

Mt. 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

28:2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

28:4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

28:5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

28:6 "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

28:7 "And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

28:8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

28:9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.

28:10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

28:11 Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

28:12 When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

28:13 saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'

28:14 "And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."

28:15 So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

28:16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.

28:17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

28:20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Summary:

Ever since the day of the Lord's resurrection, I have been reading about the event and watching the disciples. I have felt the certainty of the Lord's resurrection and the fulfillment of His foretold Word. In contrast, I could also clearly see the disciples who were staggering about, moving to the right and left. They were fearful, anxious, at a loss, doubtful, and unbelieving.

I suddenly thought to myself, "Do we believe in the Lord? We are always faced with the choice of trusting the Lord or trusting our own fears based on what we see.

Jesus always tells us not to fear, to believe, and to rejoice. On the other hand, the forces of darkness infuse us with despair and fuel our insecurities.

It is His power that we should fear. It is not the visible circumstances that should surround us. The watchmen were protecting what they had to protect in exchange for their lives. (See the jailer in Acts 16.) If we had said that we had originally dozed off and had our bodies stolen, we would have been severely punished. However, there was an extraordinary situation that could not be explained without such a painful excuse. The angel of the Lord, shining like lightning, easily rolled away the heavy tombstone, and the strong guards were helpless as babies.

How terrible are the thoughts of our hearts, when we should be in awe of the One who can do such things!

We should love and obey the Lord's decree that He will always be with us until the end of the world.

Good morning, everyone.

The other day, I was surprised to see on a morning program, I think it was last Wednesday, that Shobara City was introduced as having the coldest temperature difference in Japan. Shobara is a large city, and I believe the statistics are based on the area with the coldest mornings and evenings, but the highest temperature was 27.5° C and the lowest was 5.1° C, with a temperature difference of 22.4° C. The daily temperature difference was 22° C, which is the highest temperature in Japan. A 22° C temperature difference in one day is like experiencing midwinter and mid-summer in one day. I am sure our bodies are doing their best to adjust, but please take care of yourselves during this time of year when you tend to get tired easily.

I heard that when the temperature drops at night and there is a difference in temperature, crops such as rice and apples become sweeter. We also see marathoners staying at the Suzurin no Yu place in Nishijo Town and people training at high altitude at high altitude. I would like to think positively that we are able to train more fully than those who live in flatland areas,

and that our bodies are more robust than those who live in flatland areas, because we are exposed to a harsh environment on a daily basis and train each function of our bodies to the fullest extent.

Today is also Mother's Day. I would like to express my gratitude to all the mothers who pray, serve, and bring the Lord's blessings to their families, and I would like to express my special thanks to all the women in the church for their work and service. Thank you for everything.

Now, since Easter Sunday, we have been basking in the joy and thanksgiving of the Lord's resurrection. However, we have been reading from the Bible that our joyful morning was a morning of confusion for the disciples, a morning of confusion and incomprehension.

As we look forward to Pentecost the week after next, we wish to once again savor the Lord's words of encouragement to the frightened disciples from Matthew 28.

1 Now after the Sabbath was ended, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

2 And there was a great earthquake. And there was a great earthquake; for the angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and rolled away a stone from the side, and sat upon it.

On the morning of the Lord's resurrection. A great earthquake occurred. It was because the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, came to the place of the Lord's tomb, rolled aside a stone, and sat on it. God sends His messenger to accomplish His will with a great earthquake. This world belongs to the Lord, it was created by Him, and He is in charge of everything. There is nothing the Lord cannot do.

3 His form shone as the lightning, and His garments were as white as snow.

4 Those who were on guard trembled with fear and became like the dead.

Soldiers who seemed to intimidate others. They guarded this tomb with their dignity, risking their lives.

Matthew 27:62 The next day was the day after the day of preparation, and on that day the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying

27:63 "Chief, I remember that when that impostor was still alive, he said, 'After three days I will rise again.

27:64 Therefore, sassa him to guard the tomb until the third day. Otherwise his disciples may

come and steal him away and tell the people, 'Jesus has risen from the dead. Then everyone will be deceived even worse than before.

27:65 Pilate said to them, "There are watchmen; go and let them watch as long as they can.

