

Providence to Restore the Heavenly Lineage



I was thinking about how to make history interesting. For some people, history is boring, but actually I would say that now we really understand the true meaning of history.

For most people, it's just a series of events and people, names and dates, mostly of wars, but they don't see the underlying direction of history. We actually have the greatest blessing that, through the True Parents and through the Unification Principles, we understand how history began, we understand the root of conflict, and we understand the direction of history.

And so we can be optimistic, even though the world sometimes looks very difficult. We can actually be optimistic about the future, because we know precisely the time in which we live. It's like the 30,000-foot view of history. [...]

The text was actually presented originally by Professor Hyeon-seob Do, the president of Sunhak UP Graduate University.

One of the expressions I've often heard in our movement is the "anguish of God." Therefore, when you listen to this history, I want you to consider that behind all events, back and forth – and many times failures, disappointments and betrayals – there has been a loving Parent anguishing over His children's situation.

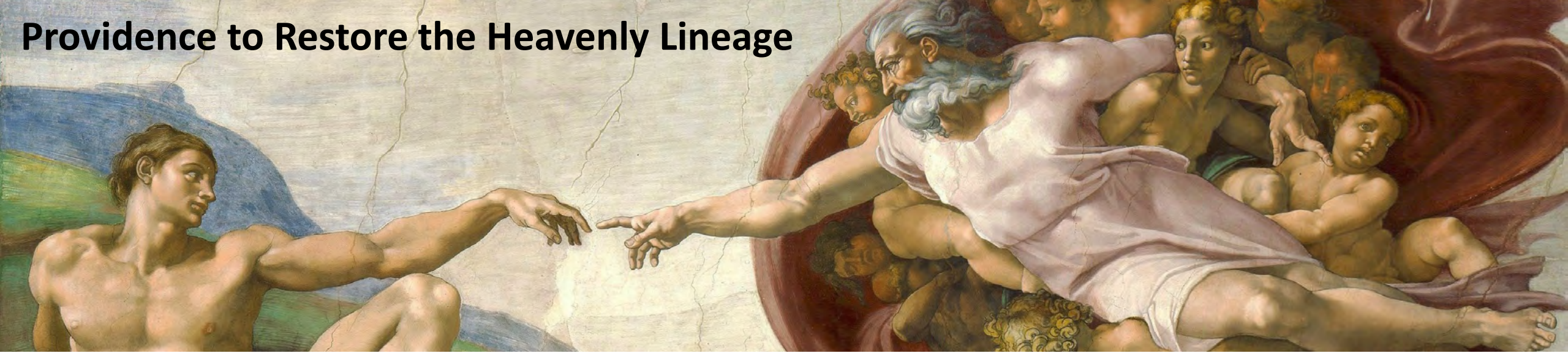
The greatest pain for parents is the suffering of their children. So a parent can only be happy when his or her children are happy.

It's the same for whoever you love – your wife, your husband, children, relatives, close friends.

You can only be really happy when they are also happy. And so I want you to keep this in mind as I look through what otherwise could be a rather dry explanation of history.

This is actually the transcript from the original lecture, which I have edited down because of time.

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I'll read [from a provisional translation from Korean]:

“Heavenly Parent has a dream: to give birth to [from the Korean verb 낳다 (nahda) – may also be translated as ‘bring forth’, ‘become the Parent of’, ‘bear’] human beings as the children who can monopolize [from the Korean verb 독차지하다 (tokchaji hada) – may also be translated as ‘possess exclusively’, ‘engross’] Heavenly Parent’s love and create an eternal world where they experience joy and happiness while giving and receiving infinite love.”

We are so used to living in a world of conflict and evil that it's hard to believe the purpose of life actually is joy – joy for God and joy for us.

We often hear that Heavenly Parent created humankind or made human beings. Mother Moon says, “Heavenly Parent gave birth to us [became our Parent, brought us forth].”

I'll read some more [from a provisional translation from Korean]:

“When we say Heavenly Parent ‘gave birth to’ [became the Parent of, brought forth] human beings, Heavenly Parent’s parental nature is revealed more clearly. I think that the expression that best reveals the attributes of Heavenly Parent, who has fatherly and motherly attributes, is the phrase ‘God gave birth to us [became our Parent, brought us forth].’ Looking at it that way, we realize that the relationship between Heavenly Parent and us is more intimate and more profound.”

