

Lk22:7 Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed.

22:8 And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat."

22:9 So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?"

22:10 And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters.

22:11 "Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?" '

22:12 "Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready."

22:13 So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.

22:14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.

22:15 Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

22:16 "for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

22:17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves;

22:18 "for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

22:19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

22:20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

22:21 "But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table.

22:22 "And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!"

22:23 Then they began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing.

22:24 Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.

22:25 And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.'

22:26 "But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.

22:27 "For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

22:28 "But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials.

22:29 "And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me,

22:30 "that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

22:31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.

22:32 "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

22:33 But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death."

22:34 Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me."

From Today's Sermon

We have now entered Passion Week. This Friday is Passion Day. Last week we read about the events of the Exodus. The Lord said, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have known their cry because of the taskmasters to whom they are enslaved. I know their suffering."

Time passed, and the time of the Passover festival came in the time of the Lord Jesus. Today, the Jewish people still eat the Passover meal, which consists of a roasted leg of lamb, along with bitter herbs and unleavened bread, but it seems that they do not go as far as to paint the blood on the doorframes of their houses, as this lamb dish symbolizes the sacrificial lamb, and the people have now escaped from Egypt.

On the night before he was slaughtered, Jesus held the Last Supper, where he gave bread and wine to his disciples and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." He also said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

Our Lord Jesus offered his body as a sacrifice for our sins, and with his blood he gave us a new covenant to save us from the curse of sin and death, to fulfill the exodus from sin and death. Through the offering of his body and blood, we no longer need to offer the blood of a duck to receive the Passover from death. Without this blood, there is nothing that can save us from sin.

This is Pastor Lynne's message. (Pastor Lin and the church members will be holding services at the new church in Hitotsugi-cho from next Sunday.

First of all, I want to say thank you to Jesus 🙏 for helping me to find you all when I first arrived
in Shobara City.

Secondly, thank you Pastor Ichimori
For the opportunity to stand before you all

And thank you to you all,
For taking me in and taking care of me and encouraging me since the first year I arrived in
2022 I came To Japan by
myself not knowing The language or anyone.

All of you became my friends and my family. And I am so very grateful for that.

You have allowed God to use you to reach the nation of Japan.

You have been so kind and generous to all the missionaries that have passed through these
walls.

Although we may not be in this building on Sundays, we are still family. Please don't be shy
to say hello if you see me in the market.

You can see me if you come to prayer on Wednesdays.

Souls are being saved and disciples are being made
Because of all that you have done.

Together we are going to change that one percent Christians
To hundred percent

They are also your inheritance because your hospitality and kindness shown to us.
You made an investment.

That will pay dividends in Hitotsugi, Fukuoka and Nagasaki 🙏

Please stop by the house
your way to the airport or Hiroshima city or on your way back even if it's just

do you the toilet.

I will always open the door to anyone of you

Thank you and God bless you.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the precious work that Pastor Rin is doing in Shobara. On Sunday, we will be going our separate ways to our respective services, but let us pray for Pastor Rin and the work of his church. Please continue to participate in the prayer meeting on Wednesdays.

Now, we are in the week of the Passion. Friday is the day of the Passion. I hope that we will spend today's service with Jesus' suffering in our hearts.

“If we are united with him like that in death, we will also be united with him like that in resurrection. We know this: that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. This is so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. ... For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6

The apostle Paul, who is active in the Bible, also laments in this way: “For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man, but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Romans 7)

The Lord's death and resurrection means that we die to our old selves, that is, to the old selves that were living by the law of sin and death, and that we live in the forgiveness and new life that comes from Jesus' resurrection.

John 3:1 There was a leader of the Jews named Nicodemus, who was one of the Pharisees.

3:2 This man came to Jesus by night and said, “Teacher, we know that you are a teacher who comes from God. No one can do the signs you do unless God is with him.”

3:3 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God without being

born again.”

3:4 Nicodemus said, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he go back into his mother's womb?”

3:5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.

3:6 Those born of the flesh are flesh, and those born of the Spirit are spirit.

3:7 Do not be surprised that I said you must be born again.

3:8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

3:9 Nicodemus answered Jesus and said, “How can these things be?”