27:66 So they went and sealed the stone, and set a watchman to guard the tomb.

Jesus' body was placed in the tomb just at sundown, just as the Sabbath was about to begin. The chief priests and Pharisees asked Pilate to put a guard over the tomb so that the disciples would not steal Jesus' body and blow the word that what Jesus had long said about His resurrection on the third day had been fulfilled. They watched over the events in the tomb and then went to Pilate to ask him for help, wondering if they had entered the Sabbath. But it turns out that they were not pretending, but plotting.

3 Their appearance shone as the lightning, and their garments were as white as snow.

4 Those who were on guard trembled with fear and became like the dead.

As soon as those strong, Roman sentries, whom Pilate had deployed, saw the angel of the Lord shining like lightning, his robe shining white as snow, the strong soldiers trembled with fear and fell down like dead men.

Here we see the fearful work of the Lord.

The Lord brings to naught all the schemes and plans of men. No human being can resist the Lord's mighty power.

Even the strongest soldiers are as helpless as babies in the face of the messenger sent by the Lord. For us, too, we may be placed in a place like a tomb, at the very end of the line in life, in despair, with no chance of recovery, surrounded by powerful enemies, or at the end of our lives, but there is nothing that God cannot do.

We know that the difficult enemies that surround us, the forces, the powers of death, will make us tremble and fall like dead men in fear. We are taught what to truly fear.

5 This angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid. 5 This angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified,

6 He is not here any more. He is risen, just as He said He would be. Now look at the place where he was kept.

7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead. Behold, he is going before you into Galilee. Behold, he is going before you into Galilee, and there you will meet him. I say this to you.

When we fear the Lord, the fear of our hearts is removed.

The Lord has risen from the dead.

Do not be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who died on the cross, but He is no longer here.

The Lord is not in the tomb. Why do we also sometimes try to look for the Living One in the dead, in the grave?

We have nothing to fear because He has risen and is still alive. There is no need to be anxious or lonely. Do not be afraid, says the Lord.

8 So the women, fearful yet overjoyed, hurried away from the tomb and ran to inform the disciples.

The expression "fearful but overjoyed" is interesting. Even though we are told not to be afraid, we are not yet able to dispel all fear. But the Lord has also put great joy in our hearts. Through that, fear ceases to be fear. We who had been so preoccupied with fear were finally about to be freed from it.

9 Then Jesus met them and said, "Peace be to you.

Peace be to you," which can be translated as "rejoice. Upon meeting the resurrected Lord, the disciples joyfully approached Jesus, bowed down at His feet, embraced His feet, and worshipped Him in deep emotion.

Our steps, too, because of the Lord's intercession, we have come to surrender to Him and go forward, fearful but overjoyed. The Lord, who died on the cross for our sins and rose again, is always before us, and we can pray, worship, and live by His feet.

10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell your brothers to go to Galilee, where they will meet me.

Once again the Lord tells us not to be afraid. We realize how we are constantly surrounded by fear, how we are cast into fear, deprived of trust and joy. We worry about the future, even though there is nothing we can do about it, we think the worst, and yet we are careless about what we need to accomplish today.

Psalm

Song of Solomon

126:1 When the LORD restored the prosperity of Zion, we were like dreamers.

126:2 Then our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongues with the voice of joy. And there were among the nations many who said, "The LORD has done great things for them.

126:3 And we rejoiced, for the LORD had done great things for us.

126:4 O LORD, please restore our prosperity, as the rivers of the Negev.

126:5 He that soweth with tears shall reap with joyful voice.

126:6 He who goes out with seed and tears will return with bundles and with joyful shouts.

Psalm 30:1 I will praise thee, O LORD, for thou hast lifted me up; thou hast not permitted my enemies to rejoice in my affairs. For thou hast lifted me up, and hast not permitted my enemies to rejoice in my affairs.

30:2 O LORD my God, when I cried unto thee for help, thou hast healed me.

30:3 Thou, O LORD, hast lifted up my soul from the grave, and hast brought me back to life from among them that go down to the grave.

30:4 Praise the LORD, O ye saints of the LORD, and give thanks to his holy name.