This painting in the Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo’s “The Creation of Adam,” misses one really very important part: That is Eve. And so the concept, of course, is that Eve was like an afterthought in the creation story in the Bible. But actually God was at His most creative when he created Eve. She was the ultimate and final creation of God, after everything else, including Adam.

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I'll read some more [from a provisional translation from Korean]:

“Heavenly Parent’s dream could not be fulfilled due to the fall of our first ancestors. To fulfill this dream, Heavenly Parent, whose beginning and end are the same, chose the people of Israel from among fallen humankind.

“The chosen people of Israel were to attend and follow Heavenly Parent and fulfill their mission as the central nation to restore the lineage in order to bring about the birth of the Only Begotten Son [독생자 (toksaengja – may also be translated as ‘Firstborn Son’ or ‘First Son’)] and Daughter [독생녀 (toksaengnyeo – may also be translated as ‘Firstborn Daughter’ or ‘First Daughter’)] who will inherit God’s lineage and become the True Parents of humankind.

“Just as Heavenly Parent gave birth to [became the Parent of, brought forth] one man and one woman in the beginning, in order for humankind to return to Heavenly Parent, an Only Begotten Son and Only Begotten Daughter who inherit the lineage of Heavenly Parent must be born.”

So this is the ultimate statement about the meaning of history.

I'll continue to read [from a provisional translation from Korean]:

“For this to happen, there must be the providence to inherit Heavenly Parent’s lineage, and God chose Israel as the central nation and people. For the providence to restore the lineage, Heavenly Parent has carried out the providence to give birth to the Only Begotten Son and Daughter who inherited Heavenly Parent’s lineage. In particular, among the Jewish people – beginning with Abraham, who followed Heavenly Parent with absolute faith and received God’s blessing as the root of good fortune, continuing with Isaac, and then moving on to Jacob’s generation – important providential events created the foundation for the restoration of lineage.

“[...] Abraham, who had the honourable name of ‘the Father’ [Abram] based on Heavenly Parent’s blessing, from then on was known as ‘Abraham’, the father of all peoples, and became the origin and foundation of the chosen people of Israel.”

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It's quite amazing that within our region of Europe and the Middle East we have the father of three major providential faiths: the Jewish people, the Islamic people, and the Christian people. In that sense, we have a common ancestor, a common root, a spiritual root.



But as you know, Abraham, in the process of coming into that position, did not succeed in achieving what God actually wanted. It was the mistake of cutting the birds, as you know from the Unification Principle. It may not seem significant, but ultimately it proved to be a fatal mistake and, as we know, caused 400 years of suffering for his descendants. However, the process was completed through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the lineage finally was fulfilled.

I'll continue reading:

“The victorious foundation on the national level must be created so that the Only Begotten Son and Daughter, who inherit the lineage of Heavenly Parent, can be born without Satan’s accusation through the bloodline of the chosen people of Israel who have a victorious foundation in the restoration of the lineage. Finally, after 4,000 years of the Providence of Restoration through Indemnity, Heavenly Parent brought Jesus, the Only Begotten Son, who was the first to inherit Heavenly Parent’s lineage since the fall of our first ancestors, to be born to Mary among the chosen people of Israel.”

“Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, received Heaven’s revelation that the Only Begotten Son would be born through her, and she decided to accept the Will of Heavenly Parent in absolute faith. Heavenly Parent first brought Mary, Zechariah, and Elizabeth to know about the birth of Jesus. They were central figures who had the important mission of upholding Heavenly Parent’s Will to fully attend and follow Jesus, the Only Begotten Son.”

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And we'll look into how that transpired. I'll continue:



“For Jesus, the Only Begotten Son, to fulfill his purpose by safely completing his period of maturation (growth), meeting God’s Only Begotten Daughter, and their becoming the True Parents together, the central figures I just mentioned had to fulfill their mission properly.”

In other words, Joseph and Zechariah, and of course Mary had to fulfill their mission according to God’s expectation. And also John the Baptist became a key figure in supporting this. In other words, he had to protect Jesus, in a way.

We continue:

“Yet although Zechariah and John the Baptist testified to Jesus before he began his public life, they did not follow him afterward. The highly respected high priest Zechariah remained a bystander. And John the Baptist, a respected ascetic, remained at a distance from Jesus. They were therefore unable to open the way for unity between the people of Israel and Jesus.”

