

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

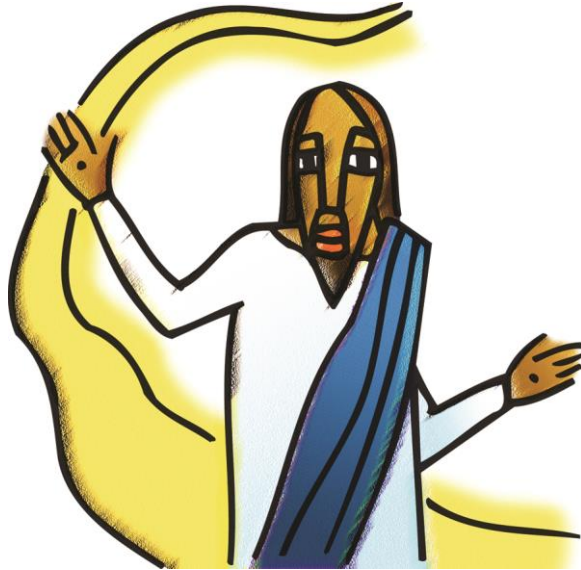
P.O. Box 10, Belgrade, MN 56312
320-254-3249

bgcrgparishmn@gmail.com

May 7, 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: "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"

ELW #380

*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: "Shout to the Lord"

ELW #821

***The Prayer of the Day:**

Almighty God, **your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading:

Acts 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

Responsive Psalm Reading:

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

L: In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

C: Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

L: Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

C: Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.

L: Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

C: My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

L: Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall. They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

Children's Sermon

***Gospel Acclamation:**



***Holy Gospel:**

John 14:1-14

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

Sermon

***Hymn:** “Cornerstone”

1 My hope is built on nothing less;
than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame;
but wholly trust in Jesus' Name (REPEAT)

Chorus

Christ alone cornerstone weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all

2 When darkness seems to hide His face;
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

3 When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

***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:**

Blessing of Graduates

***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)

***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

"This is Christ's Body" (see insert)

"Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land" ELW #333

"Let Us Break Bread Together" ELW #471

***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:** "Go, My Children with My Blessing" ELW #543

***Dismissal:**

L: Go in peace. Serve the risen one.

C: Thanks be to God.