

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

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May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Welcome in Jesus' name.

We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.



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Secretary, Sue Wiener

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Prelude/Procession/Bell

Welcome and Announcements

***Thanksgiving for Baptism:**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

L: We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn:**

“All Are Welcome”

ELW #641

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain:

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: ***Refrain:***

3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: **Refrain:**

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: **Refrain:**

5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **Refrain:**

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 One License #A-736797

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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:** “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” ELW #836

1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922 Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.
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***Prayer of the Day:**

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm Reading:

Psalm 98

L: Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

C: O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

L: You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

C: Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

L: Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

C: With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

L: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

C: Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

L: The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Scripture Reading:

1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

Children's Sermon

***Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" ELW, Setting 4, pg. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

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***Holy Gospel:**

John 15:9-17

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ⁹"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

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

Sermon

***Hymn:** “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

ELW #708

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. ***Refrain:***

2 Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away. ***Refrain:***

3 These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. ***Refrain:***

4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. ***Refrain:***

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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**

L: God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

***Peace:**

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

Offering: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

ELW #182

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

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***Offertory Prayer:**

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **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:**

ELW Setting 4, Page 153

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of Pow'r 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

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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”

ELW, Setting 4, Page 154

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, grant us peace.

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“Beautiful Savior”

ELW #838

1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2 Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904
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“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:**

3 Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high. **Refrain:**

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.
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"A New Commandment"

WOV #664

1

A new commandment I give unto you,
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this shall people know you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another;
by this shall people know you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another.

Text: John 13:34-35 Music: Anonymous
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*Communion Blessing

*Communion Prayer:

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant
mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

*Benediction:

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter
hope ☩ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn: "O God beyond All Praising"

ELW #880

1 O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

2 The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown—
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.

3 Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

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***Dismissal:**

L: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!