

**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, September 27, 2020**  
**Virtual Holy Communion Worship Service**  
**And Celebrating Affirmation of Baptism**  
**Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher, Pr. Jim Greene, and Andrea Keene**  
**Music Provided by: Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute**

*Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.*

**Pre-Service Music: *They Will know we are Christians by our Love* Pam Aakre, Piano**

**Welcome/Announcements**

- *Pastoral Care: Pastor Hope Deutscher and Pastor Jim Greene 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. Andrea Keene is also available to talk to parents and youth.*
- *We have a variety of ways we are connecting with people – continuing Bible Studies and Book Studies on Zoom. Check out our Facebook page and Newsletter for details.*
  - Monday evenings (every 2 weeks): Paul Tillich Bible Study (Hosted by Joe Hass)
  - Wednesdays at 10 AM: Bible Study
  - Wednesdays at 7 PM: Women's Book Study
- *Be a subscriber to the YouTube channel – Rollag Lutheran Church – when you do, you become one of the first people to know when a worship service is available for you to watch and it also helps boost our visibility with others who may be looking for a service to watch!*
- *Clay County Public Health Flu Shot Clinic will be held October 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 – noon. There will be clear instructions on how to enter/exit building.*

- *Welcome to Living Grace! This morning we are again worshipping God from Living Grace's home in the Garrick Theater in Hawley. As a mission congregation, one of our favorite hymns is "All Are Welcome"! This morning is no different – we are glad you are here and worshipping with us.*
- *A word about our service today:*
  - *You can follow along – large print bulletins are available on our websites!*
  - *Today, we again invite you to participate in Virtual Communion. Please prepare some bread/crackers and wine/juice to share communion during today's service.*
  - *Thanks to the children for being a part of the worship service. Andrea will have a children's sermon in a few minutes.*
  - *Today we celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism – during our Outdoor Worship and also later in this service.*
  - *Thanks to Pam Aakre and Pr. Hope for providing music.*
  - *Today Pr. Hope invites you to learn "The ABC's of being a Christian."*
  - *Today Pr. Jim focuses on "The importance of observing and learning from life."*

As we light the Christ candle, let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

**(LIGHT CHRIST CANDLE)**

**HYMN – Great Is Thy Faithfulness (ELW #733, WOV #771)**

**Refrain:**     *Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!  
Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see;  
All I have need-ed thy hand have pro-vid-ed;  
Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.*

**Verse 1:**     *Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther;  
There is no shad-ow of turn-ing with thee;  
Thou chang-est not, thy com-pass-ions they fail not;  
As thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be. REFRAIN*

**Children's Message**

**Andrea Keene, GPR Youth Director**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

We are called to be imitators of Christ, but we often choose what society calls us to do, not what Christ is asking of us, or seeking us to be – loving and kind, overcoming evil. We are sinful humans and it can be challenging and hard to imitate Christ. So we come together to lay down our burdens, to confess our sins against God and our neighbor, trusting in the promise of forgiveness.

**Almighty God, we wander in the wilderness of sin. We complain in the face of your mercy. We have been selfish and conceited in the face of your sacrifice. We have not done your will. Teach us humility. Teach us gratitude. Infuse your spirit into our beings so that we might be reconciled to you. Teach us to be imitators of Christ – interceding for others, loving one another, overcoming evil, and upholding the truth as we walk with God.**

People of God, our sins are forgiven. The Lord is loving, and we are reconciled to God. Therefore, let us humble and surrender ourselves to the will of God for the glory of the Lord. God walks with us to help us imitate Christ in all we do. Amen.

**Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11 - He Took on the Status of a Slave (The Message)**

<sup>1-4</sup>If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

<sup>5-8</sup>Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human*! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

<sup>9-11</sup>Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.

**Message**

**Pr. Hope Deutscher**

*"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Cor. 1:3*

This morning we heard the song, *They will know we are Christians by our love*. The words from that song say: *We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, And we pray that our unity will one day be restored, Yeah they'll know we are Christians by our love, We will work with each other, we will work side by side, And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride, And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

They will know we are Christians by our love. We will be imitators of Christ, to live in a way that allows other people to see Christ in us. Not an imposter, but an imitator. What is an imitator? Imitators strive to live up to the challenge of being a reflection of the person they look up to.