I think all of you are familiar with the story of the baptism of Jesus by John, when a dove appeared, and a voice announced directly to John the Baptist who the person in front of him was. And you can understand John’s struggle later. After an initial enthusiasm about that, he began to evaluate who Jesus was, from a more humanistic perspective. Of course, looking at him, he saw his poor, younger, less educated cousin. It would not be so easy for us to believe that our own poor, younger, less educated cousin could be the Messiah. And so John unfortunately was unable to fulfill his mission and, in fact, ended up in prison for a rather silly reason involving himself and Herod.

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I'll continue reading:

“Mary had the responsibility, while attending Jesus as the Only Begotten Son, to ensure that Jesus met the Only Begotten Daughter so that they could become the True Parents. But while she fulfilled her responsibility up to the point of bringing Jesus into the world, it became very difficult after that.

“By becoming estranged from Zechariah’s family, maintaining her conjugal relationship with Joseph, and distancing herself from God’s revelation, Mary failed to fulfill her responsibility to protect Jesus.”

So again, you can understand that many things influenced her way of thinking. Maybe not the least was the fact that Joseph, her originally intended husband, had difficulty actually understanding the conception of Jesus, as you can well imagine. And there are some examples by which we see why people had difficulty understanding Jesus.

“Joseph, moreover, did not fully understand Heavenly Parent’s Will, but looked at and related with Jesus and Mary humanistically. He thus failed to fulfill his mission to attend and follow Jesus.”

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As you know, there was a story in the Bible about Jesus being missing for three days. Now, if they really believed that this child was the destined Messiah, how could they possibly lose sight of him? And especially for three days?

And of course, there's the story in which he was in the temple talking to the priests and amazing them with his knowledge, even though he was just a twelve-year-old boy who had little education.

There's another incident, in which Mary was insisting on Jesus providing wine, turning water into wine for guests at a marriage. Father and Mother Moon have explained that Jesus rebuked his mother because she should have been more concerned about his marriage and preparing for that, rather than asking him to do a miracle at somebody else's marriage.

Father Moon has also said that several times Jesus requested of his mother to find his bride, but she was unable to do so. This is a great tragedy.



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I'll keep reading:

“As a result [of all these failures], the Jewish leaders did not believe in Jesus. They slandered and criticized him, accusing him of being a lawbreaker, a blasphemer, a seditious agitator, and soon.”



In history, of course, there have been very unpleasant reactions or attitudes toward the Jewish people about crucifying Jesus. But when we understand, through the Unification Principle, that they weren't even given a chance to understand who Jesus was, because the main people did not fulfill their providential duty, we realize that the Jewish people became victims of those failures. It's important that we understand that True Parents and Jesus were doing so many things to reach out. But important people like John the Baptist did not recognize their responsibility, and therefore Jesus was rejected.

I'll continue:

“If Mary, Joseph, and Zechariah's family, whom Heaven had prepared, had understood God's Will and united to fulfill their responsibility to protect Jesus, the Only Begotten Daughter would have appeared [...] at a time Heavenly Parent had prepared.”

If they had united, then Mary would have been able to introduce Jesus to his bride.

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Let's read a little more:

“As a result of the failure of the central figures and of the people to fulfill their responsibilities, the coming of the Only Begotten Daughter was thwarted and Jesus' ideal to become the True Parent through the Holy Wedding – the Marriage Supper of the Lamb – could not be realized.”

The famous painting “Christ in the Desert,” by the Russian artist Ivan Kramskoi, is one of the pictures I feel represents Jesus. This is when he was in the desert fasting and praying for 40 days in order to make a new foundation. You can sense the sadness in his heart. In the end Jesus became a sacrifice as his body was hung on a cross. This became, however, a condition for humanity's salvation.

I'll read some more:

“He walked a 40-day course of resurrection and pioneered the way to atone for the sins of all humankind.

“The disciples who met the resurrected Jesus gathered again to fulfill the number of twelve disciples, believing in Jesus and following him. Thus they laid the foundation for Jesus, together with the Holy Spirit, to become the spiritual True Parents and to carry out the work of rebirth.

