

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, August 22, 2021 **Holy Communion Worship Service** **"What Can We Learn from God's Creation?"**

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.

Happening This Week:

TODAY, Sunday, August 22: 7 AM Online Worship Service Available; 9:30 AM GPR Parish Worship Service (Outdoor, weather pending)
Monday, August 23: 7 PM Paul Tillich Book Study
Tuesday, August 24: 7 PM Living Grace In-Person Worship
Wednesday, August 25: 10 AM Bible Study; 11 AM Staff Meeting
Next Sunday, August 29: 7 AM Online Worship Service Available; 8 AM Gran; 9:30 AM Rollag; 11 AM Park

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 – Gospel of John (In-Person at Rollag with Zoom option upon request)
- 7 PM Monday, August 23: Paul Tillich Bible Study
- 7 PM Monday, September 20: Women's Book Study – "The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi" by Kathie Lee Gifford

Sign up to Help at Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion!

We need volunteers to help make food or serve food at Rollag's Food Booth at WMSTR (Sept 3-6)! Sign up today ONLINE – visit www.gprparish.org/wmstr/

Prelude: *Let All Things Now Living*

Pam Aakre, Piano

Welcome

Innovation

We gather as we live, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. + Amen.

Call to Worship (Daniel 3:74-82, 89 - New Jerusalem Bible)

Let the earth bless the Lord: praise and glorify him forever!

Bless the Lord, mountains and hills, praise and glorify him forever!

Bless the Lord, every plant that grows, praise and glorify him forever!

Bless the Lord, springs of water, praise and glorify him forever!

Bless the Lord, seas and rivers, praise and glorify him forever!

Bless the Lord, whales, and everything that moves in the waters, praise and glorify him forever!

Bless the Lord, every kind of bird, praise and glorify him forever!

Bless the Lord, all animals wild and tame, praise and glorify him forever!

Bless the Lord, all the human race: praise and glorify him forever!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his love is everlasting.

Opening Prayer

Creator of heaven and earth, your hands are open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: humans and all living beings that inhabit the earth – cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, chickens and domestic cats and dogs...even flies and mosquitoes. We give you thanks for breathing life into each of us and providing for our daily needs and being called as stewards of your vast creation. Amen.

Hymn: *For The Beauty of the Earth (ELW 879/LBW 561) Vs. 1 & 4*

Pam Aakre, Piano, Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:*

Refrain: *Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.*

Verse 4: *For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild: REFRAIN*

Beginnings

Everything in creation comes from God. As stated in the Apostle's Creed: "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth."

Genesis 1:1-2:4a *The Beginning of Creation (The Message Bible)*

1¹⁻² First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.

3-5 God spoke: "Light!" And light appeared.

God saw that light was good and separated light from dark.

God named the light Day, he named the dark Night.

It was evening, it was morning—Day One.

⁶⁻⁸ God spoke: “Sky! In the middle of the waters; separate water from water!”
God made sky. He separated the water under sky from the water above sky.
And there it was: he named sky the Heavens;
It was evening, it was morning—Day Two.

⁹⁻¹⁰ God spoke: “Separate! Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into one place;
Land, appear!” And there it was. God named the land Earth.
He named the pooled water Ocean. God saw that it was good.

¹¹⁻¹³ God spoke: “Earth, green up! Grow all varieties of seed-bearing plants,
Every sort of fruit-bearing tree.” And there it was.
Earth produced green seed-bearing plants, all varieties,
And fruit-bearing trees of all sorts. God saw that it was good.
It was evening, it was morning—Day Three.

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ God spoke: “Lights! Come out! Shine in Heaven’s sky! Separate Day from Night. Mark
seasons and days and years, Lights in Heaven’s sky to give light to Earth.” And there it was.

¹⁶⁻¹⁹ God made two big lights, the larger to take charge of Day,
The smaller to be in charge of Night; and he made the stars.
God placed them in the heavenly sky to light up Earth And oversee Day and Night, to
separate light and dark. God saw that it was good.
It was evening, it was morning—Day Four.

