

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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PO Box 477, Hawley, MN 56549
Worships at The Garrick Theater,
509 Front Street, Hawley, MN 56549

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter Holy Communion Worship Service

Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher and Pr. Jim Greene

**Music Provided by: Pam Aakre, Piano; and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute
with special music from the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians
singing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"**

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

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.
 - Bowl of Water: We are celebrating our Baptism during worship; we invite you to have a bowl of water nearby during worship.

Happening This Week:

Sunday, April 11: Online Worship Service Available; 9:30 AM Rollag In-Person Worship; 9:30 AM Park In-Person; 11 AM Gran In-Person Worship

Monday, April 12: 7 PM Paul Tillich Bible Study

Tuesday, April 13: 6 PM Worship and Music Committee

Wednesday, April 14: 9 AM Staff Meeting; 10 AM Bible Study (Zoom); 3-7 PM Confirmands making stoles; 7 PM Living Grace Leadership Meeting

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*
- *7 PM Monday, April 12: Paul Tillich Bible Study*
- *7 PM Monday, April 19: Women's Book Study – "The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi" by Kathie Lee Gifford*

Sunday School: Is being offered online. Weekly we provide 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: *Christ Arose*

Pam Aakre, Piano

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

As Easter people, we remember a promise made over us and by us during the Baptismal Service that we will "Live among God's Faithful People". While none of us are perfect, with God's help we provide help and encouragement to each other as we work together recalling our Baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams which revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy, forgiveness, and courage. Send us companions on our journey as we share this life.

Make us one, risen Jesus, Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be give all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn: *Christ is Risen! Alleluia!* (ELW #382)

Pam Aakre, Piano and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!
Gratefully our hearts adore him as his light once more appears;
Bowing down in joy before him, rising up from griefs and tears.*

Refrain: *Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head! Sing his praises!
Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!*

Children's Message

Pr. Jim Greene

Gospel: John 20:19-22

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples AND (add your name here) had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Message

Pr. Jim Greene

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

Hymn of the Month: *We Walk By Faith* (ELW 635)

Pam Aakre, Piano and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

- Verse 1:** We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, Who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
- Verse 2:** We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
- Verse 3:** *Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found.*
- Verse 4:** *That, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.*

Gospel: John 20:24-29

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Message

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.

Offering

Holy God, we give you thanks and praise for light and life and love, and—above all—the presence of the living Lord among us. By your Spirit who breathes within us, strengthen our faith, use our gifts, and work in our lives to bear witness to the resurrection of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. **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.

Special Music: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today!*

Kevin J. Hildebrand, Hymn Setting Arrangement

1,784 Vocal and Instrumental participants, Lutheran Association of Church Musicians

Prayers

Wise and wonderful God, you are able to see clearly what we need long before we know what is lacking in our lives. At our Birth you provide all we need to be helpful to one another. Teach us how to give and receive. Open our eyes to see past the masks we too often wear. Show us the freedom which comes from loving and trusting you. Remind us you are always living in our heart and soul, to provide strength to have healthy and helpful thoughts, words, and actions. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Risen and life breathing Jesus, your life showed us how prayer and scripture provide a rock solid foundation to build our lives upon. Your suffering and death showed us you understand our struggles and pain and didn't like them any more than we do. Your resurrection reminds us how loving and serving needs to be more energetically lived out towards all people. Guide us to follow your example and to trust your help. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Holy Spirit, you are the breath of fresh air Jesus promised to us. May we breathe you in as you give us the vision to see the good in the world and the vigor to confront and defeat the sin in the world. Fill our Spiritual lungs with your prayers, wisdom, and grace as we work together as your family. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

People of God, we are called in our Baptism to live among God's faithful people. Even though not everyone acts like we're all part of God's family, may we do our part of be helpful as we receive the peace you offer us through the prayer Jesus taught us 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

As we move through the transitions from birth to death, may we know we never have to be afraid of God. May God be our trusted guide; Jesus be our helpful example; and the Holy Spirit be an inspiring Counselor as we learn to:

Go in Peace and Serve the Lord **As we Celebrate, Share, and Show God's Love**

Hymn: *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* (ELW #367 / LBW #143)

Pam Aakre, Piano and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Verse 3: *Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through your triumph; grant grace sufficient for life's day
that by our lives we truly say: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*