It’s a joy to be before the Lord this evening, this afternoon. And for all of you who are viewing from wherever you are, have found the joy in Light Mission Church. And every day I thank Pastor Meshak for his good leadership, that even in this very difficult time he has been able to put us together as a church. He has been able to gather us from every corner as the sheep, and we all follow Jesus Christ even at this very difficult time. May the Lord bless you and continue to use your pastor.

It’s a joy to share from the word of the Lord, and if you have your Bibles with you, open to the book of 2 Corinthians 6:2. We will only share one verse for now. This I’ll read, and my friend here will read in Kirundi. “He says, ‘In the acceptable time I have listened to you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.”

I decided to entitle the message today, “Now is the Time.” And some of us may wonder, why now is the time. Brothers and sisters, there is a lot happening in the world today. Today, there are so many things happening and we may wonder where to run. The point where we are at today, so many things have happened. Ever since I was born, I have never seen what I am seeing today. There are people dying every corner, people even killing themselves because they don’t want the virus to kill them.

When you look at some nations around us you probably want to run to, the same thing is happening. And therefore, we are left in a place where we can have nowhere to run to. Because there is nowhere else we can run to. The times are very hard and so difficult. Very hard things are happening all around us. People are getting so scared. And they’re wondering where to run at a time like this one.

COVID-19 is killing people. For the first time I am hearing that 40,000 people have died. FOr the first time, I'm hearing the news in another country, 100,000 have died. If you listen in a day, you will hear 1,000 people lost their lives. I was turned to tears when I saw that in Italy there was nowhere to bury people. And when you listen to only the COVID virus killings, it’s even becoming more.

You find that in some countries even hunger is killing people. In some countries we hear even Ebola is killing people. In some countries you hear the Bird flu is killing people. The times are so hard. The times have become so hard that we don't know what to do. When you turn to the media, you get confused. Because the next minute they are saying something else. You begin to listen to this and get settled to that, and within a short time, another person is saying something else. And therefore, I reached the point where I even switched off the media and said, I don’t want to listen to what is happening! Because I don’t know whom to believe. I don't know what to do. And probably you are like me today, that you are also wondering, where else?

But the good news is, there is somewhere we can run to. We can run to the Lord Jesus. We can run to him and surrender to him. We can turn to his Word and read his Word. We can totally depend on God. We can turn to God and cry to him. And that is why Paul writes in Corinthians, “He says, ‘In the acceptable time I have listened to you.” Oh, what good news to learn that the Lord is ready to listen to us! He’s ready to hear us. Brothers and sisters, the only thing we can do is to run to him.

And I'm going to share four things from the word “time.” From the first letter, T, let’s turn to God. Let’s turn to God at a time like this one. Brothers and sisters, as we wash our hands, let’s wash our hands before the Lord. I like what Paul was telling King Agrippa here. He was giving his testimony to Agrippa. In the book of Acts chapter 26, verse 20, he said, “But declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do what’s proving their repentance.”

Brothers, like Paul said here, the only thing we can do at a time like this one, the only thing we can do in difficult times like this one, is to turn to Jesus. Turn to God. Turn to God and repent. Turn to God and repent of our sins. Turn to God and begin doing the works of the Lord. Proving our repentance with what we are doing in our houses. We have been locked in our houses, because we cannot move, we cannot go here or there, because we can easily catch the virus.

Brothers, we hide in our houses. Let’s open our hearts to the Lord Jesus, and surrender to him. Let this be the time that we can turn to God. Let this be the time that we can cry for forgiveness. Let this be the time that we can repent. And say, God forgive us. We repent our sins. We have strayed from you. We have done horrible things. We have not pleased you in many ways. Let's surrender to him. Let’s turn to the Lord at a time like this one. At a time like this one, let’s turn to the Lord and repent our sins.

But not only should we repent our sins, but we should do the worlds that prove that we have repented. Because many times we repent, but we continue doing the same thing. But Paul is saying that they repeated. And turned. And started doing the works that proved their repentance.

If you are watching me from wherever you are, if you are watching me in your house, this is a time that you need to look through your life, and see your repentance, that when I repented my sins to God, and my works and actions proving my repentance, to make sure that I was the kind of person who has repented.

Brothers and sisters, the only thing you and I can do is to turn to God. Because some people have turned to things that do not take them anywhere. People have turned to things that have confused them even more. I tried to be online, to see what is happening with this coronavirus. I wanted all the time to know what is happening. But the more I wanted to know what is happening, the more I was getting more confused, the more I was getting more stressed, the more I was getting more depressed.

I said, I must turn to the Word of God. It’s the time I need to read the Word of God and repent my sins, and repent on behalf of my brothers and sisters. And ask the Lord to forgive our sins. And heal our land. Because we have wronged in many ways.

