

April 12, 2020

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Easter Worship Service)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Jesus Is Risen"

—Hallelujah—

Text: Mark 16:1~8

16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

16:2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb

16:3 and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

16:4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

16:5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

16:6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

16:7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

16:8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Introduction

Happy Easter!

Today is the day celebrating that Jesus Christ has risen. The One who defeated death is the Messiah (the Savior). Let's celebrate His resurrection and glorify His name with all our hearts.

By the way, we sometimes experience strange things in our life, however, we have never heard that the dead was brought back to life. The Bible records the strange event (the resurrection). Moreover, the center of Christian faith is Jesus' resurrection.

Let's open today's Scripture, Mark, Chapter 16, Verses 1~8.

When the Sabbath was over, three women bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus'

body. They asked each other, **“Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”**

The Bible records as below—

16:4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

16:5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

16:6 “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

An angel said, **“He has risen! He is not here.”** Jesus Christ defeated death and has risen. It was the sign of the Messiah who is the Son of God. Let’s accept Jesus’ resurrection by faith today. Let’s celebrate His resurrection and focus the following two points today.

Main Points

1 . Let’s Give Thanks to the Lord.

The angel speaks to women who didn’t know what to do.

16:6 “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

Let’s give thanks to the Lord because of the words that the angel said.

1) He Who Feels His Weakness Should Give Thanks.

What about you? You may be exhausted with the battle of life. You may also realize the limitation of your abilities.

You thought that you could do it, however, you realize that you are helpless now.

Even though you realize your weakness, the angel tells you.

16:7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

The angel said that you would see Jesus who resurrected. Yes, indeed! We have hope that we will see Jesus who defeated death.

We really see Jesus who was resurrected. We can see Jesus even today. We see Him during our **devotion time.**

Jesus comes to see us through the sermons of Sunday Worship Service and when we read the Bible and sometimes in our daily lives, because He is the One who was resurrected. Therefore, we should give thanks to Him.

2) He Who Thinks His Faith is Almost Dead Should Give Thanks.

You may think that you have no faith, or you may think that you gave up your faith. Or, you may be disappointed with church so you cannot get any new power.

However, someone like you can meet Jesus the resurrected. Jesus comes to meet you whose faith is almost dead, because He was resurrected.

3) He Who Comes to Church with Slow Heavy Steps Should Give Thanks.

You probably came to church reluctantly because your friend invited you to come. Or, you thought of coming to church because of a conversation with your friends.

Three women would not have heard the angel's voice unless they went to the tomb. If they stayed at home, they wouldn't have heard the word of a promise that they would see Jesus in Galilee.

* My friends, when you are weak, under trouble and depressed, please come to church in any case. Three women came to the tomb with disappointment and the feeling of helplessness. The angel suddenly appeared and told them that Jesus was alive.

You also have hope to meet the resurrected Jesus.

2. Let's Seek the One Who Is Alive!

16:7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 16:7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'

The angel said, **"Jesus who has risen from the dead is going ahead of you into Galilee.**

There you will see him, just as he told you."

It is the powerful and promising word that we will see Jesus who is alive.

Luke Chapter 24 records as below—

24:5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

When we want to drink **water** in the desert, do you think a large nugget is helpful? He who is thirsty and almost dying needs only **water**. Jesus Christ is the only One who quenches our thirst and gives us **the living water**.

Jesus said as below—

John 4:14 ...but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

If you seek Jesus Christ, you will be absolutely filled with the living water even if your life is hopeless and meaningless.

{illustration} A Testimony of a Certain Defector from North Korea

The Voice of Mission, Bulletin No.451

The day that my mother, sister and I decided to cross the border was late afternoon that the sun was still shining. We finally headed for the Tumen River. We needed to pass a few watchtowers to go from North Korea to the border line of the River.

We are not allowed to cross the border without a pass. Of course, we didn't have the pass. My body began to shake with fear and worry as we approached the watchtower. On the contrary, it was a sunny day without clouds.

However, when we approached the first watchtower, we saw an unbelievable sight. God suddenly brought a heavy rain to the sunny sky. It rained heavily even though the sky cleared up. The soldiers at the watchtower were astonished.

The soldiers were also growing crops. They were getting panicked when it rained suddenly, because they had to take the branches of soybeans indoors that they had harvested. Therefore, we could quickly pass the first watchtower while they were busy taking the branches into the house.

After we passed the watchtower and walked for a while, the heavy rain stopped, and the sky cleared up again. It was impossible to think that it was an accident.

Then, the same thing happened again. As we were approaching the second watchtower, it rained in the sunny sky and the soldiers were getting panicked to take the branches of soybeans.

Once again, we passed the watchtower without being caught by the soldiers. Then, the heavy rain stopped. When we passed the third watchtower, the miraculous event happened again, and we finally broke through every watchtower without the pass.

The story above was the testimony of a young man who escaped from North Korea at the risk of his life (He lives in South Korea now). Jesus Christ who died on the cross and was resurrected is alive. The young man crossed the border at the risk of his life. Jesus responded to the prayers of

many Christians and his own.

Jesus said,

John 4:14 ...but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Conclusion

Title of the Message: “Jesus Has Risen”

—Hallelujah—

Today is the joyful day that Jesus Christ was resurrected. He is still alive and works today. Let's give thanks to Him and seek Him who is alive and helps us.

Jesus is not far from us. Yes, He is close to us.

Jesus said,

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

Jesus Christ who is risen said,

John 4:14 ...but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Let's praise the resurrected Jesus with joy and give thanks to Him today, Easter Sunday, and make a fresh start in faith with the Lord Jesus.

* God bless you!