

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.*
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Worships at The Garrick Theater,
[509 Front Street, Hawley, MN 56549](http://www.garricktheater.com)

Sunday, January 24, 2021

Third Sunday after Epiphany Virtual Holy Communion Worship Service

Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher and Pr. Jim Greene

Music Provided by: Pam Aakre, and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

All Stories of the call to discipleship continue as the Time after Epiphany plays out the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world.

Happening This Week:

Sunday, January 24: Online Worship available at 7 a.m.; 9:30 AM In-Person Worship at Rollag; 11 AM Park Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 27: 9 AM Staff Meeting; 10 AM Ephesians Bible Study; 6:30 PM Confirmation (In-Person and Online)

Sunday, January 31: Online Worship available at 7 a.m.; 9:30 AM In-Person Worship at Rollag; Gran Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 7: Rollag Annual Meeting

Prelude: *Amazing Grace* *Pam Aakre, Piano*

Welcome/Announcements

- Welcome to worship for the GPR Parish and Living Grace Lutheran.
- 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.
- **Bible and Book Studies:**
 - *Wednesdays at 10 AM: Bible Study (Studying Ephesians)*
 - *First and Third Mondays @ 7 pm (February 1 and 15) 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!*
- **Annual meetings:**
 - Park: January 24 – Contact Council President for details.
 - Gran: January 31 – Contact Council President for details.
 - Rollag: February 7 – In-person and viewing online. See www.gprparish.org for details.
 - Living Grace: January 6 @ 9 AM (on Zoom)

- **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.*
- *We are grateful for youth and their participation in our service. In a few minutes we'll have a children's message.*

NOISY OFFERING – REACH FOOD PANTRY VIDEO

Hymn: Listen, God is Calling (ELW 513 / WOV 712)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute; Sam Helgeson, Shaker

Refrain: *Lis-ten, lis-ten, God is call-ing, through the Word in-vit-ing,
Of-fer-ing for-give-ness, com-fort, and joy.*

Verse 1: *Je-sus gave his man-date: share the good news
That he came to save us and set us free. REFRAIN*

Verse 2: *Let none be for-got-ten through-out the world,
In the tri-une name of God go and bap-tize. REFRAIN*

Verse 3: *Help us to be faith-ful, stand-ing stead-fast,
Walk-ing in your pre-cepts, led by your Word. REFRAIN*

Prayer of the Day (Written by Working Preacher, Luther Seminary)

God of the seas, sky, and land, When Jonah turned to run from you, you showed him that nothing and no one could hide from your presence. You are in all things, and you love all things. Show us the gift of your presence, and help us to carry your word of compassion and grace to all the world, in the name of the one who carried out your love flawlessly, Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr. Jim Greene

Scripture: Jonah 1 - Jonah Tries to Run from God

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, ²“Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.” ³But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

⁴But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. ⁶The captain came and said to him, “What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.”

⁷The sailors said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸Then they said to him, “Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” ⁹“I am a Hebrew,” he replied. “I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” ¹⁰Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them so.

¹¹Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. ¹²He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you." ¹³Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. ¹⁴Then they cried out to the LORD, "Please, O LORD, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man's life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you." ¹⁵So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶Then the men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

¹⁷But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Mediation on Chapter 1: Pr. Jim Greene

Contact Pastor Jim at revjamesgreene18@yahoo.com. if you want a transcript of this sermon.

Jonah Chapter 2: Jonah's Prayer of Thanksgiving

¹Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, ²saying, "I called to the LORD out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

³**You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.**

⁴Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; how shall I look again upon your holy temple?'

⁵**The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped around my head ⁶at the roots of the mountains.**

I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O LORD my God.

⁷**As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the LORD; and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.**

⁸Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty.

⁹**But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the LORD!"**

¹⁰Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it spewed Jonah out upon the dry land.

Meditation on Chapter 2: Pr. Hope Deutscher

Contact Pr. Hope Deutscher at hdeutscher@gmail.com if you would like a transcript of the sermon.

Hymn of the Month: At the Name of Jesus

Verse 3: *In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue all that is not holy,
all that is not true. Crown him as your captain in temptation's hour;
let his will enfold you in its light and pow'r.*

Prayer of Confession (Inspired by Jonah 3:1-10)

(Written by the Rev. Madison Shockley, pastor of Pilgrim United Church in Carlsbad, CA, in *Reluctant Evangelists: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany.*)

Holy One, what a blessing and privilege we share here in this sacred space and among this loving community. But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share

here. We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience.

Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors, open our hearts to others; some like us, some not. We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies for fear they just might become friends. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The one who calls us to this place calls us to reconciliation through grace. God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit. Know that you are forgiven and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's love. **Amen**

Scripture: Jonah 3 - Conversion of Ninevah

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

⁶When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Mediation on Chapter 3: Pr. Jim Greene

Contact Pastor Jim at revjamesgreene18@yahoo.com. if you want a transcript of this sermon.

Scripture: Jonah Chapter 4 - Jonah's Anger at the Lord's Compassion

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

Jonah Is Reproved

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which

you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Meditation on Chapter 4: Pr. Hope Deutscher

Contact Pr. Hope Deutscher at hdeutscher@gmail.com if you would like a transcript of the 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.

Offering

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 online (mobile and online option) or by mail. Visit livinggracehawley.org or gprparish.org for specific information.

January Noisy Offering: REACH Food Pantry

*Send checks or drop off money at Rollag Lutheran:
10501 Hwy 32 South Hawley MN 56549*

Prayers: (Based on the 4 Chapters of Jonah)

God, you talk to us through scripture, nature, music, meditation, and through our struggles, our successes, and the quiet times of our lives. Help us to be open to your voice and to go where you point and to do what you ask. Remind us when we run FROM you we end up with more problems. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Jesus, as Jonah prayed to you from the belly of the whale, help us to remember to pray from the belly of whatever feels like it's swallowed us. Whether it be grief, guilt, shame, anger, fear, hatred, aggression, or anything which seems to diminish us or others. Help us through prayer to break out and to find the freedom to love, forgive, and help one another.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Holy Spirit, as Jonah marched into Nineveh and spoke the shortest sermon on record, help us to trust you don't expect us to carry the weight of the world on our shoulders. May we learn to be faithful in what we're asked to do- knowing with all our hearts you will take care of the rest. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Gracious God, we heard how Jonah run from you, got swallowed by a whale and prayed for deliverance; went to Nineveh and with your help, saved a community, and then got mad at you for loving all people. Each chapter from this amazing book invites us to look at ourselves and to step back and learn from our mistakes and successes. Help us God, to see your love is for all people as we remember how we are taught to 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 the Lord bless and keep us so we can better hear the call of God,
May the Lord's face shine upon us and bring us the grace to know we need never be trapped by any doubt or fear.
May the Lord be look upon us and give us peace especially as we don't know how things will turn out- yet trusting God will bring good to us all.
May we know this is true by the name of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter. Amen

Hymn: Alleluia, Song of Gladness ELW 318

Verse 1: *Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die;*

*Alleluia, is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high;
In the house of God abiding thus they sing eternally.*

Verse 2: *Alleluia, you are sounding, true Jerusalem and free;*

*alleluia, joyful mother, bring us to your jubilee;
here by Babylon's sad waters mourning exiles still are we.*