30:5 For his wrath is short-lived, and his grace is long-lived. 30:5 For his wrath is short-lived, but his grace is long-lived: at night he weeps and mourns, but in the morning his joy cometh.

30:6 And I said in my peace, I shall never be moved.

11 While the women were gone, some of the watchmen returned to the city and told the chief priests all that had happened.

12 And the chief priests gathered together with the elders to confer, and they gave the men of war much money, saying

13 "Say, 'His disciples came in the middle of the night and stole him while we slept.

14 And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, so that you will not be troubled.

15 So they took the money and did as they were told. And this story has spread among the Jews to this day.

Acts 16:27 When the jailer woke up and saw that the doors of the prison had been opened, he thought that the prisoners had escaped, so he pulled out a pickaxe and almost killed himself.

As we see here, those who watch for something sometimes put their lives on the line, just as in Acts 16, if a prisoner escaped, the watchman was held responsible, as if he would trade his

own life for the prisoner's, but "the disciples came in the night and stole him while we were sleeping. But to say, "His disciples came in the middle of the night and stole him while we were sleeping," is out of order. How can they be blamed if they say that he was stolen while they were sleeping?

But they were given money to keep their mouths shut and a subterfuge to keep the Governor blameless for twisting the truth. Without such subterfuge, however, it would have been impossible for the guards to have fallen unconscious.

The bitter excuse that "the money was stolen while he was sleeping" was spread, and this excuse has been handed down to the present day. But the truth is different. The truth of the Lord can never succeed, no matter how much one tries to twist it.

In such a twisted world of intrigue and trickery, where black is made white, the disciples were frightened and afraid. But the Lord sent His angel, made the enemy tremble, and revealed the resurrected, living Jesus, and God brought that trickery to nothing.

Then He fills the disciples in their fear with joy and tells them to rejoice.

Then the Lord sends out a command to the disciples.

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee and ascended the mountain to which Jesus had commanded them to go.

17 And they met and worshipped Jesus. But there were some who doubted.

18 Jesus came near to them and said, "I have given you all authority in heaven and on earth.

18 And Jesus approached them and said to them, "Teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and they shall observe to do them. Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the world.

Isaiah 41:8 But you, O Israel my servant, my chosen Jacob, the offspring of my friend Abraham!

41:9 I brought thee from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the corners of the earth, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant, I have chosen thee, and have not forsaken thee.

41:10 Fear not, for I am with thee: be not dismayed, for I am thy God. 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen thee, I will help thee, I will lift thee up with my victorious right hand.

I have given you all authority in heaven and on earth. The righteous and resurrected Jesus said, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore we are able to go on

willingly in all circumstances, unmoved, in the midst of stratagems and intrigues, in the midst of danger and fear, in thin faith, and in the midst of doubt.

19 Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,

20 And teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.

Go out, baptize and teach as disciples. Do not be afraid, but believe and be glad. All authority is mine. Therefore, make all nations My disciples. Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Go, make disciples, baptize and teach.

Go, make disciples, baptize and teach them.

May we go, make disciples, baptize, and teach with the Lord, who says, "I am with you always, even to the end of the world," and may we not be in fear at any time, but may we rejoice with Him who says, "I am with you always, even to the end of the world. This week also, we sincerely ask the Lord to take away our fears and push us forward with joy, so that we may go, make disciples, baptize, and teach.

Hebrews 10:35 Therefore do not give up the confidence that you have. With that conviction comes great reward.

10:36 All you need is patience, that you may do God's will and receive what is promised.

10:37 "In a little while, the One who is to come will appear. And it will not be too late.

10:38 My righteous shall live by faith. If he forsakes faith, my soul will not rejoice in it.

10:39 But we are not those who forsake the faith and perish, but we are those who stand on the faith and gain life.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship.

We always get caught up in our immediate situation, thinking only of the bad things that lie ahead and becoming anxious and despairing. Forgive us for being faithless people who easily lose faith, have doubts, and become discouraged, even though we have a powerful protector in the form of God. Forgive us for being faithless people who easily lose faith, have doubts, and become discouraged, even though we have such a powerful protector. I am with you always, to the end of the world. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.