**“No One-Way Love” 2016 05 01**

**John 14:23-29 Pr. Hitoshi Adachi**

Note: No Edit was made… I apologize this rough English.

May Grace and Peace of Jesus Christ be poured into the hearts of the people in this sanctuary!

When I was the first grade, All Nippon Airways (ANA) Flight 60 mysteriously crashed into Tokyo Bay in February, 1966. All 133 people on board died. For the people on the board and their families, how sad and shocking accident it was…This was the first airplane accident since I can remember.

The airplane crash happened only within a few months after I was baptized, I wondered if I wound not encounter such kind of accident since I became a Christian. I wondered also if there was no Christian on board.

However, my father told me that his brother, even though he was a Christian, he died due to a plane crash during the WW II. Therefore, I immediately thought that becoming a Christian does not guarantee that he or she will not encounter any plane accident.

Let’s dive into the Gospel text today. Last week, the title of the message was “Can We Love One Another?”, and this week’s message is “No One-Way Love.” Some of you might say, even for Christian, we encounter “one-way love.” Of course I understand that there are Christians here in this sanctuary, who experienced one-way love and you might felt how it was a sever experience. However, please listen to my message till the end.

In the night before Jesus was crucified, he told the disciples, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” The word “those who love me” is a different meaning from what was said last week, “Love One Another.”

Today, Jesus is teaching us, whoever loves me, Father, God, loves him or her. Once you love Jesus, there is “no one-way love,” which is a very happy relationship.

If it is a man and woman relationship, even though both find that they are loving one another, the family environment might not allow them to get marry or to live together immediately.

However, loving Jesus is a different situation. Once someone loves Jesus, the Father, God, and Jesus already loves him or her and come to him or her. It does not mean that two separate people come… The Trinitarian God will come to him or her and live together.

In the latter part of today’s gospel, Jesus said “the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

What does it mean? As I mentioned in the beginning, if I believe in Jesus and love him, it does not mean that I do not encounter any accident or tough experience.

Rather we, as Christians, might encounter tough and severe experiences. In spite of those tough situations, the Father, God, and Jesus are with us and also the Holy Spirit is with us. As a matter of fact, in Kumamoto, there are many Lutheran Churches and many faithful people, they experienced two big earthquakes two weeks ago and then they are still feeling aftershocks many times.

Even though Christians experience earthquakes and shakings, economic hardships, or even wars, they can be together with Christ. The Trinitarian Lord is together with you. And the Lord gives you strength and comfort. Jesus Christ may strengthen you and comfort you in the midst of tragic situations. Amen