

**Gran-Park-Rollag Parish and Living Grace Lutheran Church**  
*In ministry partnership since 2017*

**Gran-Park-Rollag Parish**

3 Churches – 1 Ministry: Energized by God  
To celebrate, share & show God's love  
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**Living Grace Lutheran Church**

A worshipping community of the ELCA focused on  
making known God's love and grace by:  
*Welcoming Everyone, Sharing Jesus' story,  
Growing in faith and Serving beyond ourselves.*  
Pastor Hope Deutscher  
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Worships at The Garrick Theater,  
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**Sunday, January 3, 2021**

**First Sunday of Christmas – Virtual Holy Communion Worship Service**  
**Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher, Pr. Jim Greene, and Andrea Keene**  
**Music Provided by: Pam Aakre, Piano; Sam Helgeson, Trumpet;**  
**and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute**

*Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.*

**Happening This Week:**

**Monday, January 4:** 7 PM Women's Book Study (on Zoom) - *It's Not Supposed to be This Way: Finding Unexpected Strength When Disappointments leave you shattered* by Lysa Terkeurst

**Wednesday, January 6:** 9 AM Staff Meeting; 10 AM Ephesians Bible Study (Zoom); 6:30 PM Confirmation (Zoom)

**Welcome/Announcements**

- Welcome to worship for the GPR Parish and Living Grace Lutheran. Today, we come to you from a variety of locations.
- We invite you to subscribe to our YouTube channel – Rollag Lutheran Church.
- Pastoral Care: Pastor Jim Greene and Pastor Hope Deutscher are available for pastoral care. If you or a loved one are hospitalized or ill, we would love to be caring for you. Please call or email us at the numbers above. Andrea Keene is also available to talk to youth.
- **SMART Team/Worshipping Update:** With increasing numbers and guidance from the state, at this time we are doing creative worship services. Our Councils and Smart Team are working together to keep us safe, watching the guidelines and numbers to prepare safe ways for us to be together when and how it is safe to do so.
- **Bible and Book Studies:**
  - *Wednesdays at 10 AM: Bible Study (Studying Ephesians)*

- *First and Third Mondays @ 7 pm (Next one January 4) Women's Book Study: It's Not Supposed to be This Way: Finding Unexpected Strength When Disappointments leave you shattered by Lysa Terkeurst. Contact Pr. Hope for Zoom log-in details!*
- Please watch for the next GPR newsletter for updates on worship, Annual meetings, and a variety of programs (and not all of them will be on Zoom) coming up to help us in our Spiritual Journey as we leave 2020 behind and enter into 2021!
- **Notes about today's service:**
  - *A Large print bulletin is available on our websites for you to use during worship.*
  - *During our service, we have the following supplies reading:*
    - *Bread/crackers and wine/juice available for partaking in Virtual Holy Communion.*
  - *Music provided by Pam Aakre and Pr. Hope Deutscher, and Sam Helgeson.*
  - *We are grateful for youth and their participation in our service. Andrea will have a children's sermon.*

**Prelude: *Once in Royal David's City***

**Pam Aakre, Piano**

**Welcome (HOPE)**

**Confession & Forgiveness**

As we come together, we sing praises to God, who gathers us as one.

With a word of promise, a spring of water, a loaf of bread, and a cup of wine,

God turns our mourning into dancing and our sorrow into joy.

Through Baptism, God's gift of grace is lavished on us – poured out like water – through the life and death of the risen Lord. Trusting in the love of God, let us confess our sin.

