

■ 69th Sharing of the Word

● First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

This passage, referred to as Third Isaiah, addresses the period following the return from Babylonian exile after Jerusalem's fall in 586 B.C. During this era, Isaiah himself was not active, but prophecies about Israel's restoration and its relationship with God are presented. God assures the salvation and restoration of Zion (Jerusalem), declaring that He will not remain silent until Jerusalem's salvation and righteousness are revealed. God promises to restore Israel as a glorious nation, bestowing upon it a new name and image to display its glory to the whole world. Jerusalem is depicted as a "crown" or "diadem" in God's hand, signifying its unique honor and beauty. Israel's past suffering and abandonment are over; God calls Israel "My Delight" and declares it "Married," symbolizing the healing of past hardships and the establishment of a new relationship with God. Through the image of welcoming Jerusalem as a bride and rejoicing over the union, the relationship between God and His people is illustrated. This demonstrates God's deep love and His desire for eternal joy with His people. (In this context, "Israel" represents both the land and its people as a unified entity.)

● Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

The gifts given to each believer for their unique work vary, but they all originate from the same Spirit, forming the Church community. Though there are diverse forms of service, they are all done for the same Lord (Jesus). These gifts and services, enabled by the Spirit, are not for personal satisfaction or selfish desires but for the growth of the Church community and the benefit of others.

【The Holy Spirit gives】

1. Wisdom: Insight from God's perspective to discern the best solutions and guide others on the right path (1 Kings 3:16-28; Matthew 22:15-22).

2. Knowledge: Supernatural understanding of specific matters, enabling one to comprehend others' mental states, provide necessary words, and teach effectively (John 4:16-19; Acts 5:1-11).

Healing and Miracles: Abilities granted through faith and obedience to God (1 Corinthians 12:9; Mark 16:17-18; Acts 3:1-10). These miracles reveal God's glory and strengthen faith. The Spirit also enables prophecy, praying in tongues, and discernment to determine whether such gifts and works are from God. These gifts, distributed by the Spirit, are not based on individual merit or choice but on God's plan.

【Speaking in Tongues】

One of the gifts of the Spirit, speaking in tongues, is a supernatural utterance that often cannot be understood by the speaker or others (Acts 2:4). It serves purposes such as praise, prayer, and spiritual growth.

● Gospel Reading: John 2:1-11

At the wedding in Cana, where Jesus' disciples (likely four or five at the start of His public ministry) were present, running out of wine was considered a major disgrace. Mary, out of trust in her Son and her intercessory role as the Mother of God, approached Jesus and simply informed Him, "They have no wine." Jesus replied, "My hour has not yet come," indicating that His salvific plan was already in motion. However, He cautiously responded to her request with a miracle. By using vessels from Jewish purification rituals, Jesus symbolized a transition from the law's cleansing methods to a new era of grace. The wine He provided was of the highest quality, signifying that what He offers surpasses earthly standards. This first miracle revealed God's glory, affirmed Jesus as the Messiah sent by God, and strengthened the disciples' faith.