

## Last Week's Sermon Summary

### 『Two eyes open』

Pastor Takaaki Inoue  
Luke 24:13~17, 25~35

#### ❶ [Reading the Bible by the Holy Spirit]

On the day of Jesus' resurrection, two disciples left Jerusalem and traveled to a village called Emmaus. The disciples' names are said to be Cleopas and Luke. Jesus approached them in the form of a traveler and began to walk with them, but their eyes were blocked and they could not see that it was Jesus. When Jesus asked, "What is that story that we are talking about as we walked" (v. 17), they stopped with dark faces and told them that Jesus had been killed, that there was no body in the tomb on the third day, and that an angel appeared to them and said, "Jesus is alive." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Oh, those who are dumb and dull-minded and do not believe in all that the prophets said, the Messiah should have suffered like this and entered into glory," and He "explained what is written about Himself throughout the Bible, starting with Moses and all the prophets" (verses 25~27). "Moses and all the prophets" refers to the Old Testament. In other words, he took the passage about the Messiah from the entire Old Testament and explained that the Messiah would suffer and be glorified, and that it would have been true. It is Jesus' interpretation of the Bible. Hearing this, their hearts warmed. Later, he recalled that time and said, "When He explained the Bible, our hearts were on fire" (24:32). The Church Fathers of old used to say, "We know the alike by the like." The word that comes from God means that only

the same God can understand it. So how do we understand the Bible today? It is to pray and receive the Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself clearly said: "When he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will lead you to realize all the truth" (John 16:13). Even if you read the same Bible, if you are guided by a teacher who does not have the Holy Spirit, you will have a ridiculous interpretation.

#### ❷ [Eyes opened by the sacrament]

Eventually, they arrived at their destination village, but Jesus "seemed to be about to go ahead" (Luke 24:28). So they forcibly held him back, saying, "Please stay with me, for it will soon be evening and the sun is already setting" (v. 29). It was at dinner. "When they sat down to eat together, Jesus took the bread, said a prayer of praise, broke the bread and gave it to them, and their eyes opened and they saw that it was Jesus, but they could not see Him." (verses 30~31). "Take the bread, recite the prayer of praise, break, and pass on" These four actions are the same as in the sacrament. The sacrament opens their eyes.

#### ❸ [The Lord has indeed been resurrected]

They will immediately return to Jerusalem. It shows that they have begun their journey of faith again. The worship of sermons and sacraments has the power to make a U-turn in life. It has the power to lift us up to heaven as we fall to the earth. When he returned to Jerusalem, he was met by a crowd of 11 apostles and his companions. This is a template for the church. They testified that "indeed the Lord was resurrected and appeared to Simon" (v. 34). This will become the Easter greeting of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

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## Weekly Report

### The United Church of Christ in Japan Miyakojima Church

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《Mary Magdalene and the Resurrected Lord》

### Miyakojima Church's 2025 Mission Policy

**Motto :** "Let's prepare for the construction of the church "

**Scripture :** " The toil of those who build houses is in vain, unless the Lord Himself builds them " ( Psalm 127:1)

#### Goals for FY2024

- 1 Observe worship services every week and aim for an average of 27 people to attend services.
- 2 We invite one person to worship in one year.
- 3 We value the fellowship of believers.
- 4 Make concrete preparations for the construction of the church.