

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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Sunday, March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday Holy Communion Worship Service
Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher and Pr. Jim Greene
Music Provided by: Pam Aakre and Pr. Hope Deutscher

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

Welcome/Announcements

- Welcome to worship for the GPR Parish and Living Grace Lutheran.
- *A Large print bulletin is available on our websites for you to use during worship.*
- We invite you to subscribe to our YouTube channel – Rollag Lutheran Church.
- *During our service, we have the following supplies reading:*
 - *Bread/crackers and wine/juice available for partaking in Virtual Holy Communion. We have communion kits available if you would like them, they have been blessed by the pastors.*

Happening This Week:

Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday: Online Worship Service Available; 9:30 AM Rollag In-Person worship; 9:30 AM Gran; 11 AM Park

Monday, March 29: 7 PM Women's Book Study (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 24: 9 AM Staff Meeting; 10 AM Lent Theme Bible Study (Zoom)

Thursday, April 1: 7 PM Maundy Thursday Worship Service (Online and In-Person at Rollag)

Sunday, April 4, Easter: Online Worship Service Available; 9:30 AM Rollag In-Person Worship; 8 AM Gran; 9:30 AM Park

Monday, April 5: 7 PM Women's Easter Bible Study – ALL are welcome! Pr. Hope can send you the Zoom link.

Tuesday, April 6: 7 PM Youth and Education Committee

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 Lent Theme)
- 7 PM Monday, March 29: 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!
- 7 PM Monday, April 5: Women's Bible Study – The Easter Story
- 7 PM Monday, April 12: Paul Tillich Bible Study

Sunday School: Is not being held in person but we do offer online Sunday School through videos and activities. Check out the GPR Children, Youth and family Facebook page. We are looking for volunteers to help us. Please call the pastors if you are interested in helping!

Prelude: *The Gates of Jerusalem*

Pam Aakre, Piano

Welcome

Processional Gospel: John 12:12-16

¹²[Five days before the Passover] the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord – the King of Israel!"

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: ¹⁵"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

Hymn: *All Glory, Laud and Honor* (ELW 344 / LBW 108)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Refrain: *All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

Verse 1: *You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One.*

Verse 3: *The multitude of pilgrims with psalms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.*

Verse 4: *To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.*

Confession and Forgiveness

Cheering and dancing and waving Palm branches, we welcome you Jesus into our lives when things are going well. We get all excited and tell everyone what a blessing and gift you are. But, how do we look at you when times are tough? When people frustrate and anger us? When life doesn't go our way? Do we even notice you when life is boring? When life feels like it has no meaning? When we're down and out? We come to you Jesus and ask for your help as we confess our need for your daily help.

Jesus, help us not to be Palm Sunday followers of you. May we remember to connect with you in our excitable times; in our lowest of the low times; and through our in between times. We confess we can be selfish and self-centered; spiteful; and

disconnected from you and others. Help us to notice you all throughout our day. Guide us to be open to your wisdom. Remind us to follow your example of walking hand in hand with God. Cleanse and forgive us all our sins.

Children of God, we have been Palm Sunday followers- cheering in the good times. We have been Good Friday accusers- screaming at God. May we learn to be Easter People, aware Jesus has suffered, died, and rose again for us. May our hearts become a welcome place for Jesus to sit and teach, encourage, and bring us wisdom. May we live as forgiven people.

Children's Message

Pastor Jim Greene

Gospel: Mark 11:1-10

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Message: Pr. Jim Greene

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

Hymn of Month: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (ELW #712)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need.
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed;
We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;
Consecrating to your purpose ev-'ry gift which you impart.*

Verse 2: *Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
By your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.*

Verse 3: *As we worship, grant us vision, till our love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear.
Stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.*

Scripture: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Message: *The Word of God Sends Us*

Pr. Hope Deutscher

Contact Pastor Hope at hdeutscher@gmail.com if you would like a transcript of this sermon.

Virtual Holy 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.

Prayers

We cry to you for help, O God, praying for the church, the world, and all those who are in need.

Almighty God, we pray for all Christians who today raise palms and sing Hosanna to the King! as we journey with your Son in this week of remembrance and hope, help us to understand you and your love for the world more clearly. Transform us by the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and prepare us for service in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace and justice, guide leaders of nations and tribes around the world that all who govern that their minds be open to your wisdom. We pray that all who govern will bring fair and equal justice so that all people may be able to live in a safe place, free from violence and oppression. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of steadfast love, we pray for our brothers and sisters who are hungry, homeless and have unmet needs in our community. Just as God loves everyone without condition and yearns for us to love the neighbor, we pray that we may follow in his stead. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit. We especially pray for, We pray that all of them may know your presence is near and that you are our rock and Redeemer. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we thank you for all the saints who cried Hosanna to the Lord in life and now rest in the assurance of everlasting life with you. Bless us with their memory, and sustain us by your Word. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Now is the acceptable time to offer our prayers to you, God of grace and truth. Receive them in your mercy, and grant us all that we need, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

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.

Offering

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 online (mobile and online option) or by mail. Visit livinggracehawley.org or gprparish.org for specific information.

Benediction

*Let us stay with the Hosannas for a while;
let us let them keep on ringing in our ears Hosanna!
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed is the one who sends us out – created in God's image,
called to live a Christ-like life and
sustained by the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Go in peace – as we celebrate, share, show and grow in God's love! Amen.

Hymn: Crown Him With Many Crowns (ELW #855 / LBW #170)

Pam Aakre, Piano and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *Crown him with man-y crowns, the Lamb up-on his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all mu-sic but its own.
A-wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy match-less king through all eternity.*

Verse 4: *Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.*