

Dear Friends in Christ:

Easter is important. The Resurrection of Jesus is first and foremost an act of God. We are often wont to think of an act of God as a negative thing—something our house insurance or car insurance does not have to pay for. Something that is totally unexpected and therefore not covered by our earthly schemes we set up to protect ourselves.

There is no protection from death. We can stave it off and try to avoid it, but eventually it becomes the final “No!” regarding our earthly lives and plans and hopes and goals and ambitions.

We could certainly call death an “act of God” and many have, but Paul tells us that the final enemy to be destroyed is death. Apparently death sometimes overreaches and attempts to become the “No!” regarding God’s plans and hopes and goals and ambitions. This is precisely what happened on Good Friday. When something like this happens, God is free to revoke death’s power and cancel death’s claims. “O death, where is thy victory; O death, where is thy sting?”

This is what happened on Easter. God revoked death’s power. It is good news for Jesus, the bringer of the Kingdom of God, and good news for the final future of creation. In the end, God wins. What makes it good news for you and for me who still have death in front of us, is that Jesus has promised to share his resurrection life with his church and therefore with us.

That promise comes to us in Holy Baptism, in the preached Word, and in Holy Communion. We as church exist because of that promise. You and I have a future beyond death because of that promise.

Yours in Christ,

John Shepherd McKenzie