“Despite the failure of the central figures and the people, the way of the cross that Jesus walked was a holy and noble course to give spiritual rebirth to all humankind.”

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Of course, we talk about this as the secondary course. It was not meant to be the original course. But what is really important to also understand is that the real beginning of Christianity was not the death of Jesus or even his resurrection. Christianity really began when the disciples were in the upper room, fearful for their lives. Having betrayed or denied Jesus, they were afraid. But when the Holy Spirit manifested in the form of a dove, they were transformed. They went out, and all except one gave their life to promote the message of Jesus. So they really had the spirit and the truth.

I'll continue:

“However, Jesus, who was born as the Only Begotten Son, could not meet the Only Begotten Daughter and did not become the True Parent. He went the way of the cross and said he would come again and hold the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

“The 2,000 years of Christian history began with the apostles who accepted and believed his words.

“The Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and other believers who had gathered on the 50th day following Jesus’ resurrection. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they set out into the world to preach the gospel of Jesus in place of the Jewish people who were unable to attend the Only Begotten Son. Christianity was chosen and took the central role in Heavenly Parent’s providence.”

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In the same way, after Father Moon ascended, Mother Moon continued the mission of the True Parents here on the earth in the position of the living Holy Spirit. As you know, one of the prophecies about the future was about the moon turning to blood. According to the explanation of the Unification Principle, the moon symbolizes the Holy Spirit. Turning to blood means becoming a living being. We are at a time when Mother Moon is now such a being. We are so privileged that we can welcome her here to Europe in a very short time.

I'll continue:

“Despite significant persecution and opposition from the Roman Empire, the Christians did not give up, but maintained their faith. As a result, Christianity grew rapidly.”

I'll read:

“The early church was established, and Christianity survived despite being much persecuted in the Roman Empire. Moreover, behind the explosive growth of Christianity was that they worshiped in the Spirit and the Truth, and went out to the world in the Spirit and the Truth to spread the Gospel of Jesus.”

It was a time of great fervour. Even Saint Paul, who had never met Jesus, was so transformed that he became the great evangelist of early Christianity in the Mediterranean area. After Christianity's acceptance in Rome and its official establishment as a state religion, we see Christian history paralleling and indemnifying the history of Judaism in terms of providential numbers and events.

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I'll read some more:

“With the Pope’s blessing, the Holy Roman Empire was established. Centred on the spirit of Christianity, Western Europe took shape. In Eastern Europe and the Near East, a Christian-centred society also took firm root through the Byzantine Empire. Through Europe and the Near East, the Christian world emerged.

“As a result of the passionate mission work of disciples since the Age of Exploration, Christianity spread throughout the world. Expanding beyond Europe and the Near East, Christianity became a global religion.”

That is according to a prophecy that when the Gospel is spread throughout the world, the Lord will return.

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We continue:

“The bishops of the early church, with authority conferred on them by St. Peter, who received direct instruction from Jesus, had the authority to interpret the Bible. In the process of building church unity, various opinions [views] about the nature of Jesus and the interpretation of the Bible were condemned [rejected], the relationship between the priests and believers was made [rigidly] vertical, and systems and organizations were created such that believers, who longed for the Word and the Holy Spirit, did not receive spiritual guidance. Problems emerged that clearly showed the limitations and corruption of Christianity, including simony [buying or selling church offices, holy orders or sacred items], corruption in the monasteries, the secularization of the church, and the compromise of Christianity with social reality.”

However, the biggest problem, as Mother Moon has said, is that Christianity did not know the original essence of Jesus.

I’ll go on:

“Christianity started out without realizing what it should accomplish, or what its mission and role were.”

In other words, it moved forward without knowing clearly the purpose of history. Christians did not know clearly about Jesus’ Second Coming or about the Only Begotten Daughter.

