

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

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May 14, 2023 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome in Jesus' name.

We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.



Lead Pastor Lisa Meshke, pastorlisaanne@gmail.com

Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson, bhandeljohnson@gmail.com

Secretary, Sue Wiener

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Prelude/Procession/Bells

Welcome and Announcements

***Thanksgiving for Baptism:**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

C: Amen.

L: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

C: Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.

Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

L: Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope.

Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn:** "Lord, I Lift Your Name o High" 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.

Text: Rick Founds, b. 1954

Music: Rick Founds

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***Apostolic Greeting:**

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

Hymn of Praise: “Ten Thousand Reasons” (see insert)
 (“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!

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

***The Prayer of the Day:**

Almighty and ever-living God, **you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading:

Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ ²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of

human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

Responsive Psalm Reading:

Psalm 66:8-20

L: Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

C: Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.

L: For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

C: You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

L: You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

C: I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—

L: those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

C: I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.

L: Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

C: I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.

L: If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

C: but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.

L: Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfaithful love from me.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 3:13-22

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal

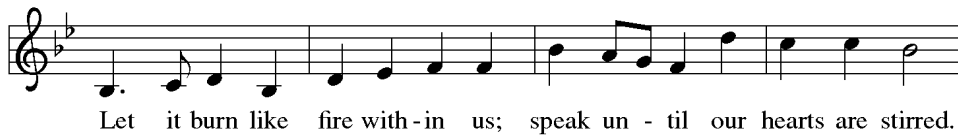
of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

JAM Songs

Children's Sermon

***Gospel Acclamation:**



***Holy Gospel:**

John 14:15-21

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This 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. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They 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:** "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, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy 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 thy 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,
pure 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!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: Rowland h. Prichard, 1811-1887

***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:**

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

Offering: (children may bring offerings forward)

***Offertory Hymn:** "Now Thank we All our God" ELW #840 (vs. 1)

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

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***Offertory Prayer:**

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***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.**

***Holy, Holy, Holy:**

Setting 10, Page 207, 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 Hymns:

"Lamb of God"

Setting 10 page 208, ELW

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of the world away;
You suffered death our lives to save; have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of the world away;
You set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of the world away;
Eternal peace with God you made; give us your peace, we pray.

"You Are My All In All"

You are my strength when I am weak. You are the treasure that I seek.
You are my all in all.
Seeking You as a precious jewel. Lord to give up I'd be a fool.
You are my all in all.

Chorus

Jesus Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.
Jesus Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame. Rising again I bless Your name.
You are my all in all.

When I fall down You pick me up. When I am dry You fill my cup.
You are my all in all.

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“Thy Holy Wings”

1 Thy holy wings, O Savior,
spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely
through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion,
my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment
be lived within thy grace.

2 Oh, let me nestle near thee,
within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort
and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me
and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn
and need thy tender care.

3 Oh, wash me in the waters
of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit,
a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping
thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber,
enfold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
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“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see you, I want to see you.

To see you high and lifted up,
shining in the light of your glory;
Pour out your pow'r and love as we sing
“Holy, holy, holy.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see you, I want to see you.

“Holy, holy, holy. “Holy, holy, holy.
“Holy, holy, holy. I want to see you.

Text: Matt Redman, b. 1974, and Jonas Myrin, b. 1982

***Communion Blessing**

***Communion Prayer:**

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

***Benediction:**

The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn:** "We Are Marching in the Light"

ELW #866

We are marching* in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, Oo,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, Oo,
We are marching in the light of God.

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***Dismissal:**

L: Go in peace. Serve the risen one.

C: Thanks be to God.