

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

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October 1, 2023

18th Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome in Jesus' name.

We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.



Lead Pastor Lisa Meshke, pastorlisaanne@gmail.com

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Secretary, Sue Wiener

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Prelude/Procession/Bells

Welcome and Announcements

L: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: Amen.

L: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Steadfast and faithful God,

C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

L: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn:** "God Is Here"

ELW #526 (vs. 1,3,4)

1 God is here as we His people
Meet to offer praise and prayer
May we find in fuller measure
What it is in Christ we share
Here as in the world around us
All our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of His Spirit
Into open minds and hearts

3 Here our children find a welcome
In the Shepherd's flock and fold
Here as bread and wine are taken
Christ sustains us as of old
Here the servants of the Servant
Seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living
To believe and to adore

4 Lord of all of Church and Kingdom
In an age of change and doubt
Keep us faithful to the gospel
Help us work Your purpose out
Here in this day's dedication
All we have to give receive
We who cannot live without You
We adore You we believe

Fred Pratt Green | Joel Raney

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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.**

***Kyrie**

Setting 3 Page 138, ELW

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have Mercy. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.

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***Hymn of Praise: "This is the Feast"**

Setting 3 Page 140, ELW

Refrain:

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain:*

2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. *Refrain:*

3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen *Refrain:*

4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. *Refrain:*

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***The Prayer of the Day:**

God of love, giver of life, **you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. ²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

Responsive Psalm Reading:

Psalm 25:1-9

L: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

C: My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

L: Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

C: Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

L: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

C: Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

L: Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

C: You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

L: You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

Scripture Reading:

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

***Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" Setting 3, Page 142, ELW

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the works of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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***Holy Gospel:**

Matthew 21:23-32

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

Sermon

***Hymn:** "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

ELW #517

- 1 Lord keep us steadfast in Thy Word
Curb those who fain by craft and sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Thy Son
And set at naught all He hath done
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ Thy pow'r make known
For Thou art Lord of lords alone
Defend Thy Christendom that we
May evermore sing praise to Thee
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth
Send peace and unity on earth
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life

CCLI Song # 513905

Catherine Winkworth | J. Klug | Martin Luther

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***Apostles' 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

***Offertory Prayer:**

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 3, Page 144, ELW

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the highest.

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***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 3 Page 146 ELW

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.

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"Let Us Break Bread Together"

ELW #471

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain*

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual Public Domain

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

ELW #774

Chorus

Leaning (leaning on Jesus)
Leaning (leaning on Jesus)
Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning (leaning on Jesus)
Leaning (leaning on Jesus)
Leaning on the everlasting arms

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

2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way
Leaning on the everlasting arms
O how bright the path grows from day to day
Leaning on the everlasting arms

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

CCLI Song # 31779

Anthony Johnson Showalter | Elisha Albright Hoffman

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***Communion Blessing**

***Communion Prayer:**

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***Benediction:**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn:** "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth" ELW #538

The Lord now sends us forth
with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth
a better place to live. *Repeat*

The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,
to do your will today. *Repeat*

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923

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***Dismissal:**

L: Go in peace. Share the harvest. **C: Thanks be to God.**