Often, younger siblings look up to older ones – and try to walk in their footsteps. We often look up to people in the church who we consider to be great leaders, who know the Bible inside out. We then ask – do we have what it takes to be like them, no matter how hard I try? One of my favorite wall hangings is this cross. It is the ABC's of Christianity. As I read over this list...I think about how much it is about imitating Christ.

- |                                   |                               |                          |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A – Accept Christ,                | B – Believe His Word          | C – Choose Righteousness |
| D – Draw Near to God              | E – Express his Love          | F – Forgive              |
| G – Give freely                   | H – Have faith                | I – Intercede for others |
| J – Joyfully worship the Savior   | K – know God's Will           | L – Love One another     |
| M – Make disciples of all nations | N – Never Forget His promises | O – Overcome evil        |
| P – Pray continually              | Q – Quote Scripture           | R – Rejoice Daily        |

S – Sing His Praise  
V – Value your Family  
Y – Yield to Christ

T – Trust  
W – Walk with God  
Z – Zealously Seek the Lord

U – Uphold the Truth  
X – X-ray your heart, keep it pure

Sound like good ways to imitate Christ? Christ did all those – not just as an example for us...but because he LOVED us. He LOVES us. All of those ABCs of Christianity remind me of things that Christ did, or continues to do for each of us. Hmm...perhaps we can imitate Christ by doing some of these...Believe God's Word, Draw near to God, Have faith, Intercede for others, Know God's will, Quote scripture, Trust, Value your family Walk with God...and zealously Seek God...

This day, we will be affirming the baptism of: Ashton, Braxton, Bree, Carl, Carter, Christopher, Davaun, Gavin and Teague. It's an important milestone in each of these young people's life – and faith journey. To be an imitator of Christ, is to be open to God doing something unique and special in each and every one of us.

For people to know we are Christians by our love...it is a process. It is not an immediate transformation of our life and attitudes and actions but an ongoing process of change that results in our awareness of being different as a true Christ follower. The process began the day we were baptized. It is ongoing.

Today as these youth affirm what their parents and baptismal sponsors they will say yes to knowing more about Christ, to being an imitator of Christ.

Can people see Christ in you? It's an on-going life long process. I see Christ in many ways in and through us. May God continue to bless these confirmands – and you – as we are called to be imitators of Christ – and they will know we are Christians by our love. Amen.

### **Hymn of the Month – *Standing on the Promises***

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

**Verse 1:** *Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of Christ my King,  
Through e-ter-nal a-ges let his prais-es ring;  
Glo-ry in the high-est, I will shout and sing,  
Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.*

**Refrain:** *Stand-ing on the prom-is-es, stand-ing on the prom-ises,  
Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God my Sav-ior;  
Stand-ing on the prom-is-es, stand-ing on the prom-ises,  
I'm stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.*

**Verse 2:** *Stand-ing on the prom-is-es that can-not fail,  
When the howl-ing storms of doubt and fear as-sail,  
By the liv-ing Word of God I shall pre-vail,  
Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.*

### **Receiving of Offering (SLIDE)**

*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](http://livinggracehawley.org) or [gprparish.org](http://gprparish.org) for specific information.*

## **Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32**

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

## **Message**

### **Pr. Jim Greene**

One of the theories concerning the role birth order plays in personal development goes like this: The first child will act one way; the second child will act in the opposite way; the third child (who happens to be the most intelligent one of all) watches both of his/her older siblings and takes the middle path! (How many other third children are there out there? Yeah us!)

The gospel from Matthew focuses on a third child who is not listed in the reading. Jesus, after having his authority questioned and puts the chief priests and the elders in their place continues with a story- which asks a question of the third child- I'll tell you who that is in a minute!

