

**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 25, 2021**

**Fourth 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**

*The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling 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 25:** Online Worship Service Available; 9:30 AM Rollag In-Person Worship/Clean Up Sunday; 9:30 AM Park In-Person; 11 AM Gran In-Person Worship

**Monday, April 26:** 7 PM Paul Tillich Book Study

**Wednesday, April 28:** 9 AM Staff Meeting; 10 AM Bible Study

**Thursday, April 29:** 7 PM GPR Parish Council Meeting

**Sunday, May 2 - Confirmation Sunday:** Online Worship Service Available; 9:30 AM Rollag In-Person Worship; 8 Gran In-Person; 11 AM Park In-Person Worship

**Monday, May 3:** 7 PM Women's Book Study – *The Rock, The Road and The Rabbi* (Zoom)

**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 (In-Person at Rollag with Zoom option upon request)*
- *7 PM Monday, April 26: Paul Tillich Bible Study*
- *7 PM Monday, May 3: 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.

**Prelude: *Safe in the Arms of Jesus* Pam Aakre, Piano**

## **Welcome**

### **Affirmation of Baptism**

As people who believe in the resurrection, we remember a promise made over us and by us during the Baptismal Service that we will "Proclaim and live out the good news of Christ in word and deed". By living in this way we deepen our connection with God and each other. We thank you, risen Christ, for the example you gave us which gives water the power to name us, claim us, and make us whole.

**We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of baptism, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams which revive our souls, like healing words of forgiveness.**

May we hear your word and know we are your children now. May we hear your word and know you suffered, died, and rose again to give us life. May we hear your word and live a meaningful life.

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

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

### **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.*

### **Psalm 23 – Lay Reader Craig Larson**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## Children's Message

Pr. Hope Deutscher

### Scripture: John 3:16 then 1 John 3:16-24

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him

<sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

## Message

Pr. Jim Greene

Contact Pastor Jim at [revjamesgreene18@yahoo.com](mailto:revjamesgreene18@yahoo.com). if you want 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.

## Hymn or Special Music: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (ELW 789 / LBW 481)

Pam Aakre, Piano and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

**Verse 1:** *Savior like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.  
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.*

**Verse 4:** *Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will;  
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.*

## **Gospel: John 10:11-18**

<sup>11</sup>“**I am the good shepherd.** The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>**I am the good shepherd.** I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

## **Message Pr. Hope Deutscher**

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

## **Offering**

With love for God and neighbor, let us offer our lives to the Lord. Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have shown us the meaning of love through Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us. Show us how to share Christ's love by giving our lives for one another. 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 [qprparish.org](http://qprparish.org) for specific information.*

## **Prayers**

Gracious God, you created us out of dust and you provide the good soil of relationships in which we can produce helpful actions for the benefit of all. Help us to remember you created us with many gifts, talents, and abilities to be of help to one another. May “WE” learn to connect to you through prayer, meditation, nature, scripture, worship, silence and any other creative way which makes sense to us. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Jesus, as the good shepherd, you laid down your life for us. You were willing to do whatever it took to help us- even if it meant giving your life for us. Your example shows us not to be martyrs, rather to be servants of God willing to be of help to anyone in need. Help us to love in truth and action and to learn from what we do and don't do.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Counseling Holy Spirit, you live inside our minds to coach our beliefs and attitudes in ways which are helpful and kind. You work inside our heart and soul to remind us of God's deep and abiding love for us to give us courage. You work inside our strengths to see the needs in the world around us and to help as best we can. You remind us daily our help is always needed. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

WE have been created by a loving God; WE have been shown how to serve by a loving Savior; WE have access to a loving Counselor. May we love one another in truth and action as we remember how 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/Dismissal**

As we move through life, may we live with the assurance of God's love; the encouragement of Jesus' abiding presence; and with the wisdom which comes through the Holy Spirit's prayers in order to: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

**As we Celebrate, Share, and Show God's Love.**

**Hymn: *Thine the Amen!* (ELW 826 /WOV 801)**

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

**Verse 1:**     *Thine the amen thine the praise alleluias angels raise  
Thine the everlasting head thine the breaking of the bread  
Thine the glory thine the story thine the har-vest then the cup  
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.*

**Verse 3:**     *Thine the truly thine the yes thine the table we the guest  
Thine the mercy all from thee thine the glory yet to be  
Then the ringing and the singing then the end of all the war  
Thine the living thine the loving evermore ever more.*