²⁰⁻²³ God spoke: “Swarm, Ocean, with fish and all sea life!
Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!”
God created the huge whales, all the swarm of life in the waters,
And every kind and species of flying birds.
God saw that it was good.
God blessed them: “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Ocean!
Birds, reproduce on Earth!”
It was evening, it was morning—Day Five.

²⁴⁻²⁵ God spoke: “Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind: cattle and reptiles and wild
animals—all kinds.” And there it was: wild animals of every kind, Cattle of all kinds, every sort
of reptile and bug. God saw that it was good.

²⁶⁻²⁸ God spoke: “Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature
So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, And, yes,
Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.”
God created human beings; he created them godlike, Reflecting God’s nature.
He created them male and female. God blessed them: “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take
charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves
on the face of Earth.”

²⁹⁻³⁰ Then God said, “I’ve given you every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth And every kind
of fruit-bearing tree, given them to you for food.

To all animals and all birds, everything that moves and breathes,
I give whatever grows out of the ground for food.” And there it was.

³¹ God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good!
It was evening, it was morning—Day Six.

2 Heaven and Earth were finished, down to the last detail.

²⁻⁴ By the seventh day God had finished his work.

On the seventh day God rested from all his work.

God blessed the seventh day. He made it a Holy Day

Because on that day he rested from his work, all the creating God had done.

This is the story of how it all started, of Heaven and Earth when they were created.

Creation Teaches

If we look at God's creation – from the smallest forms of life to the grandest mountains – we can learn much about ourselves, the meaning and purpose of life and about God's love for all that has been created in his image.

Psalm 23 – The Divine Shepherd (NRSV)

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**

³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

Scripture: Job 12:7-10 (NRSV)

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ⁸ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

⁹Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? ¹⁰In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.

Meditation

Pastor Hope Deutscher

Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (#836 ELW / #551 LBW)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: Joy-ful, joy-ful we a-dore thee, God of glo-ry, Lord of love!
Hearts un-fold like flow'rs be-fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun-above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive the gloom of doubt a-way.
Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.

Verse 2: All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re-lect thy rays,
Stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flow'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Chant-ing bird, and flow-ing foun-tain call us to re-joice in thee.

Verse 3: Thou art giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blest,
Well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean-depth of hap-py rest!
Thou our Fa-ther, Christ our broth-er, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each oth-er, lift us to the joy di-vine!

Offering

Prayers

Creator God, We thank you for the beauty of your Creation, and for teaching us through it – we see the numbers of animals involved in your story throughout history. May we pause and take time to learn from those stories...and the importance of all creation. Thank you for giving us the privilege to care for it. We sometimes do not care for the earth with the self-sacrificing and nurturing love that you ask of us. We mourn the broken relationships in creation. Help us to nurture, tend to and respect all of creation as we care for it – and learn from it.

Faithful God, you sustain all living things with water and nutrients but also with hope through Christ who reconciled all of creation to yourself, renewing all things. On the days that we feel like we've lost hope, let us turn to you in prayer and by looking at all that you have created to be reminded of your presence.

Creator God, give us your Spirit to work together to tend to your creation. Let our care for creation be our act of worship as we come before you to pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

A Blessing based on Daniel 3:74-83

Let the earth bless the Lord: praise and glorify him forever!
Bless the Lord, mountains and hills, every plant that grows, springs of water,
Bless the Lord, seas and rivers, whales and everything that moves in the waters,
Bless the Lord, every kind of bird, all animals wild and tame, and all of human race,
Bless the Lord – praise and glorify him for ever!

May Christ open your eyes that you may see and learn from all creation.
May Christ open your ears that may hear the song of the earth.
May Christ open your heart that you may give and receive love.

May the Lord bless and keep you –
May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor – and + give you peace. Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace and share the Good News! **As we celebrate, share and show God's Love!**

Hymn: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (#ELW 733, WOV 771)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning to Thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not as though hast been though forever wilt be.*

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided – Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses
above,*

*Join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided – Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Thank you for worshipping with us!