

Monday Quotes



Grain

“The gospel of Jesus is not a national concept to be explained in a theory of salvation, but a story about God’s presence in Jesus’ solidarity with the oppressed, which led to his death on the cross. What is redemptive is the faith that God snatches victory out of defeat, life out of death and hope out of despair” –James H. Cone

Submitted by Rev. Peter Heide, Baraboo

Field

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:16-20

Thoughts by Reverend Peter Heide

Trinity Sunday ends the festival seasons of the church year, and we are at the end of Matthew. Earlier, on a mountainside, all the sick afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics came to Jesus from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan to hear the great sermon. Later, Jesus gathered to himself the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and others totaling four thousand men plus those who accompanied them. Now on the mountain, Jesus gives the nations, the ethnos, into the care and protection of his disciples.

Eis, the Greek word translated as “in” (in the name of the Father...), is a relationship-rich word. It literally means “into”. In baptism, we do not act on God’s behalf; we invite into a relationship—the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The people have gathered around Jesus on the mountainsides. Now Jesus sends the disciples to the world, into new relationships of belonging. Through the triune relationship, the disciples are commanded to go to the ethnic peoples of the world, making disciples as God created the world, a place of relationship with the great Godhead mystery—the name above all other names—the one who creates, redeems, and makes whole. In this relationship-place, we are called to teach the commandments that Jesus has given us—love God and love neighbor: widow and orphan, epileptic, paralytic, demoniac, those suffering from various diseases and pains, the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, the stranger, the poor, the imprisoned, and the enemy.

On this mountainside, we are invited to enter into the mystery relationship of God—to know the world as God knows the world--and in that relationship we know that Christ will be with us on our journeys to the end of all the ages. This Trinity Sunday, we cannot explain the mystery of God, but we can embrace it, in the baptism relationship we have been given, that always calls us deeper into what it means to live into our relationship with God and one another. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Peter Heide