

Mt.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.

【From today's sermon】

Even though the Lord had clearly foretold His death and resurrection, after His resurrection, the disciples were confused, unable to believe, and filled with fear. To such disciples, the Lord appeared to them time and again, showing them that He had indeed risen, speaking His words to encourage them, and once more performing the miracle of the great catch, all for the sake of restoring their faith.

Despite appearing to them time and again, showing them His form, and creating countless opportunities for them to touch Him, it is shocking to read in today's passage that even while worshiping the resurrected Jesus, some disciples still doubted Him.

Despite appearing repeatedly, speaking His words, and performing miraculous deeds to encourage the disciples, they quickly forgot those events, doubting the Lord even while seeing Him before their eyes and worshiping Him. They could not recognize the Lord who was right there. We have read this story of the disciples repeatedly getting lost, over and over again, from the events before Pentecost.

The Lord walked with them, spoke to them, showed them His own form, performed miracles, and patiently dealt with them until they understood. And the Lord said, "I will be with you always, even to the end of the age," and gave them a mission. If we believe in the Lord who is with us and respond to His words, we will be able to see miracles.

Good morning, everyone.

It is already the last week of May. The greenery is becoming denser, and it feels like the rainy season is just around the corner.

Next week is Pentecost, when we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit. It has been seven weeks since the Lord's resurrection. The Bible tells us that during those 49 days, the Lord Jesus appeared to His disciples for a total of 40 days.

We have seen how, on the day of the resurrection, the angels spoke to the women at the empty tomb, how Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, how He appeared to the gathered disciples, how He appeared to Thomas the next week, how He appeared at the Sea of Galilee, how He spoke to the disciples in the empty boat, saying, “Son,” and how He once again showed them the miracle of the great catch. He demonstrated what happens when we obey the Lord's words.

“Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.” John 21:25

As it is written, how many times did the Lord remain with His disciples during those forty days, even when they were unaware of His presence, working in various ways and revealing Himself to them?

How many times did He say to His disciples, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed”?

Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

John 20:30-31

Who is Jesus? We want to firmly believe that He is not only the One who was in the past, but also the One who is with us now, even though we cannot see Him, who exists and is with us, who speaks to us, and who shows us God's work today through those who hear and obey His words.

28:16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

28:17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, though some doubted.

In today's passage, it is written twice that Jesus “commanded” them.

As in last week's passage, where Jesus said, “Cast your net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some” (John 21:6), and when the disciples did so, “they were unable to haul it in because there were so many fish,” the words of the Lord have power. The Lord's commands bring great blessings to those who obey them.

The disciples climbed the mountain where they had been commanded and knelt before Jesus

in worship.

In Revelation 19, it is recorded that when John fell on his face before the angel and tried to worship him, the angel said to him,

19:10 Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of the seal of the ten thousand. Worship God. For the time has come for the witness of Jesus. Whoever has this, has the word of God. He who has the word of God has the world in his possession."

Jesus accepted the disciples' worship here.

28:17 And they saw the Lord and worshiped Him. But some doubted.

"But some doubted." What does this mean?

Are they still doubting that Jesus, who was always with His disciples, is real, thinking it is just a dream? Or are there those who doubt that this Jesus is the Messiah sent from God, the Son of God, the Savior, and God Himself, worthy of worship?

It seems that both could be true.

Despite the fact that the Lord repeated this process of appearing and disappearing for many days, patiently enabling His disciples to believe in His resurrection, there were still those who, even while seeing Him and worshipping Him, wondered if He was truly present or merely an illusion. At the same time, they doubted whether He was worthy of being worshiped in the same way we kneel before God.

This also applies to us.

We have never seen Jesus with our own eyes, but we believe that the testimonies recorded in the Bible, which are too numerous to write down, are true.

Even though we have never met Prince Shotoku or Socrates, who lived thousands of years ago, we do not doubt that they existed. Based on the written accounts and the testimonies of those who saw them, we now firmly believe that people from long ago truly existed. Therefore, the fact that Jesus existed is now widely believed, to the point of being recorded in history textbooks. However, many people find it difficult to understand that the Lord rose from the dead after the cross and appeared to His disciples. And there are undoubtedly those in the world who remain unclear about who Jesus truly was.

Even the disciples, who encountered the resurrected Jesus many times, heard His powerful words as before the crucifixion, and witnessed His miraculous deeds, were still confused and

had doubts about this matter, as is written here.

28:18 Jesus came up to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Jesus spoke about who He truly was. That is, Jesus is the One who said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” This makes it clear that Jesus is not merely a human being or an angel of God equal to humans.

Jesus is an authority figure. His authority is not limited to earthly authority like that of the kings of this world, but extends to heaven as well, and is unlimited and absolute. Only God possesses such authority. Here, Jesus is declaring that He is equal to God. Can we believe in such a Jesus without doubt?

And it is this One, the One with all authority, the One with absolute power, who is sending us with a mission through His words.

28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

28:20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. See, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

“Therefore,” the Lord says. Those who do not acknowledge the authority of the Lord Jesus cannot receive the command that follows ‘therefore.’ This Great Commission is a mission commanded because the absolute authority of the Lord is spoken.

We are to proclaim to the world that our Lord Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth.

28:19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

28:20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Therefore, we go out into the whole world in obedience to the authority of the Lord Jesus. And we make all nations disciples of the Lord Jesus. We baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Through the redemptive cross of the Lord Jesus, we are cleansed by baptism, saved, and empowered to carry out the Lord's commands. This is what it means to be a disciple of the

Lord.

Luke 8:19 Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to him, but they could not get near him because of the crowd.

8:20 So someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you."

8:21 But he replied, "Whoever does the will of God is my mother and my brother."

Matthew 7:24 Therefore, anyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

7:25 The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

John 8:31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you remain in my word, you are truly my disciples.

8:32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

"Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The Lord was always with his disciples who were doubting and confused. And the Lord is with us, with the church throughout the ages, until the end of the world and forever.

Believing in Him, proclaiming Him, baptizing others, and making disciples who hear and obey His words. We also desire to fulfill the mission of the Lord in this church. Let us boldly move forward, believing in the authority and power of the Lord.

◇Prayer: **Heavenly Father, we thank You for today's worship.**

Even when they see Him, meet Him, hear His words, witness His works, and worship Him before their eyes, there are disciples whose hearts still doubt Him. Yet Jesus said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me," and He gave them a new mission, encouraging them, "I will be with you always, even to the end of the age." Thank You. We believe that if we put your words into practice, miraculous blessings will surely follow. Please lead all those who are suffering into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people in our community. Use us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.