

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,
509 Front Street, Hawley, MN 56549

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Virtual Holy Communion Worship Service

Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher, Pr. Jim Greene, and Andrea Keene

Music Provided by: Pam Aakre, Piano and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

Happening This Week:

Wednesday, November 25 : Due to Thanksgiving Holiday, all activities canceled – no Staff meeting, Bible study or Confirmation

Thursday, November 26: Thanksgiving Day – watch the online worship service as we give thanks for our blessings among so many unknowns.

Friday, November 27: GPR Newsletter Deadline

Welcome/Announcements

- Welcome to worship for the GPR Parish and Living Grace Lutheran. We are glad you are here as we worship from Gran Lutheran Church in rural Hawley, MN.
- We invite you to subscribe to our YouTube channel – Rollag Lutheran Church
- 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. Andrea Keene is also available to talk to parents and youth.
- **SMART Team/Worshipping Update:** Our worshipping communities are working on COVID Business Plans to reopen, when it is safe to do so, and when we are prepared to do so following MN Department of Health guidelines.
- **Clay County MN Residents Mobile Mental Health Crisis Response:** Struggling because of the Pandemic? Free walk-in mental health clinic 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Wednesdays (through December 9th). The clinic is online and also at The Village Family Service Center (815 37th Ave. South, Moorhead, MN). Screenings and referrals

available for all ages at no cost thanks to Clay County CARES Funding. For more information call The Village at 701-451-4811.

- **Bible and Book Studies:**

- *Wednesdays at 10 AM: Bible Study*
- *First and Third Mondays @ 7 pm (December 7 and 21): Women's Book Study: It's Not Supposed to be This Way: Finding Unexpected Strength When Disappointments leave you shattered by Lysa Terkeurst. Contact Pr. Hope for Zoom log-in details! We will meet the first and third Mondays via Zoom.*

- **Notes about today's service:**

- *A Large print bulletin is available on our websites for you to use during worship.*
- *During our service, we provide Virtual Holy Communion. Please have some bread/crackers and wine/juice available for partaking in communion.*
- *We are grateful for youth and their participation in our service. Andrea will have a children's sermon in a few minutes.*
- *Thanks to Pam Aakre and Pr. Hope for providing music.*

Prelude: *Rejoice the Lord is King* Pam Aakre, Piano

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

(LIGHT CHRIST CANDLE)

Hymn of the Month: *Praise and Thanksgiving* (ELW #689 / LBW #409)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pastor Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *Praise and thanks-giving, God, we would of-fer for all things liv-ing,
You have made good; har-vest of sown fields, fruits of the or-chard,
hay from the mown fields, blos-som and wood.*

Verse 4: *Then will your bless-ing reach ev-'ry peo-ple, free-ly con-fess-ing
your gra-cious hand. Where you are reign-ing, no one will hun-ger;
your love sus-tain-ing show-ers the land...*

Confession & Forgiveness

Children of the same God, we gather today on this last day of the church year to be reminded of who God is, what Jesus has sacrificed for us, and how the Holy Spirit invites us to let go of what doesn't work. May we enter this new year with the desire to build on what helps our spirits to grow. As we look back we take a moment to confess where we've fallen short and then to let it all go like dirty rags. Let us trust God will help us to grow and to live in a state of wonder and awe.

Gracious God, we bring our whole selves to you, holding nothing back, and ask for your help in learning from our mistakes- and then to let them go. We are sorry for the pain we have caused from our thoughtless words and careless actions. Forgive us for all our failings as you use us to live a more compassionate and helpful life.

Children of the same God, it is God's desire to show us a better way to live. May we use our thoughts to make plans for the benefit of all. May we use words which are helpful, kind, and necessary. May our actions instill a sense of comfort and strength to face the ups and downs of life. May we enter this new year guided by your example and filled with your wisdom.

Children's Message

Andrea Keene, GPR Youth Director

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’

⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’

⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Message

Pr. Hope Deutscher

Contact Pr. Hope Deutscher at hdeutscher@gmail.com if you would like a transcript of the sermon.

Receiving of 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.

Hymn: I Love to Tell the Story (ELW #661 / LBW #390)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
Of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
It sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.*

Refrain: *I love to tell the story; I'll sing this theme in glo - ry and tell the old,
old story of Je - sus and his love.*

Verse 3: *I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest,
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. **REFRAIN***

Scripture: Ezekiel 34:11-16; 20-24

¹¹For thus says the Lord God: I myself will **search** for my sheep, and will **seek** them out. ¹²As

shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will **rescue** them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will **bring them out** from the peoples and **gather** them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will **feed** them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall **lie down** in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice . . .

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Message

Pr. Jim Greene

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

Virtual 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.

Prayers

Creator God, whenever you seem silent may we learn to see if we're listening. Help us to turn away from distractions and to fully embrace the abilities we have to be helpful to the least, the last, and the lost- especially when it's us. Always you provide the way- help us to follow where you lead. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Lord Jesus, again you share a story meant to wake us up and to call us to live lives of healing and help. We lift up those who are struggling with grief, illness, and despair. We ask your wisdom and guidance be with all our leaders as they work to feed the hungry, to welcome the stranger, to clothe the naked, to visit the sick and imprisoned. As you were helpful, may we follow in your example. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Counseling and Comforting Holy Spirit, it has been hard feeling so isolated from each other and to have so much of life disrupted. Help us not to give into our anger; remind us to not give power to our fears; and teach us to connect more fully to you. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Triune God, help us to seek and nurture creative ways to be helpful to each other. Show us how through the willingness to sacrifice we provide life to all. Inspire us to remember we're not alone in this life's journey. Remind us to begin and end our day trusting you are always with us to help us in real and visual ways as we 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 journey through our life, may God go before us to show the way, behind us to encourage us; beside us to support us; above us to watch over us; and within us to give us the peace which the world can never give.

Hymn: Crown Him With Many Crowns (ELW #855 / LBW #170)

Pam Aakre, Piano and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

- Verse 1:** *Crown him with man-y crowns, the Lamb up-on his throne;
hark, how the heav'-n-ly anthem drowns all mu-sic but its own.
A-wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy match-less king through all e-ter-ni-ty.*
- Verse 4:** *Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave
and rose vic-to-rious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glo-ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
who died, e-ter-nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.*
- Verse 5:** *Crown him the Lord of years, the po-ten-tate of time,
cre-a-tor of the roll-ing spheres, in-ef-fab-ly sub-lime.
All hail, Re-deem-er, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glo-ry shall not fail through-out e-ter-ni-ty.*