



Grain

“The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” Mark 1:1

Field

“Mighty forces are at work; forces from which profound events are sprung. Where great good prevails, there great evil gathers. . . . Still I do not see the end, I see the beginning only.”

Merlin (Stephen R. Lawhead); *Arthur: The Pendragon Cycle*,

Submitted by Reverend Peter Heidi, Albany, WI

Thoughts by Reverend Peter Heidi, Albany Lutheran Church, Albany, WI

“Christians have amended the abrupt and unsettling end of Mark’s Gospel several times wanting a more satisfactory Easter proclamation. BUT, I maintain, Mark makes his Easter proclamation in the first verse. The good news that Christ is the Son of God is only able to be made with certainty after the resurrection has occurred.

In this waiting time of Advent, we recognize and acknowledge our despairing world. In the midst of fear and trembling, tempted to say nothing, we are empowered to bear the message of hope and assurance of the resurrection to the world. With Christ’s good news, we hear of a need for “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin.” So, we come, from the countryside and from the cities, to John’s wilderness, rolling up our sleeves for the ministry work that is ahead of us, with the cross already marked upon us, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and awaiting the Spirit’s leading.

We come in the midst of resurrection time, not being able to see the ending of our ministry, but only the beginning. Ahead of us, in Galilee where Christ meets us, is this year’s ministry—to lift up the socially dead of our time into the hope-filled world of God’s justice. We do this work knowing that God’s good will prevail in spite of many who work against that goodness. In the darkness and injustice of our world, Christ’s good news continues to give us a message and ministry of hope.”

Thank you to Pastor Heidi for his thoughts. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy