

1:3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

1:4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

1:5 "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

1:6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

1:7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

1:10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

1:11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Good morning, everyone.

We are having a Sunday morning, the morning of the Lord's resurrection, the morning of the Lord's victory.

We reflect on the various events of the week. We thank the Lord for always being there with us, "My child," walking with us, talking to us, praying for us, interceding for us, atoning for our sins, speaking His Word and burning our hearts brightly, shining His light and leading us through the darkness of the night of lack, of being at a loss, of standing still, of being anxious. Finally, next week is Pentecost (the day of Pentecost). This is the day when God gave the Holy Spirit to the disciples, who were locked up and trembling with fear, as He had promised so that they would receive power and go forth strongly as witnesses of the Lord.

Today, let us savor the last moments of Jesus' life with His disciples and what He said to them, which reminds us of the events on the eve of Pentecost.

3 After His suffering, Jesus showed by numerous and sure proofs that He was alive, and appeared to them often for forty days, speaking of the kingdom of God.

Luke 24:25 Then Jesus said, "O ye foolish and slow of heart, who believe not all things which the prophets have preached!

24:26 Was not Christ surely to suffer these things and enter into His glory?

Jesus told His disciples many times that He should have undergone afflictions.

(i) Mark 8:31 Then He began to teach them that the Son of Man must surely suffer many things, and be abandoned by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed again, and after three days rise again,

8:32 And He spoke this thing overtly.

(2) Mark 9:31 For Jesus taught His disciples, saying, "The Son of Man shall be given into the hands of men, and shall be killed by them; and after He is killed He shall rise again after three days.

9:32 But they did not realize what Jesus had said, and were afraid to ask.

(3) Mark 10:32 Now they were all on their way up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was leading the way, and they were astonished and suspicious, and those who followed them were afraid. Then Jesus called His twelve disciples again and began to tell them about what was about to happen to Him,

10:33 "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of the chief priests and the scribes. And they will condemn him to death and deliver him to the Gentiles.

10:34 And they shall mock him, and spit upon him, and whip him, and kill him at last. And he shall rise again after three days.

Romans 8:31 What shall we say then concerning these things? If God is on our side, who can be against us?

8:32 He that spared not even His own Son, but delivered Him up to death for us all, how shall He not also the Son, and all things?

8:33 Who shall reproach the elect of God? For God has made them righteous.

8:34 Who condemneth us? For Christ Jesus died, and rose again, and is seated at the right

hand of God, and intercedes for us.

8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Whether tribulation, or affliction, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

8:36 For it is written, "We are appointed unto thee all day long unto death, and to be looked upon as sheep that are slaughtered.

8:37 But in all these things we have more than enough, through Him who loved us.

8:38 I am convinced, because he has loved us, that in all these things we have more than enough to win. 8:38 For I am persuaded, that in all things there is neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, neither things mighty, nor things small, nor things great,

8:39 Neither high things nor deep things, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:1 Thus being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

5:2 By him also we have been brought by faith into this grace in which we now stand, and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

5:3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in tribulation, for tribulation is patience. 5:3 Not only so, but they also rejoice in tribulation, for tribulation produces patience,

5:4 For he knows that patience produces endurance, and endurance produces discipline, and discipline produces hope.

5:5 And hope does not end in disappointment. 5:5 And hope does not end in disappointment, for the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

5:6 For while we were yet weak, Christ died for the ungodly in due time.

It was predestined for Jesus to suffer afflictions. But the tribulation was not to be an end in itself. With numerous solid evidences that He had suffered and died, but was now alive, Jesus appeared to His disciples again and again, indeed, over a period of forty days.

We know that the time between Jesus' resurrection and Pentecost is 50 days, but we know that Jesus appeared to the disciples often over 40 of those days. The fact that the Lord had to appear to the disciples over and over again for 40 days, as if He were chewing on a piece of paper, before His tongue was dry, and for the disciples who were so anxious to forget His words, shows the anxiety, inadequacy, and discouragement of the disciples. Jesus said, "I have many things to tell you about my life.

Jesus "showed them by many proofs that he was alive, and appeared to them often for forty days, telling them about the kingdom of God.

Jesus told his disciples over and over again for forty days that he was alive.

The disciples were saddened that even if Jesus said today that He is alive, if He disappeared from sight, the next day He would no longer be with them, and they would know that He had died. Then Jesus appeared again the next day and told the disciples that He was alive. It took 40 days for the disciples to realize that the Lord was alive. Jesus accompanied the disciples until the very last minute, when the Holy Spirit would be poured out in 10 more days. The Lord accompanied the disciples all the way to the point where they had to hold their parents' hands to walk. He is like a little child who cries out when He is out of sight for a moment.

