

Last Week's Sermon Summary

『Bread from Heaven』

Pastor Takaaki Inoue

Exodus 16:15–22, John 6:48–56

① [Manna, the bread from heaven] When the Israelites entered the wilderness, they complained to Moses about their food. God heard their complaints and provided quail in the evening and bread from heaven in the morning, satisfying the Israelites. In the morning, dew fell around the camp, and when it evaporated, a fine, flaky substance remained. It was white and tasted like honey-flavored wafers. The people called it manna. Moses commanded the people, “Each of you is to gather as much as you need—one omer per person” (Exodus 16:16). One omer is about 2.3 liters. Some gathered much, some gathered little, but when they measured it with a basket, those who gathered much had no excess, and those who gathered little had no shortage; each gathered exactly what they needed. Though Moses commanded, “No one is to keep any of it until morning” (Exodus 16:19), some did keep it. But it became infested with worms and stank, so it was inedible. By midday it melted away, so the people had to gather the manna each morning. On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much as usual. Even if left until the next morning, it did not become infested with insects or stink. This was because no manna fell on the seventh day, the Sabbath. God provided two days' worth of bread for those who kept the Sabbath for worship, ensuring they would always have enough to eat. This teaches that working on the Sabbath yields nothing.

② [Jesus is the bread that comes down from heaven] Jesus said to the crowd, “Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life” (John 6:27). This

food that leads to eternal life is Jesus Himself. The crowd said, “Send down bread from heaven for us too, just as our ancestors ate manna in the wilderness.” Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread that came down from heaven” (6:41), and said, “I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But this is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that whoever eats it will never die” (6:48-50). He commanded them to eat Him. Even more plainly, He said, “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ...for my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.” (6:53-55) This symbolizes the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, we eat Christ. We see that the manna that fell from heaven in Old Testament times was actually a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ.

③ [Faith and life from heaven last but a day] Then, might the characteristics observed in the manna also apply to Jesus in the same way? First, it is said that each person gathered only the amount they needed. This means that whether one reads God's word extensively or only a little, the necessary words for that person are always given. We often hear people say after a sermon, “Today's sermon felt like it was spoken directly to me. It was exactly what I needed right now.” This shows that God always gives the necessary words to those who seek them. Second, we must hear God's word daily. Moreover, we must hear it in the morning. The manna melted away by noon. In the morning means that before beginning any activity, you should first read the Bible. Regarding communion, people in the past would come to church on Sunday mornings without eating anything. They had to fast before communion. Thirdly, the heavenly provision can only remain within us for one day.↗

Weekly Report

The United Church of Christ in Japan

Miyakojima Church

Mission Established December 1, 1957

Church Established December 2, 2001

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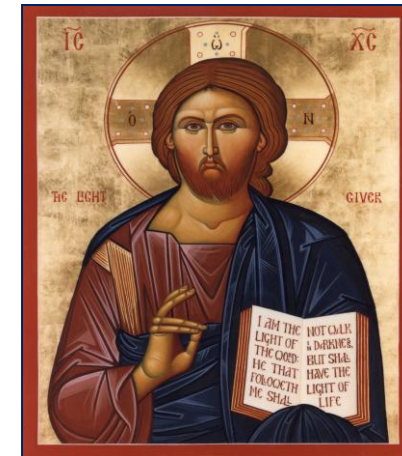
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《Christ, the light of the world》

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.