I know God helps through people. But our ultimate help must come from God. Trust him. And now is the time to turn to the Lord. Now is the time to repent our sins. Forgiveness and cleansing is ours when we repent. Brothers and sisters, not washing our hands, we need to wash our hearts, We need to wash our lives. We need to cleanse our lives. And let our actions show that we have repented. Let our actions show that we have repented.

This is the time even in our houses that you can see God more. No excuse for work, no excuse for the office, but you have your time with God and your family in the house. Turn to God. 1 John 1:9 says, “If we repent our sins, He is just to forgive us.” The Lord is ready to forgive us. At this time, as we seek God, at this time we call upon his name, let's repent. Call upon Jesus. Forgive us, and cleanse our lives, and wash us daily.

We are all victims, we are all victims. The Bible says in Romans that all have sinned, and we have fallen short of God’s glory. We have all sinned. But we can call upon him, and ask him to forgive us. If you are watching me from wherever you are, and you have never given your life to Jesus, let this be the day that you receive Jesus. Let this be the day that you can turn to him. Let this be the day that you can surrender to him. Not washing your hands, just washing your hands and legs and body. But let your heart be washed by Jesus.

Hebrews 12:2 says, “At this time let us look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, and for the joy set before him, having endured on the cross for you and I.” Brothers and sister, it’s a time when we need to wake up and focus on God. We have many years focused on things. We have focused on all the blessings God has given to us. But this is the time that we remove our eyes from all this money and have our focus on God.

I have heard of people with millions of shillings, they have had nothing to do with their money during this season of coronavirus. Somebody sent me a message that was about this millionaire in Italy. His wife died. Within a short time his child died. Then as he said at least he has one child left, that one died. He climbed the longest building high in the sky, and he fell down and committed suicide. Money can do nothing at a time like this one. What we need is Jesus. Repent. And turn to God.

The next letter is letter I. The letter I. Invest in the Lord. This is a time that you and I must invest in the Lord. How can we be able to invest in the Lord at a time like this one, when things have become so hard? How can you be able to invest in the Lord? Let’s read in Matthew 6:20-21. He says, “But store up yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moths nor rust destroys, nor do thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.”

Brothers and sisters, as we read these words of Jesus Christ, he says store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. The world we are living in today people have forgotten, like they are going to live on Earth forever. But let this be the wake-up time to know that we are not going to live here forever. The day is coming when we will all go. But the question is, where have you stored up your riches? Where have you stored up your riches? Are your riches stored up in heaven? The Bible says where nothing will eat it or destroy it. Where it is going to be safe.

 And therefore, brethren, invest in the Lord. God demands first place in our lives. God demands first place in our lives. He wants to take the first place in your life today. Where does God come in your life? Many of us have forgotten God and he comes last in our lives. We think of ourselves. We think of our family. We think of our children. We think of our relatives. We think of us. But God demands the first place in your life.

Invest in the Lord. He expects us to be faithful in worship. He expects us to be faithful in all acts, including giving. Including bringing to the :ord. I know some of us are now rejoicing and thinking, now I can no longer go to church and take the offering and tithes. Brothers and sisters, God still demands from you. He demands from you. Invest in the Lord.

Many of us have bought so much property. We know of people who have bought property upon property. They have forgotten about giving to God. But God says, invest in me. Because when you invest in heaven, nothing will destroy it. Nothing will take it away. My brothers and sisters, wherever you are, invest in the Lord. Keep it with the Lord. It is safe with the Lord. Nothing will destroy it when it’s with the Lord.

We invest in God’s kingdom when we give our time for his work. How much time do you spend even studying his Word? Many of us spend only two minutes just kneeling on the table and saying, God take care of me today, and I thank you for the food, and you go to bed. But when we are doing things for ourselves, we spend hours!

We rejoice because you have given ten hours in your place of work, and you count in terms of money how much you make in those eight or ten hours. But when it comes to giving to the Lord, you give him two minutes. You don't even give him one hour, you don't give him two hours, but let it be for yourself, you will give it as long as you can. Because you need a lot for yourself.

God demands our time. Invest in God’s kingdom. Let this be the time in this lock-in, be the time that we can renew our relationship with God. In this lock-in, let this be the time that we can be fruitful. Get your phone or WhatsApp and send a message about Jesus to a friend. Go on Facebook and speak about the goodness of God. Go wherever you can and share Jesus Christ, let it be the time to be fruitful. And by doing so, you are investing in the kingdom of God. When can I do that? Now is the time.

Earthly treasures do not last. Earthly treasures do not last, but God’s treasures will last. As we put all our treasures in the eternal value, they will last forever. That's what the Bible says in 1 Timothy 6. Let’s look in 1 Timothy 6 again. Verse 17. And it says, “Command those who are rich in this world, to not be conceited, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who richly gives us all things to enjoy.” Actually I want to add verse 18: “Command that they do good, that they be rich in good works, generous, willing to share.” Hallelujah.

