

The 22th Sunday Rite of the year

13th Sunday of Pentecost Worship Service

《Sunday Morning Divine Liturgy》

【Entrance Part】

- Prelude (Silent Prayer)
"Praise our God, the King!"
(Hymn 21 no.14)
Composed by J.L. Adam

- Greeting
- Hymn Nos.21-467
- Opening Prayer
- Reading Psalms 119 (Mem)

【Worship of the Word】

- Scripture
 - ✦ Exodus 17:5-13 (Old p.46)
 - ✦ Psalm 106:28-33 (New p.165)
- Response Hymns 21-46
- Lecture
Pastor Takaaki Inoue
"Hands raised until sunset"
- Apostles' Creed

【Communion Worship】

- Consecration Hymns Nos. 21-81
- Church Prayer (Litany)
- Peace Greetings
- Hymns Nos. 21-83
- The Lord's Prayer
- The Supper

【Response, Dispatch, and Blessing】

- Hymn Nos.21-549
- Offering of Thanksgiving
- Hymns of Glory Nos. 21-24
- Words of Dispatch
- Prayer of Blessing
- Aftermath (Silent Prayer)
"Our Lord Himself"
(Hymn 21 no.16)
Composed by Hina Sakamoto

【Today's Worship Service】

- Assistant Cerver : Masato Sawada
- Musician : Sachie Shikano
- Donation Duty : Iwao Kurosawa
- Reception Duty : Kimiko Kobuchi

【Today's schedule】

- ◇ Church school (9:30 a.m.)
 - Talk : Manriko Inoue
- ◇ Hymn practice (after service)
- ◇ Joint prayer meeting (after service)

【Information on this week's church meetings】

- ◇ Morning prayer
 - September 2 (Tue) 9:00 AM
 - September 5 (Fri) 9:00 AM
- ◇ English Conversation
 - Closed.

【Information on next Sunday】

- ◇ Church School Service (9:30 a.m.)
 - Talk : Mayumi Sawada
- ◇ Sunday Morning Service
September 7 (10:30 a.m.)
 - Scripture
 - ✦ Exodus 16:15-22
 - ✦ John 6:48-56
 - Lecture by Pastor Takaaki Inoue
"Bread from Heaven"
 - Hymn 21 56, 46, 72
 - Reading Psalms 119 (Nun)
 - Assistant Cerver : Hideo Yakamiya
 - Musician : Masako Iida
 - Donation Duty : Will P.
 - Reception duty : Hanae Kotubo
- ◇ Hymn practice (after service)
- ◇ Joint prayer meeting (after service)
- ◇ Regular Board Meeting (1:00 PM)

Scripture

「As long as Moses held up his hands, Israel prevailed;
but when he lowered his hands, Amalek prevailed.」

(Exodus 17:11)

【Reports and personal disappearances】

- (1) "Pastor Inoue's schedule for this week" :
Monday, 1st at 9:30 AM: "Omiya Nursery School Birthday Party" Wednesday, 3rd at 2:00 PM: "Osaka YWCA Bible Study Group"
- (2) 《Scheduled church events for September》
 - September 3 (Wed) 2:00 P.M. "Osaka YWCA Bible Study" 500 yen
 - September 7 (Sun.) 1:00 P.M. "Regular Board Meeting"
 - September 15 (Mon.) "Church School Day Trip Camp"
 - Tuesday, September 16, 10:00 a.m. "Study Session on Mental Illness"
 - September 29 (Mon.) 1:30 p.m. "Sharon Senri Worship Service"
- (3) Let's offer a special summer offering. The donation goal is 160,000 yen. We ask for your cooperation.
- (4) 【Today's prayer task】 ● For the construction of a new chapel. ● For peace in Ukraine and Gaza. ● For our brothers and their families in detention centers and prisons. ● For the health of our children.

(5) 【Last week's meeting statistics】

day	meeting	boy	girl	adult	total	Donation
24	Church school	0	1	6	7	¥1,850
	meeting	male	female	child	total	Donation
24	Morning Service	9	16	5	30	¥19,302
26	Morning prayer	3	3	—	6	
29	Morning prayer	3	4	—	7	

(6) 【8/24 donation report】

【Monthly fixed】Kimiko Kobuchi (10,000 yen in total) 【Gratitude】Hanae Kotubo (3,000 yen in total) 【Mutual Aid】Hideo Okumiya, Seiko Yamachiyo (2,000 yen in total)



【Continuation of last week's sermon summary】

↓ descendants will be as numerous as the grains of sand... All the nations of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants." (28:13-14)
This is the same blessing given to his grandfather Abraham. For he will be the one to inherit Abraham's blessing. Furthermore, "Behold, I am with you. Wherever you go, I will protect you and bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." (28:15) He realized that although he had sinned and been driven from his family home, God welcomed him into His own house. Though the door to his family home was closed, the door to God's house stood open, warmly receiving him. Normally, Jacob, who had committed the grave sin against God of deceiving his father and brother to steal the blessing, should not have been blessed. Yet God blesses such a Jacob. This teaches us that blessing is something given unilaterally by God's mercy, unrelated to human righteousness or sinfulness. It also teaches us that blessing is something humans cannot obtain no matter how much they use schemes or strength.

This stairway connecting heaven and earth was a prototype of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "You will see greater things than these. ...you will see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (John 1:51) He alone is the stairway to heaven, for He alone came from heaven to earth. Through this Christ, every blessing descends upon us, and through Christ, we draw near to God. The church still stands as the stairway to heaven, welcoming all sinners as God's house and bestowing blessings.