

Tuesday, April 11, 2023
Season of Easter
Day 3

Matthew 28:16–20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go 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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Reflection

It's hard to imagine the experience of the apostles and the other disciples as they heard the message of the women to return to Galilee where they'd see Jesus. Pondering what that meant as they walked along the roads. How many times did they ask to hear it all over again? Were they worried this was some sort of convoluted plot? As they ascended the high place were they looking with expectation or fear? And, then, laying eyes on Jesus; their old teacher who had been beaten and killed, standing there (or sitting?) alive and made new. How their hearts would have leapt within them as they fell to the ground in worship, staring at the one who was clearly more than merely human. As devout Jewish men and women they would have some hesitations, but there he is and now he's approaching.

He is indeed the long promised Son of Man from Daniel who has been given authority from the Ancient of Days (YHWH). And, with that authority it is time to gather all the nations; to bring the whole earth under the rule of Israel's God. How is Jesus's rule happening here on earth? Through us, Jesus's disciples. We—the church—are the agents of Jesus's rule, one baptism at a time as we teach people to be disciples of Jesus like us. If you're like me that task seems too big, too high, and too holy. Hence the promise that Jesus is with us until the end of the age. We have all of the divine resources at our disposal, we do not need to fear anything.

Prayer

Lord, you have given us your authority to teach, to make, and to baptize, give to us the will and the desire to do those things. Overcome our fears we pray by reminding us of your presence and your resurrection power that is at work in us. Amen.