



May/June 2025

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Rev. Jung Eun Yum, pastor

Pastor's Thoughts

“After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.”

Acts 1:3 NIV

Dear Siblings in Christ,

The awe and joy of Easter Sunday compel us to live out the resurrection of Jesus Christ in our daily lives. That is why we are called “Easter people” - those who appreciate the miracle of Jesus’ resurrection and anticipate our own resurrection, modeled after our first fruits, Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:22–23).

As we enter a new season after Easter, it is a perfect time to explore the traces of Jesus before his ascension to heaven.

For forty days, Jesus Christ engaged in an intensive ministry to prepare his disciples for a new era. They were to receive the Holy Spirit, establish new churches and ministries, and reach out to the Gentile world to proclaim the Gospel (Matt. 28:18–20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47–49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8). Jesus knew they would face persecution because of him. The birth of the Church would continually reflect Jesus’ suffering, as they participated in his suffering and death.

What they needed was Jesus’ continued ministry to them. That is why he appeared to his disciples and many others, including even Saul - a former persecutor of the Church. Jesus never hesitated to reveal his presence to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time after his resurrection (1 Cor. 15:6). Many witnesses testified that he was alive. Why? Because his resurrection is the key to their faith and to the message that had to be shared with the world.

Jesus also continued teaching his disciples about the Kingdom of God, where the crucified Christ is at the center, represented as the slain Lamb (Rev. 5:6). The Kingdom of God was the central message Jesus proclaimed and taught. His parables all point to this Kingdom.

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**Pastors thoughts continued:*

Jesus forgave and reinstated Peter and the other disciples (John 21:15–17). He prepared a fire of burning coals, with fish and bread for them. He called them “friends.” Then, in their one-on-one time, Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me?” three times. He did not begin with “Why?” “Why” is not the language of forgiveness but “love” is. Peter knew that Jesus had forgiven him and loved him.

Because true love is never hidden. Jesus then commissioned his disciples and promised them the coming of the Holy Spirit, who would empower them for the mission to which they were called.

Finally, Jesus ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem. This was the fulfillment of the prophecy in Zechariah 14:4, which foretold that the Messiah’s feet would stand on the Mount of Olives when he comes to establish God’s Kingdom. The Mount of Olives overlooks Jerusalem, the city of God. It is a vantage point from which he could be seen, emphasizing the bodily nature of his ascension. Jesus was faithful to the end, fulfilling the prophecy that was spoken about him.

In summary, Jesus stayed with his disciples for forty days after his resurrection and before his ascension. He appeared to many, continually preaching about the Kingdom of God, forgiving and reinstating Peter and the disciples, and commanding them to carry out the mission he had begun, empowered by the Holy Spirit. He then ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives, right before the eyes of his disciples.

Imagine you were one of the disciples who spent forty days with the risen Lord before his ascension. How would that shape the way you live today? How shall we live as Jesus’ Easter people? Easter is not a seasonal event but an ongoing message we must hold onto and live out.

Blessings,
Pastor Jung Yum

SPECIAL MUSIC

If you would like to offer Special Music this summer during the Offertory, please call the church office. We welcome all types.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers to honor a special event in your families life are welcomed. Please plan on getting your arrangements to the church by 9:00 a.m. Call the church office to sign up for a Sunday.