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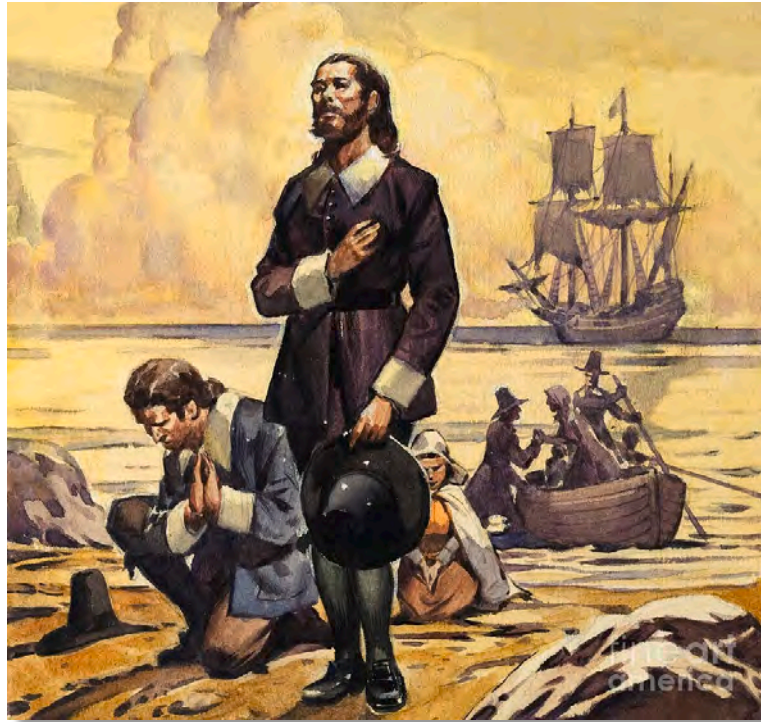
“Heavenly Parent could not allow the corruption of Christianity to continue unchecked, because of the need to carry out the providence – on the Christian foundation – to prepare for the birth of the Only Begotten Daughter and the Messiah at the Second Coming who would carry on the mission of Jesus, the Only Begotten Son. God had to reform medieval Christianity, and this eventually would manifest as the Reformation.”

One of the leading figures of the Protestant Reformation was, of course, Martin Luther, who in 1517 nailed to the door of a church in Wittenberg his 95 Theses, which questioned the authorities’ behaviour.

The Reformation was advanced through the theology of John Calvin. In different ways reformers began to appear in Great Britain, Switzerland, Germany, and throughout Europe. At various times, people stood up, sometimes at the risk of their life and even at the cost of their life. The Reformation challenged the traditional authority of the medieval Catholic Church and brought about great changes and more freedom. Also, the printing press was invented at that time, and therefore the Bible was available to anyone who could read. In the past, only the priests could read it in Latin, which most of the population couldn’t do.



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Reform, however, did not end with the Protestant Reformation or the establishment of the Anglican Church. Due to persecution from newly established Christian churches, the Pilgrim Fathers, in search of religious freedom, left Europe and settled in what became the United States.

I'll continue reading:

“The United States was raised as a nation for Heavenly Parent, so as to create an environment for True Parents and to prevent a repetition of the Messiah going to the cross. In the wake of World War II, under Heavenly Parent’s blessing, the United States established itself as a nation that could lead the world. America has the same mission as the Roman Empire had in Jesus’ day – to accept and serve True Parents and to create an environment in which all nations of the world can accept and attend True Parents.”

Today, America is failing badly But there is also another process going on, in which people are waking up. And I believe we will see major changes.

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I'll go on reading:

“Christianity, with its 2,000 years of history, must now properly know the truth of history and of Heavenly Parent’s providence. Christians must come to understand that the Only Begotten Son and Only Begotten Daughter, who are born with the full love and lineage of Heavenly Parent, are, through their Holy Wedding, to become True Parents who perfectly resemble Heavenly Parent. This is the most essential truth about Heavenly Parent’s providence to restore all of humankind.”

Christianity had to create a foundation for the birth of the returning Messiah who would take over the mission of Jesus, the Only Begotten Son who went the way of the cross, and for the birth of the Only Begotten Daughter, which was thwarted by the failure of the central figures at that time. Christians should unite with and attend True Parents, who have established their position through the Holy Wedding – the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Christians should support True Parents, who are giving all people rebirth as Heavenly Parent’s children and completing the Heavenly Kingdom [Cheonil Guk in Korean], the ideal world in which Heavenly Parent directly exercises His sovereignty.

Let us give thanks to our True Parents, and especially Mother Moon, for their victorious accomplishments.

And let’s really prepare for the great and wonderful privilege of being able to welcome here in Europe the True Daughter of God, the Only Begotten Daughter of God, the living Holy Spirit, our beloved True Mother.

Thank you, brothers and sisters.