

Sermon Title: Water into Wine

- Genesis 14:17-20
- John 2:1-11

Summary:

- Introduction:
 - Liturgy presents a well-known miracle of Jesus, highlighting a mysterious figure, Melchizedek.
 - Melchizedek blesses Abram, symbolically giving bread and wine; Abram gives a tenth of his battle spoils.
 - Melchizedek represents a kingly priest, associated with Salem and an eternal priesthood.
- Melchizedek and Christ's Priesthood:
 - Psalm 110 refers to an eternal priesthood in the line of Melchizedek, later understood to point to Jesus after resurrection.
 - Christ's priesthood is eternal, unlike the Levitical priesthood, foreshadowed by Melchizedek.
 - The Letter to the Hebrews emphasizes the superiority of Christ's priesthood over the old dispensation.
- John's Account of the Wedding at Cana:
 - Jesus performs his first "sign" at a wedding, saving a couple from embarrassment.
 - Water symbolises the law, transformed by Jesus into the wine of the new covenant.
 - Generous quantities of wine symbolize the arrival of the Messiah and point to the ultimate sacrifice on the cross.
- The Family as Domestic Church:
 - Jesus, Mary, and disciples at a wedding highlight the significance of family in God's revelation.
 - Families, despite challenges, are where individuals learn to minister, make sacrifices, and reflect Christ's love.
- Living the Common Priesthood:
 - Baptised individuals share in the common priesthood foreshadowed by Melchizedek and realised in Jesus.
 - The family, as the "domestic" church, becomes a primary place to exercise this priesthood.
- Conclusion:
 - Acknowledgment of family challenges, emphasising the need for grace to be Christ-like to one another.
 - Relying on God's generosity, as seen in Melchizedek's blessing of Abram, and God's continual presence.

Discussion Points / Points to Ponder:

1. How does Melchizedek's priesthood foreshadow and differ from the Levitical priesthood, especially in light of Psalm 110 and the Letter to the Hebrews?
2. Explore the symbolism of water and wine in the wedding at Cana, connecting it to the transformation of the law into the new covenant. How does this symbolise the arrival of the Messiah?
3. Discuss the role of the family as the "domestic" church. In what ways can families reflect the common priesthood and contribute to the history of salvation?
4. Reflect on the challenges faced by families. How can individuals, relying on God's grace, overcome these challenges and reflect Christ's love within the family?
5. Consider the concept of the eternal priesthood in the context of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. How does Christ being both priest and lamb of sacrifice impact your understanding of redemption?
6. Explore the idea of ministering to one another in the family. How can families support and nurture each other in a way that reflects Christ's sacrificial love?
7. In what practical ways can individuals and families actively live out the common priesthood in their daily lives and interactions with others?

Alternative Questions:

1. How does Psalm 110 and the Letter to the Hebrews contribute to understanding Melchizedek's significance in the context of Jesus' priesthood?
2. How does Jesus transforming water into wine symbolise the arrival of the Messiah and the establishment of the new covenant?
3. How does the destruction of the temple in AD 70 mark a transition in priesthood, and what significance does Christ's eternal priesthood hold?
4. In what ways do Melchizedek's blessing and Jesus' presence at a wedding underscore the importance of the family in God's plan?
5. How can families actively minister to one another, make sacrifices, and reflect Christ's love, especially in the face of challenges?
6. How does recognizing our dependence on God's generosity impact our approach to ministry, both within the family and in broader communities?