He said, "Why do you ask the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen." Luke 24:5-6

Our Lord is not in the grave. We cannot look for Him in the dead. He is risen. Even though we cannot see Him, "He is alive now.

3 After His suffering, Jesus showed Himself alive by numerous and sure proofs, appearing to them often for forty days and speaking to them of the kingdom of God.

With numerous solid evidences, Jesus showed His disciples, who were always trying to discourage Him, anew and anew, until they were convinced from the bottom of their hearts that He was alive. And He taught them to look to the Kingdom of God.

We live in the real world. We live in a world of hardship, a world so brutally realistic that there is no way for a miracle to happen that our hopes are fulfilled, a world so fierce and real that we feel as if we are being pelted with cold water over our heads and the flames of our good passions are being extinguished. There is hatred, strife, fighting, and murder rampant, and the heart of sin is in every person.

But in the Kingdom of God there is peace.

Isaiah 11:1 From the stubble of an essay a shoot shall come forth, and from its root a young branch shall sprout and bear fruit,

11:2 Upon it the spirit of the Lord abides. 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD will be upon him; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of prudence and talent, the knowledge of

the LORD and the fear of the LORD.

11:3 He delights in the fear of the LORD; he judges not according to the sight of his eyes, nor makes decisions according to the hearing of his ears,

11:4 With justice he judges the poor; with equity he makes provision for the meek among the nations; with the rod of his mouth he strikes the nations; with the breath of his lips he slays the wicked.

11:5 Justice shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness shall be the girdle of his body.

11:6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the hail shall lie down with the goat, and the calf, and the young man, and the fattened cattle shall be together, and they shall be led by a little herd,

11:7 The ox and the bear shall lie down together with their food, and the son of the ox and the cub of the bear; and the ox shall eat straw like the ox,

11:8 And the suckling shall play with the viper's brood, and the weaned shall put their hands into the pit of the viper.

11:9 They shall not fail in any part of my holy mountain. 11:10 For the knowledge of the Lord will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea.

When enlightenment and power are given by the Spirit of the Lord, and the knowledge of the Lord fills the earth by the Spirit of the knowledge of the Lord, it will be the Kingdom of God. Paradise will be opened there.

Matthew 6:24 No one can serve two masters at once. For you will hate the one and love the other, or you will love the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and wealth.

6:25 Therefore I say to you. 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Be not anxious for your life, what shall I eat, or what shall I drink; neither be anxious for your body, what shall I put on? For life is better than food, and the body is better than clothing.

6:26 Look at the birds of the air. They neither sow nor reap, neither do they put them in their storehouses. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. 6:27 Are you not far better than they?

6:27 Who among you can prolong his life even a little because of a thought?

6:28 And why do you trouble yourselves about your clothes? 6:28 And why do you worry about your clothes? They neither work nor spin.

6:29 But I say unto you, that even Solomon, when he was in the height of his glory, was not so clothed as one of these flowers.

6:30 For if God so dresses even the grass of the field, which today grows and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how can He not do you more good? O ye of little faith!

6:31 Therefore do not be troubled, saying, What shall I eat, or what shall I drink, or what

shall I put on?

6:32 All these things the Gentiles long for. Your heavenly Father knows that all these things are necessary for you.

6:33 Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be yours. Then all these things will be given to you together.

6:34 Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow. 6:34 Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow itself will be anxious about itself. 6:35 For one day's toil is enough for one day.

In a world full of practical hardships, but where should we look? We desire first to pray for the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, that we may take God and rely on Him, and that the Kingdom of God (filled with the knowledge of Him) may be realized in this earthly world.

4 And when they were eating together, He commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of My Father, which you have heard from Me for a long time.

5 That is, John baptized with water, but soon you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

6 Now when the disciples were gathered together, they asked Jesus, saying, "Lord, is it at this time that you will restore the kingdom for Israel?"

7 He said to them, "The Father has determined the time and the case by His own authority, and it is not for you to know.

8 But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

The Holy Spirit gives us power. He gives us understanding. He leads us to faith, and he leads us so that we can go on as witnesses of Jesus, so that the Kingdom of God can spread in this world.

What this world really needs is Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 8:9 Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. That is, He was rich, and yet He became poor for your sakes. That ye might be rich through His poverty.

John 6:28 Then they said to Jesus, "What shall we do to do the works of God?"

6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, It is the work of God that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

6:30 They said to Him, "What sign will You give us that we may see and believe in You? What sign will you do for us, that we may see and believe in you?"

6:31 Our fathers ate manna in the wilderness. 6:31 Our fathers ate manna in the wilderness, just as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

6:32 Then Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth. It was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven. It is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

6:33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

6:34 They said to Jesus, "Lord, give us that bread always."

