



Grains

“You cannot really sing of love until you have learned to sing the blues.” Attributed to B. B. King

Field

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” [⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”] Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Thoughts by Reverend Peter Heide, Interim Pastor in Morrisonville

Esther and Vera often sang duets for our congregation. They were sisters with beautiful voices who grew up in a musical family. One December Sunday, Vera’s contralto started with Elizabeth’s song. Then Esther’s soprano entered with the Magnificat. At the end, both Elizabeth and Mary were singing of their joy and God’s blessings. The music was powerful. I cannot read these words of Luke without remembering how Vera and Esther singing Elizabeth’s and Mary’s songs introduced me to thinking of Luke’s Gospel as an extended love song for God’s people.

These two songs are just a sampling of what we will hear in the book of Luke, but, if we learn the words to their songs, we also learn the central theme of Luke’s Gospel. From these two women, one of whom is too old and the other too young, we hear the words of blessing and God’s promise for God’s people. Through good times and through bad, the song that these two women sing continues through the years bearing witness to God’s love for all of God’s people and the forgiveness of sins. There is joy today, but there will be sorrow too. It is in the fullness of their songs that we come to know of God’s compassion and love.

Let us go into this Christmas season, singing the true state of the world, claiming our blessing and God’s presence with us. Then, let us go where God is leading with the song that begins, “My life magnifies the Lord with a song that rejoices in God, my savior.” Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Reverend Peter Heide