Jesus starts a short parable with this question: "What do you think?" Jesus continues with the older two siblings- noting how the first one said "NO" (typical oldest child) but later went; how the second child said "YES" (because they have to do the opposite of the first child) but later didn't go. Then we see the reaction of the third child. "Wait, I don't see any third child in this story" you could say! The third child is YOU & ME and our response is what we learn from observing the actions of the older two!

One of the most common ways to learn is to observe the actions of others AND the responses to those actions AND by trusting our inner connection with God AND the words of scripture to help us see the better way.

Today we celebrate Confirmation or the Affirmation of Baptism of our Students. At our Baptism our parents, sponsors, and our church promises to be a helpful example to us in our life. It's not perfect, but with the help of God is guides us in a healthy way.

As we get older, the world presents another example- hopefully with the help of God, our friends and family we see the best way to go.

AND, what remains is our ability to observe the actions of others AND the responses to those actions AND by trusting our inner connection with God AND the words of scripture we seek

the best way possible. We welcome our Confirmands as we all step up and live a life guided by God.

## **VIDEO of Confirmation Students with *Borning Cry***

### **Affirmation of Baptism**

During an outdoor worship service this morning, we are walking with these young people as they make public affirmation of their Baptism: Ashton, Braxton, Bree, Carl, Carter, Christopher, Davaun, Gavin, Teague.

In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received each of us and made us members of his Church. In the community of God's people, our confirmation students have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been [nourished at his holy table and] called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, we ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises? **I do.**

Together, we ask you to join in reciting the Apostle's Creed as we ask these questions:

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, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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. Amen**

### **Prayers**

Creator God- thank you for providing us with a variety of examples of how to live and how not to live. Sometimes the negative way can become quite appealing. Remind us how you designed us in your image to be creative and helpful in our service to you, the earth, and each other. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed Jesus, you modeled for us what it was like to walk the walk which may go against the example the world provides and tries to force down our throats. In no way is life always easy- however, it is always worthwhile as we remember to observe your example and take in

the nourishment you provide through your body and blood. Guide our students as they make profession of their faith and strengthen all of us in our service to God. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Counseling Holy Spirit, as we travel through life open our eyes to observe clearly what is going on and help our internal sensors to notice what is to be trusted and what isn't to be trusted. Strengthen our faith muscles when we are unsure which way to turn. Remind us to continually take time for quiet, worship, scripture reading, prayer, time in nature, and any other way which brings us closer to you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Triune God, we pray today for our Confirmation students: for Ashton, Braxton, Bree, Carl, Carter, Christopher, Davaun, Gavin, and Teague. Just as their parents and sponsors stood up for them at their baptism's, give them the strength and courage to live out their faith as they make our world a better place to be in by their example. We pray this in your name. **Amen**

### **Affirmation of Baptism**

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 his Word and share in his supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*Each confirmand will answer: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

### **PRAYER OF BLESSING (EACH PERSON KNEELS AND RECEIVED A BLESSING)**

Let us pray, Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these men and women your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: 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; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen**

### **LAYING ON OF HANDS**

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in these young people the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm *their* faith, guide *their* lives, empower *them* in *their* serving, give *them* patience in suffering, and bring *them* to everlasting life.

### **Virtual Communion:**

The body of Christ, broken for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

### **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 live out our Baptism, may we remember how the Lord is here to bless us and keep us; the Lord is with us and makes his face to shine upon us; and how the Lord is with us to give us peace. All this we believe because of how we're marked in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Hymn - All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (ELW #634 / LBW #328)**

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

**Verse 1:**     *All hail the pow'r of Je-sus' name! Let an-gels, pros-trate fall;  
Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem and crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem and crown him Lord of all.*

**Verse 3:**     *Hail him, you heirs of Da-vid's line, whom Da-vid Lord did call –  
The God in-car-nate, man di-vine – and crown him Lord of all.  
The God in-car-nate, man di-vine – and crown him Lord of all.*

**Verse 5:**     *Let e-vry kindred, ev'ry tribe on this terrestrial hall  
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.  
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.*