

March 31, 2024

Easter Worship Service KIBC

Title of Message: "Peace Be with You!" 平安があなた方にあるように

Text: John 20:24-29

## Introduction

### 1. **Happy Easter!**

2. I believe that the society in which we are living is built by trust relationships. But we know how difficult it is for us to trust other people because everyone is different. We also know that some people believe others easily, but some don't. Especially those who had had bitter experiences in the past.

{Illustration}

- One of my friends named Bro. Arnold Rose, who has lived in Siberia for more than 20 years had bitter experiences; he was forced to work at the labor camp.
- After the Iron Curtain crashed, President Gorbachev came up and promised "Perestroika" (freedom) in the country. But Mr. Rose couldn't believe what President Gorbachev said, because he knew a lot of negative experiences in Siberia.
- He spent many years in an atheistic country and he was betrayed by the authority. It was common for people to betray others at that time. Surely we can understand how difficult it is for us to believe others.

3. Now, we have a unique man named Thomas who was one of the twelve disciples. He did not believe in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was impossible for him to believe that the dead had risen from the grave. We want to consider this man named Thomas this morning. There are 2 points.

## Body

### 1. The Beloved Disciple Thomas 愛された弟子トマス

- When we read today's text, we can recognize how Thomas was changing and said,  
"My Lord, and My God!" (verse 28). Here we can see three points.

### 1) Doubtful Thomas

He could not believe in the resurrection of his Lord. Why?

- a. He was absent when Jesus appeared in his risen body to other disciples. Only Thomas was not there.
  - b. He did not believe the testimony of the other disciples. They told him that they had seen the Lord. But he couldn't believe it. And
  - c. He did not recognize the print of the nails in Jesus' hands, unless he put his finger into them, and also put his hand into His side.
- Thomas had such a character, I like Thomas because he was honest. How about us . . . . ? Are we also honest to the Lord?

### 2) Recognition of the Mark of the Nails. 釘跡の確認

20:27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

20:27 それから、トマスに言われた。「あなたの指をここに当てて、わたしの手を見なさい。手を伸ばして、わたしの脇腹に入れなさい。信じない者ではなく、信じる者になりなさい。」

- Jesus was so merciful to doubtful Thomas and let him see the mark of nails and said:

20:29 "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

20:29 「あなたはわたしを見たから信じたのですか。見ないで信じる人たちは幸いです。」

### 3) His Confession 彼の告白

20: 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

20:28 トマスはイエスに答えた。「私の主、私の神よ。」

- The word "my" is a grammatically possessive noun. Yes, he possessed Jesus Christ as his Lord. Isn't it great that he was totally changed by Jesus Christ?

- He was a doubtful man, but he came to trust in the Lord Jesus because he recognized the truth. But here we have to know what Jesus said.

20:29 "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

20:29 「あなたはわたしを見たから信じたのですか。見ないで信じる人たちは幸いです。」

⇒ Faith does not require us to see!

How does it happen? That 's the next point.

## 2. How Can we Recognize the Risen Christ now?

### 復活のイエスをどう受け入れるか

- The Bible tells us that Jesus was risen, but we can't see Him with our physical eyes. So, some people are saying that His resurrection is not true. You know, what Jesus said to Thomas?

20:29 “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

20:29 「あなたはわたしを見たから信じたのですか。見ないで信じる人たちは幸いです。」

- My friends, this is the center of the Christian faith.

What does it mean for us to believe? Believing is much higher than recognizing things with our five senses.

{Illustration} A Man in Poland

This is the true story that happened in Poland in 1988. A man named Jyan Gruzebskie used to work at the Poland National Railway company. One day he had an accident while he was working and lost consciousness. The doctor told his wife Gertruda that it seemed very difficult for him to recover.

So, she was depressed, but she did not give up taking care of her husband.

Every hour she tried to move and change her husband's body position lying on the bed, to avoid bedsores. Her family members also visited Jyan Gruzebskie in turn.

“Time runs fast!” Meanwhile, it has been 19 years since the accident happened. Jyan suddenly woke up from his long sleeping time. Now, what did he see at that moment? What he saw first was his wife who had been taking care of him all the time.

A rehabilitation specialist said that it was almost impossible for him to recover without his wife's devoted care. Then Jayn started to feel his senses step by step. He started to walk slowly, and he could also carry

light baggage. That was a miracle healing, just like resurrection.

Now, Jyan was very surprised at seeing a big difference between his 19-year-old –society and the present society that he woke up to. You know, communism in Europe collapsed 18 months after his accident happened, so Jyan didn't know about the changed society and the world after the Iron Curtain breakdown.

His wife Gertruda said that he was so amazed at seeing colorful shops on the roads and many different kinds of goods at the stores. There was nothing special during the communist time, but now goods were everywhere in the mall. He said that this world had completely changed and had become colorful.

My friends! Our God was already there after his 19-year sleeping period. This is exactly the same as what we are now facing. God is always there. He was in the past; he is at present and he will also be where you will be. Jesus Christ did not remain in death, but he is alive. So he wants to be with each of us now.

### Conclusions

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- Jesus said to doubtful Thomas, "Peace be with you!" he did not believe in the resurrection of the Lord. But Jesus taught us what the Christian faith means.
  1. **Faith means a complete trust in God.** It is possible to trust in God without seeing Him. Jesus said, **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.** 見ないで信じる人たちは幸いです.
  2. **Faith means to possess God as our personal possession.** He said, **"My Lord and my God!"**

\* God bless you!