

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, April 25, 2021

Affirmation of Baptism Sunday

Fifth 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

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, May 2 - Confirmation Sunday: 7 AM Online Worship Service Available;
8 AM Park In-Person Worship; 9:30 AM Rollag In-Person Worship; 11 AM Gran In-Person
Worship

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

Wednesday, May 5: 10 AM Bible Study; 11 AM Staff Meeting; 7 PM Youth and Education
Committee

Thursday, May 6: 7 PM Living Grace Zoom Fellowship Gathering

Next Sunday: May 9 – Mother's Day: 7 AM Online Worship Service Available;
9:30 AM Gran and Rollag In-Person Worship; 11 AM Park In-Person Worship

Help us celebrate Mothers! Please send a photo of your mother (you can be in it) to Pr.
Hope by May 3rd. We are creating a special video that will be used in our worship service next
week.

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 – We'll begin studying the Gospel of John this week (In-Person at Rollag with Zoom option upon request)*
- *7 PM Monday, May 3: Women's Book Study – "The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi" by Kathie Lee Gifford*
- *7 PM Monday, May 10: Paul Tillich Bible Study*

Sunday School: Is being offered online. Weekly we provide videos and activities. Check out the GPR Children, Youth and family Facebook page.

Prelude: *Take My Life and Let it Be* Pam Aakre, Piano

Welcome

Opening/Affirmation of Baptism

We give thanks for Megan, Carli, Alex, David and Austin, who are celebrating the Affirmation of their Baptism today. This is a culmination of many years of learning and living one's faith, but it's also the beginning of living out their faith as an adult disciple in the church. Today is not a graduation for them – but a stepping stone to deepening and enriching their relationship with God, which began the day they were born and then in their baptism. As people who believe in the resurrection, we join with these young people in affirming our Baptism – called to love one another as God loves us! By living in this way we deepen our connection with God and each other. Thank you Jesus for the sacrifice you made for us which gave water the power to name us, claim us, and make us whole.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Friends in Christ - You have made public profession of your faith.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Together – across the Internet and in our worship spaces we affirm our baptism by answering: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray, We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn: *Borning Cry* (ELW 732 / WOV 770)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."*

Verse 2: *"When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."*

Verse 3: *"In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise."*

Verse 4: *"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."*

Children's Message

Pr. Hope Deutscher

Scripture: Acts 8:26-31, 35-39

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ...

³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

Message Pr. Hope Deutscher

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

Hymn of the Month: Love Divine, All Love Excelling (ELW 631 / LBW 315)

Pam Aakre, Piano and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter ev-'ry trembling heart.*

Verse 2: *Breathe, oh breath thy loving Spirit into ev-'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith,
as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

1 John 4: 7-11; 18 - 21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. . . ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Message Pr. Jim Greene

Contact Pastor Jim at 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.

Confirmation Video

Music: Be Thou My Vision Pam Aakre, Piano

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.

Prayers

Loving God, you created each and everyone of us in love as a kickstart to get us to love as we have been loved. We thank you for how, at our Baptism, you blessed us with parents and

sponsors who promised to teach us how to love. Today, Carli, Megan, Alex, David, & Austin are confirming that they want to be active to learning how to love as they have been loved. Bless them and all of us to see and know your love is personal, challenging and is what helps us to be better people. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Jesus, you showed us how loving one another as God loves us involves sacrifices. Perfect love helps us to work through our fears and to live in such a way that could even lead to giving up our lives. While it's not likely for us to have to die, help us to know the importance of truly giving of ourselves to those around us in all we think, say, and do. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Creative Holy Spirit, just as you moved Philip to be of help to the Ethiopian man in the reading from Acts, move in us so we might see the opportunities we have to encourage others. Guide us to know we all have much we can do to be of help to others in real and transformative ways. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

WE have been created by a loving God; WE have been called to be involved personally with each other in ways which challenge us and encourage others. Guide us Lord as we pray together:

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 so we will: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord: **As we Celebrate, Share, & Show God's Love.**

Hymn: *Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus* (ELW 802 / LBW 487)

Pam Aakre, Piano, Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, trav-lers here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Savior's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.*

Verse 4: *Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
that to life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head,
we are your own living members; where you live, there we shall be
in your presence constantly, living there with you forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be; life eternal grant to me.*