6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.

Matthew 9:35 And Jesus went about in every town and village, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness.

9:36 And when he saw the multitude as sheep without a shepherd, weak and fallen, he had compassion on them.

9:37 And He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

9:38 Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest.

The "restoration of the nation for Israel," the gospel of the Kingdom of God, is no longer confined to the point where only one more elect people receive God's blessing. God has a special love for His people and desires their prosperity, but at the same time, and this was already said to Abraham long ago, God planned to bless all the people of the earth through His chosen people.

Genesis 12:1 At the time the Lord said to Abram, "Go you out of your country, separate yourself from your relatives, leave your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you.

12:2 I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great. And thou shalt be a foundation of blessing.

12:3 I will bless those who bless thee, and I will curse those who curse thee. All the families of the earth will be blessed by you.

(NIV) 12:1 The LORD said to Abram, "You are a blessing to your native land and to your father's house. Leave your native place/your father's house/and go to the land that I will show you.

12:2 I will make thee a great nation; I will bless thee and exalt thy name; thou shalt be a source of blessing.

12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you. All the families of the earth will be blessed by you.

These words are very important: "When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power and be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. The Holy Spirit encourages us, empowers us, and makes us witnesses of Jesus. What we do for the Kingdom of God is to witness to Jesus. When we witness to Jesus, we become a source of blessing, and when we witness to Jesus, the sheep have a shepherd, and every tribe enters into blessing through us.

1:9 When he had finished saying this, Jesus was lifted up into heaven before their eyes and was greeted by a cloud that obscured him.

1:10 And as they gazed up into heaven as He went up, behold, two men in white robes were standing by them, and the disciples were smitten with a pang.

The disciples were pouting and looking up to heaven. And there came an angel in a shining white robe. And he said, "1:11

1:11 "Men of Galilee, why are you standing looking up to heaven? This Jesus, who has left you and been lifted up to heaven, will come again in the same manner as you saw him go up into heaven.

Why is he standing looking up to heaven? The child is standing there forever looking at the back of his father's, his brother's, who has gone out of sight, looking inconsolable. But now is the time to start walking with what God has told us. It is not a time to fret forever. Don't forever follow the image of Jesus who has gone away. This Jesus who has left you and been lifted up to heaven will come again in the same manner that you saw him go up to heaven. There is a day of resumption. And in the not distant future, the promised Spirit will be poured out. People of Galilee. The disciples of the Lord who are faint of heart. The little children. Keep your eyes on the heavenly protection and support. Not only visible, not only beaten down by the real world, but look to the kingdom of God who is full of mercy, look with one mind, do the Word, and desire to testify of Jesus by pouring out His power this week.

James 1:21 Therefore, putting away all filthiness and vileness, accept with soberness the Word that is planted in your hearts. For in the Word is the power to save your souls.

1:22 And be doers of the word. 1:22 And be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

1:23 For he that heareth the word, and doeth it not, is like a man that looketh in a mirror upon

the face of his nature.

1:24 He looks at his reflection, and as soon as he gets away from it, he forgets what he looked like.

1:25 Contrary to this, the man who looks single-mindedly and tirelessly at the law of perfect freedom is not one who hears and forgets, but one who actually does it. Such a person is blessed by his deeds.

From today's sermon

It has been six weeks since the Lord's resurrection. Starting from the morning of confusion, Jesus accompanied the disciples who were anxious all the way. During the 50 days until Pentecost, Jesus appeared to the disciples often for 40 days and talked about the Kingdom of God.

He "showed them with many proofs that he is alive. The most important thing for the disciples to know was to believe wholeheartedly in the fact that "He is alive now.

He said, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you have heard from me for a long time.

He said, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which I have been telling you: ... you will soon be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Is it at this time that He will restore the nation for Israel? When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Jesus once told his disciples, "First, seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you. (Matthew 6:33)

God wants to restore the nation for Israel, but more than that, He wants to empower the disciples with the Holy Spirit to finally establish the Kingdom of God on earth. Jesus goes to heaven in front of the disciples. As they gazed up at him, the angel said to them, "He will come again. Let us go forward with our hearts for the sake of the Kingdom.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship service. Thank you that the Lord Jesus called His disciples, "Son," and that He always accompanied them, often appearing to them, showing them with many solid evidences that He is alive, comforting them, encouraging them, and preparing them for the Kingdom of God. We are strengthened by the Holy Spirit and we bite back the good fortune of living as Jesus' witnesses. Thank you for your promise to give us

everything we need when we live for the Kingdom of God and not just for our own affairs.
Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus.
Amen.