**Prayer of Confession:**

**Holy God, you have given us everything; we have failed to respond with gratitude.**

**In Jesus Christ, you have given us your Word;**

**we answer with empty promises and lies.**

**In Jesus Christ, you have given us your light; we try to hide ourselves from your glory.**

**In Jesus Christ, you have given us your life;**

**even this precious gift we have not received.**

**Have mercy on us, O God; forgive us.**

**In Jesus Christ, give us the faith and power to become what you created us to be:**

**beloved children, full of grace and truth. Amen.**

**Forgiveness (*Water is lifted up from the fount*)**

This is God's promise: through Baptism we have received this sign and seal of your redemption; You have been called by God, claimed in Christ, set free through the Spirit. Believe this good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

**Hymn: Let All Together Praise Our God (ELW #287)**

***Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute***

**Verse 1:** *Let all together praise our God before the highest throne;  
today God opens heav'n again and sends the only Son,  
and sends the only Son.*

**Verse 3:** *O tender Child, you veil in flesh the splendor of your might;  
A servant's garb now wraps the one who clothed the sky with light,*

*Who clothed the sky with light.*

**Verse 4:** *Your mother feeds you tenderly, sings a lullaby, while angels, hailing David's heir, your glory magnify, your glory magnify.*

## **Children's Message**

**Andrea Keene, GPR Youth Director**

### **Scripture: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup>**Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."** <sup>11</sup>For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

**Message: Pr. Jim Greene**

Contact Pastor Jim at [revjamesgreene18@yahoo.com](mailto:revjamesgreene18@yahoo.com). if you want a transcript of this sermon.

### **Virtual Communion**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in the remembrance of me.

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Hymn: *What Feast of Love* (ELW 487 / WOV 701 )**

**Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute**

**Verse 2:** *What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?  
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!*

### **Gospel: John 1:1-18**

[<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the

light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**Message: Pr. Hope Deutscher**

Contact Pr. Hope Deutscher at [hdeutscher@gmail.com](mailto:hdeutscher@gmail.com) if you would like a transcript of the sermon.

## **NEW YEAR BUMPER**

**Receiving of Offering - *With thanksgiving, let us offer our lives to God, the giver of life.***

*Offering Prayer:* Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

*Thank you for remembering the importance of continuing to Tithe your financial gifts. You can mail your offering to your church or give through [Tithe.ly](http://Tithe.ly) online (mobile and online option) or by mail. Visit [livinggracehawley.org](http://livinggracehawley.org) or [gprparish.org](http://gprparish.org) for specific information.*

## **Prayers**

In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. You have always been with us and you have seen everything and have promised to help us walk into and through whatever we need to face. Gracious God, may we remember all you have done as we hold onto your hand moving forward. We look forward to and pray 2021 will be filled with the freedom of connecting with you and others that we didn't have in 2020. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

As the word who was also with God from the beginning, Lord Jesus, may we hold your hand as you guide us through every grief, temptation, and fear. Open our eyes to the millions of blessings, big and small, that are in front of us each day. Instruct us on how to trust in God's helpful and healing presence through the middle of our every experience. Let us touch the holes in your hands and feet and to see where the spear split your side as we remember you to know what it's like to suffer and still move forward. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Comforting Holy Spirit, thank you for using Jeremiah to cry out to the people of Israel that God will gather them and shepherd them along nurturing waters and straight pathways until we are ALL back together again. Heal our divisions through helpful discussions in which

everyone gets heard. May we drop our sarcasm and hatred as we remember no one is on the outside in your eyes. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Blessed Trinity, there is much we don't understand, yet, we have you to thank for your never failing love which sustains us through floods, pandemics, and every grief and loss we can experience. Help us to keep it simple as we remember your ability to gather us together and to help us pray:

### **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory. Forever and ever. Amen.

### **Benediction**

May we be filled with the wonder of Mary; the obedience of Joseph; the joy of the angels; the eagerness of the shepherds; the determination of the Magi and the peace of the Christ Child. May God our Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter bless us with light, warmth, and grace now and forever, Amen!

### **Hymn: Go Tell It On The Mountain (ELW 290 / LBW 70)**

**Pam Aakre, Piano; Sam Helgeson, Trumpet**

**Refrain:**     *Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'ry-where;  
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!*

**Verse 1:**     *While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.* REFRAIN

**Verse 2:**     *The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth.* REFRAIN

**Verse 3:**     *Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.* REFRAIN