

# Grace Lutheran Church

## Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

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May 21, 2023 - Confirmation Sunday

Welcome in Jesus' name.

We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.



Lead Pastor Lisa Meshke, [pastorlisaanne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaanne@gmail.com)  
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Parish Secretary – Sue Wiener

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

May 21, 2023

Confirmation Sunday

Prelude/Procession/Bells

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Call to Worship:**

**Logan Oeltjenbruns**

L: We gather in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

L: I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him.

**C: But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel.**

L: He has enlightened me with his gifts;

**C: He has sanctified and kept me in the one true faith.**

L: Therefore I surely ought to thank and praise Him;

**C: Surely I ought to serve and obey Him.**

**\*Hymn:**

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

ELW# 671

Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me: **Refrain**

2 As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
So our faces display your likeness,  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me: **Refrain**

“Shine, Jesus, Shine” Music by: Graham Kendrick Copyright 1987 Make Way Music  
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**\*Litany:**

**Colin Evenson**

L: Jesus Christ has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil;

**C: Not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death.**

L: All this he has done that I may be his own,

**C: That I may live in his kingdom,**

L: That I may serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

**C: Just as He is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.**

L: This is most certainly true. Let us pray:

**C: O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise:** "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" x2 ELW# 857

Lord, I lift your name on high;

Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I'm so glad you're in my life,

I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,

from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,

from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;

Lord, I lift your name on high.

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" by Rick Founds Copyright 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc.  
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**Scripture Reading:**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Kacey Fischer**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Psalm Reading:** Psalm 46 **Cameron Loe**

L: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**C: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

L: though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**C: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

L: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

**C: The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

L: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**C: Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

L: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

**C: “Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”**

L: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**Scripture Reading:** Colossians 3:12-17 **Josie Buckentine**

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L: Word of God, Word of Life **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: “Thy Word” x2

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

**\*Holy Gospel:                    John 14:15-21                    Josie Buckentine**

L: The Holy Gospel according to the Book of John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. <sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

L: The Gospel of our Lord.     **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

**Hymn:**                                    “Ten Thousand Reasons”  
    (“Bless the Lord, O My Soul”)

(“Bless the Lord, O My Soul”)

*Refrain:*

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;  
worship his holy name. Sing like never before,  
O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.

1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;  
it's time to sing your song again.  
What ever may pass, and whatever lies before me,  
let me be singing when the evening comes.

2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger,  
your name is great, and your heart is kind.  
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing—  
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

3 And on that day when my strength is failing,  
the end draws near, and my time has come;  
still, my soul will sing your praise unending—  
ten thousand years and then forever more!

Test: Matt Redman, b. 1974, and Jonas Myrin, b. 1982  
Music: Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin

## Affirmation of Baptism

Presentation of the Confirmands

ELW page 234

*Confirmands come forward as their names are read by the president of Grace Lutheran Church.*

Council President: The young people before you, having been instructed in the Christian faith, now desire to affirm their faith.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold 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.**

Pastor: 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 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. Amen.**

## **Confirmands recite their Bible verse**

Pastor: You have made public confession 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?

**Confirmand: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

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

*(Confirmands please be seated except for Josie and Colin)*

### **Laying on of Hands**

*(As each confirmand comes forward, parents, siblings, sponsors, and other significant individuals are invited to come forward with him/her for the laying on of hands)*

*Josie and Colin's families come forward first.*

*Once confirmation rite is completed, Kacey and Cameron's families may come forward.*

*Once confirmation rite is completed, Logan's family may come forward.*

**Parents: We present \_\_\_\_\_, who desires to make public affirmation of their baptism.**

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.

### **Confirmation Prayer**

P: Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in \_\_\_\_\_ the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm his/her faith, guide his/her life, empower him/her in his/her serving, give him/her patience in suffering, and bring him/her to everlasting life. **Amen.**

*Each Confirmand, with their families repeat this order.*

*When Confirmands have returned to their seats, we will invite them to stand. The congregation offers this acclamation.*

**Acclamation:**

P: Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

**C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

P: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Offering** (children may bring offering forward)

**Offertory Hymn:** "We Are an Offering" ELW #692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,  
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,  
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.  
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,  
we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
We are an offering, we are an offering.

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**Offertory Prayer:**

**C: God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**\*Prayers of the People**

**\*Great Thanksgiving:**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*Preface**

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy** Setting 10, page 207, ELW

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.



## **\*Words of Institution**

### **\*The 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; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and 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.**

## **Distribution of Holy Communion to Confirmands**

**Hymn:** "Amazing Grace"

ELW# 779

1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me;  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

## **Distribution of Holy Communion**

## Communion Hymns:

### “Jesus Loves Me”

ELW #595

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong,  
they are weak, but he is strong.

#### *Refrain*

Yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
the Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! he who died  
heaven's gates to open wide;  
he will wash away my sin,  
let his little child come in. *Refrain*

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

### “Lift High the Cross”

ELW #660

#### **Refrain:**

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. **Refrain**

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. **Refrain**

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory! **Refrain**

“Lift High the Cross” Music by: Sydney H. Nicholson Copyright: 1974 Hope Publishing Company  
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“Blessed Assurance”

ELW #638

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*Refrain*

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior, all the day long:  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

“Joy to the World”

ELW #267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found,

4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

"Joy to the World" Music by: English Melody  
Public Domain

### **\*Communion Blessing**

### **\*Post Communion Prayer**

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **\*Benediction:**

P: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, + one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### **\*Hymn:**

"Here I am, Lord"

ELW# 574

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?"

#### *Refrain*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

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**\*Dismissal:**

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Grace Confirmation Students**

Josie Buckentine, daughter of Mike and Heidi Buckentine

Colin Evenson, son of Dean and Tammy Evenson

Kacey Fischer, daughter of Boyce and Stephanie Fischer

Cameron Loe, son of Kurt Loe and Julie Capes

Logan Oeltjenbruns, son of Greg and Sarah Oeltjenbruns