3:10 Jesus answered him and said, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet do not know these things?

3:11 I tell you the truth, we speak what we know and we testify to what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony.

3:12 If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how are you going to believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

3:13 No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man.

3:14 And just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.

3:15 So that all who believe in him may have eternal life.

3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

3:17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

The teachers of the law believed that the chosen people of Israel would be saved by keeping the laws God had set down for them, but the Bible says that there is no righteous person, not a single one.

Romans 3:10 It is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one.

3:11 There is no one who understands, / there is no one who seeks God.

3:12 All have gone astray; / all have become useless. There is no one who does good, / no one at all.

3:13 Their throats are open graves; / with their tongues they deceive people; / their lips have

the venom of vipers,

3:14 Their mouth is full of cursing and bitter words.

3:15 Their feet are swift to shed blood,

3:16 And in their paths is destruction and misery.

3:17 And they do not know the way of peace.

3:18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it is said to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may become subject to the judgment of God.

3:20 For by doing the law, no one will be justified in God's sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

3:21 But now God's righteousness has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it.

3:22 This is the righteousness of God that comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile,

3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

3:24 they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Psalm 51:16 You do not like sacrifices, or else I would have given them; you do not delight in burnt offerings.

51:17 The sacrifices God accepts are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

James 2:12 Therefore, as one who is to be judged by the law of liberty, speak and act as such.

2:13 For mercy triumphs over judgment.

The miracles of God in the Exodus were the result of God looking closely at the people's troubles and hearing their cries.

Exodus 3:7 The Lord said, "I have seen the suffering of my people in Egypt, and have known their cries because of their taskmasters, and I have known their suffering.

3:8 I am going down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and I am going to lead them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

3:9 Now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are

oppressing them.

3:10 So I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

From the first to the ninth, it was God's work of warning the land of Egypt. However, if nothing was done about the death of the firstborn, the tenth plague would also strike God's people in Egypt. Here we can sense a certain sense of dread.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested, apart from the law, though the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it

3:22 It is the righteousness of God that is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile,

3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

3:24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

3:25 God put forward this Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished

3:26 but now he has demonstrated his righteousness, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

The Jewish people still celebrate the Passover today. They eat bitter herbs and unleavened bread, and they eat a roasted lamb with the bones still attached, symbolizing the lamb.

Since the Exodus is now complete, there is no need to paint the blood on the doorposts, because that has already been done. But is that really the case? Are we really saved by the works of the law, without the blood of Christ?

It says in Romans 8 that Jesus has done what the law could not do.

8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

8:3 What the law could not do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did: he sent his Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, and he condemned sin in the flesh.

8:4 This was to fulfill the requirement of the law: to walk in the spirit and not in the flesh.

8:5 For those who are in the flesh think about the things of the flesh, and those who are in the Spirit think about the things of the Spirit.

8:6 For the thoughts of the flesh are death, but the thoughts of the Spirit are life and peace.

The Bible tells us that it is futile to try to follow the law of man, and that what is important is a new life through redemption in Christ, and a life guided and led by the Spirit.

Christ is the true Exodus. We are taught that it is the fruit of the new covenant through Jesus' substitutionary death that saves us from sin, death and the curse.

Luke 22:7 Now the day of the Passover came, and the day of unleavened bread.

22:8 And Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go, prepare the Passover for us."

22:9 They said, "Where should we prepare?"

22:10 Jesus said, 'When you enter the city, you will see a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him into the house where he goes,

22:11 and say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is the room where I can eat the Passover with my disciples?"'

22:12 Then the master of the house will show you a room upstairs where the table is set.

22:13 The disciples went out and found it just as Jesus had said, so they prepared the Passover.

It was a strange and mysterious thing, but a place for the Passover meal had been prepared for the disciples.

This shows us the unilateral grace of God, who prepared the atonement for us through Jesus, even though we had made no preparations.

22:14 When the time had come, Jesus took his place at the table and the apostles sat down with him.

22:15 Jesus said to them, "I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffered.

22:16 I tell you that I will not eat this Passover again until the kingdom of God is fulfilled.

22:17 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he said, "Drink from it, all of you.

22:18 I tell you that I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes."

