

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

P.O. Box 10
Belgrade, MN 56312
320-254-3249

bgclutheran@frontiernet.net

September 5, 2021 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome in Jesus' name.
We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.



Interim Lead Pastor Lisa Meshke, pastorlisaanne@gmail.com
Interim Associate Pastor Matthew Garavalia, mattgaravalia@gmail.com
Parish Secretary – Aleisha Terhaar

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

September 5, 2021

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude/Procession/Bells

Welcome and Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness:**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.
(Silence for Private Confession)
God, our comforter,

C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in + Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C: Amen.

***Hymn: Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling** ELW 608

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

"Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]

***Apostolic Greeting:**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***The Prayer of the Day:**

P: Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

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.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty

ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

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

Responsive Psalm Reading:

Psalm 146

L: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

C: I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

L: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

C: When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

L: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,

C: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

L: who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

C: the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

L: The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

C: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

Scripture Reading:

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. ¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

Children's Sermon

***Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia"

Setting 4, page 151

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line of text. The notes are simple, suitable for children's singing.

From Evangelical Lutheran Worship copyright © 2006. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SB109327.

***Holy Gospel:**

Matthew 15:10-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to the 15th Chapter of Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
oh, what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer.

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—
take it to the Lord in prayer!

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
'cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge,
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

***Apostle's Creed**

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

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.

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 of the People**

***Peace:**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Offering (children may bring offerings 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.

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

Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up with 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 4, page 153, ELW

***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

***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: What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine** ELW #774

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

***Dismissal:**

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: Thanks be to God.