then, is worked at a wedding. He through Whom they were made male and female blesses marriage by His physical presence at the wedding. And there the Virgin that gave Him birth is participating. The wedding was not in Jerusalem, but in Cana of Galilee, land of the Gentiles, for by the Magi He is shown to be Lord and Savior of all nations.

But now, at Cana, His hour had not yet come. It would come shortly, but not in Galilee. His hour would come outside of Jerusalem at Golgotha. And that bitter, dark hour would usher in the three days in which the True Groom was hidden in death. But now, on the third day, in Cana, the hour of the True Groom had not yet come. So when faithful Mary does what faith always does, take her burdens to Christ, the cross is still before Him. That is His Work, not filling wine jars, but filling up to the brim the Suffering of the Divine Servant.

Although His answer surpasses her understanding, her faithfulness is revealed in her command to the servants: “Whatever He says to you, do it.” That is faith. That is the Holy Church speaking. And so the Holy Church speaks to you: “Whatever He says to you, do it.” For therein lies forgiveness, life and salvation. What He says to you is the very Word of God, the salvific, living Word that brings you the blessings of the Kingdom of God.

Whatever He says to you, do it. That is what the Holy Church says of Her Groom. So hear then the Word of God: “Be thou holy, for I the Lord your God Am Holy... Thou shalt have no other Gods before Me.” That is what God commands, that is what God wills, that is what God wills for you. In light of God’s Command, if you are honest, O Fallen Man, you will quickly confess your heart to be as were the waterpots of Cana – empty of holiness, lifeless, hard, stony, dead.

But into such dead vessels the Lord of Love, the Lord of Life, the True Bridegroom, pours the salvific wine of the New Testament. Cana’s waterpots were for ceremonial washing, washing that could remove filth from the skin, but could never truly cleanse what defiles a man. So the Lord’s command is not that the waterpots be filled with water that the people wash. He does not come to enslave under the Law. He comes to fulfill the Law. He comes to free you from the Law. He commands that at His Word the Old be filled up to the brim, finished.

And so by His sinless, perfect, miraculous conception and birth, by His Naming and Circumcision, by His revelation to the nations as Savior and Lord, by His perfect inquiry and answers before Israel’s teachers, by His anointing, by His taking on the sins of the world, by His Holy Suffering and His Precious Death, by His perfect faithfulness, He fulfills the Law. The Word of God is fulfilled by the Word Incarnate. That is His Will. The Law is filled to the brim

by Christ. For you who believe in Him, for you baptized with water and the Spirit, there is no more Law left for you.

At His miraculous Word, what is brought forth is not of the Law, but of the Gospel. What is brought forth is a free gift, requiring no work on your part, allowing no work on your part, it is a free gift of God. For just as on the third day He would defeat sin and death and bring Himself forth from that empty stone jar of the tomb, so on the third day in Cana did the best wine flow forth from those stone jars.

There, at that wedding feast, was the New Testament ushered in. He through Whom all things were made exercised His power and authority over creation, and by a Word made water wine. But as are all the Mysteries of God, it was hidden from the powerful, and revealed to the lowly. The banquet master did not know. The honored guests did not know. The servants knew, for Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

So too is the True Bride, the Holy Church, lowly, hidden in this time. She appears embattled, destitute, defenseless, hemmed in on every side by foes who seek her ruin. And so too are Christ's Saving Gifts. In this time they are concealed, hidden, disguised by the preaching of God-sent sinful men. His Gifts are hidden in water, bread and wine, marked by lowly, humble symbols that only by faith are you certain, only by faith do you not doubt, that in them you receive Christ.

He is the True Bridegroom. In His miraculous conception He took on the Flesh of His Bride, the Holy Church. He became of one flesh with you. And when His hour came, when darkness covered the earth and His cries went unanswered, forsaken by His Father and having given away His mother, He did what He promised from the beginning. He, very God, being Man, left His Father and mother and was united to His Bride, and the two became One Flesh. He died for you. He died to redeem you, body and soul.

And when His hour was fulfilled, in His glorious resurrection, so too do you rise, O Bride of Christ. The old in you is slain, the new is brought forth alive. You are the Holy Bride, redeemed of the True Bridegroom, bedecked in the dazzling vestments of His holiness. You are declared chaste, pure, without sin, elect, filled with faith, prepared for the wedding feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom which has no end.

Until that Day, the Day of His final Epiphany, the Bridegroom is your Host and your Meal, you His Bride and His Guest, as by His Word bread is His Body and wine His Blood, that you banquet on Christ. So come, dear Christian, for in His great love for you, the Bridegroom works a miracle. For you, He has kept the Good Wine until now.

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.