22:19 He took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

22:20 In the same way, after the meal he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant

in my blood.

Jesus said, "I have longed to eat this Passover with you before my suffering." Jesus must have wanted to tell his disciples that the suffering he was about to undergo would be a new exodus event that would free people from sin, death and curses. He was not to be brutally disposed of at the hands of his enemies. Jesus told his disciples about the meaning of his cross so that they could believe that he had willingly offered his body and blood as the Passover sacrifice to atone for the sins of the world and to protect their lives from death.

22:21 But one of those sitting at table with me will betray me.

22:22 The Son of Man is going just as it was decided, but woe to the one who betrays the Son of Man!

22:23 The disciples began to discuss among themselves which one of them was going to do such a thing.

22:24 Then a dispute arose among them as to which one of them was the greatest.

Jesus spoke of the one who would betray him. The disciples began to look for the culprit among themselves. And what do you know, that argument somehow turned into a competition among the disciples to see who would be the most important after Jesus died. What a despicable group of people. Jesus had gone to such lengths to sacrifice himself, to shed his blood and give his life to lead his people from death to life, but the disciples were busy fighting over who was the most important. What must Jesus have thought? Even if they weren't Judas Iscariot, who betrayed the Lord, I wonder if their hearts, which were always pushing other people aside, thinking "I'll go first" and "I'll go second", were not as bad as Judas' heart. It really is a shocking thought. This frivolity is not something that can only be found in them. It also exists firmly within our own hearts. As long as I'm okay, that's all that matters, and other people are secondary. Such a law of self-preservation may be useful for protecting oneself. However, this way of thinking is the exact opposite of Jesus' way of thinking.

22:25 Then Jesus said, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over their people, and those who have authority over them are called benefactors.

22:26 But it shall not be so among you; but whoever is the greatest among you shall be as the youngest, and whoever leads shall be as the one who serves.

22:27 Which is greater, he who sits at the table or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

22:28 You are the ones who have persevered with me during my trials.

22:29 Therefore, just as my Father has entrusted the kingdom to me,

22:30 I will also entrust it to you, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

22:31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.

22:32 But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned, strengthen your brothers.”

Jesus taught them gently, telling them how he had loved them as servants, humble people, and persevering people, praising them, telling them of his hopes and promises for the future, and even talking about their setbacks, forgiveness, and restoration. Here, we see the penetrating gaze and love of God. It is a story of unconditional love that does not change, and is not conditional or dependent on our performance. Satan tries to show us how much we have failed, but the more our failures are revealed, the more God's forgiving love becomes clear.

“But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. So when you have turned, strengthen your brothers.”

This is the origin of our fellowship. None of us is righteous, but only those who are redeemed and forgiven by the Lord's mercy. When you get back on your feet, serve your friends who are still down and out. In this way, the first will become the last, and the last will become the first. Serve and help each other, and help each other as the weak. This is the essence of our fellowship. Jesus showed us the way.

22:33 Simon said, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison or even to death.”

22:34 Jesus said to him, “Peter, I tell you that today, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”

Matthew 26:41 “Keep watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Despite Peter's passionate feelings, he ends up failing completely. Despite his words, he denies the Lord over and over again, and he weeps bitterly, almost crushed by feelings of remorse. That is human nature. The Lord knows this weakness. It is because we are weak. Instead of being stubborn, fighting each other, or pulling each other down, we should help

each other, serve each other, and support each other. The Lord taught us this way of life with his own body. I hope to spend my days worshiping the Lord with my whole heart, so that I can deeply appreciate the message of God's love and be kept alive by it.

◇Prayer: **Heavenly Father**, I thank you for today's service.

God performed the miracles of the Exodus to deliver His people from their suffering. The tenth miracle was a terrible one, in which the firstborn of the Egyptians were killed. It was a threat to the lives of God's people as well as the people who were oppressing them. It was as if it were showing that the original sin of all mankind was the same for both the chosen people and the Gentiles. For this reason, the blood of the lamb was smeared on the doorposts, but when the time came, God gave a new covenant with the blood of His Son Jesus Christ, and gave salvation and life to humanity. Please lead all those who are suffering into God's salvation and peace. Please bless our family and the people of our community. Please use us. I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen