

Acts3:1 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

3:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

3:3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

3:4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

3:5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

3:6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

3:7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

3:8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them-walking, leaping, and praising God.

3:9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

3:10 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

【From Today's Sermon】 As the Lord had promised, on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out, Peter delivered a powerful sermon by the power of the Holy Spirit. Quoting from the Book of Joel and the words of David, he testified that Jesus is the One whom God has exalted as "Lord and Christ," and exposed the people's false beliefs and actions. Those who heard were deeply moved, and on that day, three thousand people believed in the Lord, were baptized, and became new members of the community. "In this crooked age." However, the church was filled with joy and sincere love and mutual support, which won the favor of the people, and each day the Lord added those who were saved to His community. Amidst this, a new miracle occurred at the "Beautiful Gate." A man who had been crippled from birth was carried daily by his caregivers to this gate, where he begged for alms from the many people coming to the temple, barely sustaining his life. As Peter and John passed by, they looked intently at the man sitting at the Beautiful Gate. What did they think of him? And they too said, "Look at us." "I have no silver or gold, but what I do have, I give to you. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, walk." A gift greater than silver and gold was given. He jumped up with great joy, leaping and praising God as he walked around. His life was completely transformed by the name of Jesus. The name of the Lord is powerful. Good morning, everyone. It has been hot as usual, but I hope you are all doing well. The earthquake in Kagoshima shows no signs of stopping, with over 1,300 earthquakes occurring in two weeks. I pray that the Lord will heal those who are anxious. Yesterday, there were warnings of a major disaster, and some

overseas airlines canceled flights to Japan, while flights from Hong Kong to Japan were sold at bargain prices due to low demand. However, yesterday morning arrived as usual, and although it is already hot this morning, I am reminded that it is wonderful to wake up to a peaceful morning and start a day that is unchanged. Now, let us continue reading the Bible to see what happened after the events of Pentecost. As the Lord had promised, on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out, Peter delivered a powerful sermon. Quoting from the Book of Joel and the words of David, he testified that Jesus was the one whom God had raised up as “the Lord and Christ,” and exposed the people's false beliefs and actions. Those who heard were deeply moved, and on that day, three thousand people believed in the Lord, were baptized, and became new members. “This crooked age.” However, the church was filled with joy and sincere love and mutual support, which won the favor of the people, and each day the Lord added those who were saved to His number. Amidst this, a new miracle occurred at the “Beautiful Gate.” 3:1 Now Peter and John, as they were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the third hour, 3:2 a man lame from birth was being carried there. He was placed at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, where he was begging for alms from those entering the temple. 3:3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple, he asked them for alms. A man who had been lame from birth was carried to the temple. He could not move without the help of others and relied on alms from the many people who passed by the temple entrance to sustain his life. This was his way of life. There were probably no other options for his life. I imagine he must have wondered why he was born. To stand on his own two feet and live by his own strength—something everyone else could do—was something he was unable to do from birth. Did he resent his father, his mother, or God? Did he pray and plead for mercy? Yet for many long years, he was carried, sat, and begged for alms, and that was how he lived. And throughout his life, there was likely no hope of recovery. In John 9, there is also a story about a man born with a disability. 9:1 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. 9:2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 9:3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned. But this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 9:4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 9:6 Jesus said this, and spit on the ground, made some mud with the spittle, and applied it to the blind man's eyes, 9:7 and said to him, “Go to Siloam (which means ‘sent’) and wash.” So he went and washed, and came back seeing. 9:2 The disciples asked Jesus, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” They asked this because they were a little annoyed, but they thought it was common sense. It was a common belief that one reaps what one sows, or that one's misfortunes are the result of one's own actions. However, Jesus said, 9:3 Jesus answered,

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned. But this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. Seeing the people weeping and mourning at Lazarus's tomb, Jesus was deeply moved and wept with them. Here too, He performed an act of grace. Jesus took upon Himself all our troubles, sicknesses, and sorrows, and died on the cross as a substitute for us. John 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 his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 3:4 Peter and John looked intently at him and said, "Look at us!" 3:5 They were expecting to receive something from them, but Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, rise up and walk." 3:6 Then they gave attention to him and saw that he was lame, the one who had been told all day, "Heel, you lame man!" 3:7 As he said this, he took him by the right hand and helped him up. At once his feet and ankles became strong, 3:8 and he jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk. He walked around, praising God, and went with them into the temple. Peter and John looked intently at him and said, "Look at us!" Peter and John did not seek attention for themselves or seek their own praise. They were ordinary people, poor and without silver or gold, but they possessed something extraordinary. That was the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. The Lord was raised in the rural village of Nazareth, a small village where people said, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46). Thus, the prophecy of Isaiah 53 was fulfilled. 53:1 Who has believed our report? To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 53:2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He was despised, and we esteemed him not. 53:4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 53:7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter, and like a sheep silent before its shearers, he did not open his mouth. 53:8 He was taken away by oppression and judgment, and who among his contemporaries would have thought that he was struck down for the transgressions of my people and cut off from the land of the living? 53:9 He did no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet he was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, because he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. 53:10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and he made his life an offering for sin. When he offers himself as a sin offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his life. The Lord will

fulfill his purpose through him. 53:11 He will see the light because of the suffering of his soul, and he will be satisfied. My righteous servant will justify many, for he will bear their iniquities. 53:12 Therefore, I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. Luke 4:15 Jesus taught in the synagogues and was honored by all. 4:16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. 4:17 He stood up to read the Scriptures, and the scroll was handed to him. He opened it to the place where it was written: 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 4:19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” 4:20 Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. 4:21 Then he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” 1 Peter 2:21 For to this you have been called. Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 2:22 Christ committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. 2:23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but committed himself to him who judges justly. 2:24 He was crucified for our sins, and by His wounds you have been healed. 2:25 You were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. The healing, regenerating, and saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ is still at work today. The Lord's redemption, His substitutionary death and resurrection, and His love and grace are all the power that supports and lifts up those who are weary and discouraged. We too believe in the power of the name of Jesus and in the reality of the great power that Jesus has done for us, and we desire to continue in the work of proclaiming this truth. 3:9 All the people saw him walking around and praising God, 3:10 and they recognized him as the man who had been sitting at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, begging for alms. They were amazed at what had happened to him. Just as on the day of Pentecost, when the disciples spoke in languages they had never learned, and the Holy Spirit enabled them to proclaim the mighty works of God, so now things that cannot be explained are happening. 2:43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many miracles and signs were performed by the apostles. Such things are happening even today. And many people came to fear God, and daily many were added to their number. We too firmly believe this, and we desire to carry the name of Jesus, to believe in Him with all our hearts, and to press on together.

◇Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for today's worship. Thank You for teaching us that the name of Jesus Christ has great power. Even though there are many who possess great wealth, we have something far greater—the name of Jesus Christ and a personal relationship

with this Savior. Thank You so much. Please send us to those who are sitting in despair. May they rise up by taking hold of the hand of Jesus Christ. Please lead all those who are suffering into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and our neighbors. Use us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.