I like what Paul is telling Timothy here, and it says, “Command those who are rich” that all these blessings are from God. Some people have forgotten and they begin to think all I have is from me. They have forgotten that what they have came from God. Instead of moving closer to God, they are moving away from God who gave them what they have. Earthly treasures do not last, but spiritual treasures are for eternal value.

Let’s move to letter M. Letter M in the word “time.” March with God. March with God. Walk with God, or march with God in everything that we do. These are very hard times, brothers and sisters. And I want us again to open our Bibles in 2 Timothy 2:3-4. It says, “Endure hard times as a good soldier on active duty, who does not get entangled in civilian affairs, but he may please his enlisting officer. Brothers and sisters, these are hard times. Things are not easy. But you who know Jesus, be like a soldier of God. Be like a soldier of Jesus, who is ready to march with God. Who is ready to go anywhere with Jesus, no matter the challenges, no matter how difficult the day is, no matter how crucial things are. Endure hard times, endure hard times as a soldier.

Now let’s look at a soldier. A soldier is very obedient. He is always obedient to his master. You find that he will lay down his life for his country. He will go in the frontline to fight for his country. He will never give up. He will never compromise. Brothers and sisters, the times are hard. But be like a soldier who is ready to be loyal for the kingdom of God, who is ready to stand for the truth, who is ready to fight for the kingdom of God, no matter the challenges, you will keep going. You will keep trusting. You will keep going, no matter the challenge.

This is not a time to give up. Many people when things get hard, it is the time they relax, the time they give up. But my challenge to you, brothers and sisters, is to not give up. Be like a soldier. Do not find yourself entangled in ordinary affairs. Now, a soldier is ready to sacrifice for his country. A soldier is loyal to his country. A soldier is courageous to fight for his country. A soldier will love his country. This is the time that we need to have all this as a soldier of God.

Paul says to Timothy, endure hardship as a good soldier. As a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Do not find yourself entangling yourself in the things of this world.

And therefore, march with the Lord. Wherever you go, march with God. Talk about God. Witness about God. Testify to the unbelievers, to those friends of ours who have never known God. Lead them to Jesus. Bring them to Jesus. For he has the saving power, and is ready to sanctify and sustain us. As it says in 2 Timothy 2:2, it says, “share the things that you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, with the faithful men who will be able to teach others.” As we march with Jesus, let’s know what we have learnt from him. And let’s share with one another.

And as I finish, as I finish, we move to letter E, so that we can get the word “time.” Endure for the Lord. Endure for the Lord. Brothers and sisters, times are hard. Times are challenging. It’s very easy to give up, but Matthew tells us that we must endure. I want us to read chapter 24:13. The words of Jesus himself. Verse 13, and it says, “But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” Hallelujah!

Brothers, this is the time to endure. This is the time to hold onto the Jesus we have gotten. This is not the time to give up, no matter the challenges, no matter the coronavirus, no matter the Ebola, no matter the hunger, this is the time to endure for Christ. Because it says that he who shall endure to the end, he shall be saved. Hallelujah, such good news, that we shall be saved if we endure!

Too often Christians give up. When the strong winds blow and storms come, we give up. But the Bible says that this is the time that we must endure. Because it is endurance that our salvation is in. I don’t know about you, I don't know about you, but I have chosen to endure, even in this challenge, because I know that in my endurance I will be saved.

The winds may come blowing right and left, the storms may be so high, the clouds may even rise up, like where we are now. Let’s endure. We need never to give up. We need never to give up in despair. When we are sick in despair, it is time to hold on to Christ. Let’s hold onto Christ. Christians who endure for the Lord shall rejoice. Because with him, they have hidden their lives in him. They have hidden their lives in the Lord. They have hidden their lives in him so when he comes, he will find them in him.

This is the time to endure. Brothers and sisters, I don’t know about you. But I want us to know that now, now is the time. Let’s turn to God. Let’s invest in the Lord. Let’s march with God. And let’s endure until the Lord will come for us. Do not fear anything that will kill the body, but we can only be afraid of what will kill the soul. It’s the time that we need to give to him. And to put all our trust in him. I don't know about you, but this is the time.

Maybe you’re in your house, maybe you’re in your sitting room watching, you may be listening in your car. This is a time that you can park your car and just talk to him and surrender. There's nothing you can do as a human being in these times. Now is the time. There is not any other time. If you are there in your room, turn to the Lord. Repent. Ask God for forgiveness. Let us pray.

Lord Almighty, we thank you. We thank you because you’re our God and our savior. There is no question about this time. This is the time, as your Word says. And a very acceptable time for us. Forgive us, O Lord. Forgive us, O Lord. Forgive us, O Lord. We repent before you. That we may be your children, O King of Glory, forgive us. Oh, for that one watching in the sitting room, Lord, accept his repentance. For that one who is parked by the roadside, Lord, hear his prayer this morning. Hear him, O King of Glory, and help us in our walk with you, as we surrender to you. And that we will live for you, and we will be ready to endure until you come back. In Jesus name we pray. Amen. And may the Lord bless you. Hallelujah.