
Grace Lutheran Church

736 Cayuga Drive
Niagara Falls, New York 14304
www.gracenf.org
Divine Service: Sunday 10:30 AM

Office (716) 283-1843
office@gracenf.org

Our Vision: Welcoming people to grow in hope, love, and certainty through God's Word of grace.

For Our Guests

Dear friend, welcome to Grace! Make yourself at home. Grace Lutheran Church is a family made up of regular, imperfect people growing in hope, love, and certainty through God's Word of grace, rejoicing together in God's restoration and forgiveness, and celebrating our new life in Christ Jesus. If you have any questions for us, please don't hesitate to speak with an usher or the pastor.

If you're in Niagara Falls **on vacation** right now, thanks for coming! We pray this worship service refreshes your spirit by showing you a wonder even more beautiful than the mighty Falls He made: the depth of His amazing love for you.

If you **live in the area**, we pray you find comfort, peace and joy through the worship service today. We would be delighted to worship with you again, and if you don't have a church home and you'd like to become part of the Grace family, please speak with an usher or the pastor.

** I have children, and they're not always quiet. Do you mind?*

We warmly welcome children to worship just like Jesus did, and we love the liveliness they bring to the service. If your little one's crying is making you uncomfortable, there's a cry room in back for your convenience. Don't worry about coming and going if that's what you need to do. We're parents and grandparents too. We've been there and we understand!

RESTROOMS are located in the parent's room (back of the church) and next to the parking lot door.

** The plate's coming. I have to give an offering, right?*

No! God teaches that giving comes from a joyful heart, not under compulsion. If you feel spiritually moved to give, do so, but God's gifts you receive today don't come with a price tag. It is our honor to have you as our guest.

** What about Holy Communion?*

Communion is celebrated on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays and in other special services. We believe what Jesus says about Holy Communion: that it is His body and blood, not symbolically but actually present, given to us for the forgiveness of sins. The Bible cautions that anyone who receives Communion without understanding this will be receiving it to their great harm.


So, out of sincere love, we ask that those who commune at this altar are baptized Christians who, having been instructed in the faith, regret their sins and desire to receive Christ's real Body and Blood for forgiveness, trusting in God's Word as He revealed it in Scripture.

If you would like to receive a blessing instead, simply cross your arms over your chest and the pastor will gladly bless you. If you are not sure, please speak with the pastor prior to the service. An usher will be glad to assist you. There is non-alcoholic white wine on each tray for those who require it. Finally, those who have difficulty walking may indicate such to an usher and Communion will be brought to you.

Members and Guests: Please help us serve you by indicating your presence today, and any special needs, on the fellowship sheet in your bulletin & place in offering plate.

ORDER OF WORSHIP JANUARY 21, 2024

– based on Divine Service 1: LSB 151 –


This symbol () means that part of the service is found in the Lutheran Service Book hymnal.

Welcome, Announcements

Please Stand

Hymn of Invocation: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

LSB 657

P In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.


C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Music found in LSB #155

C REFRAIN: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

Refrain

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

Refrain

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

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

Final Refrain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

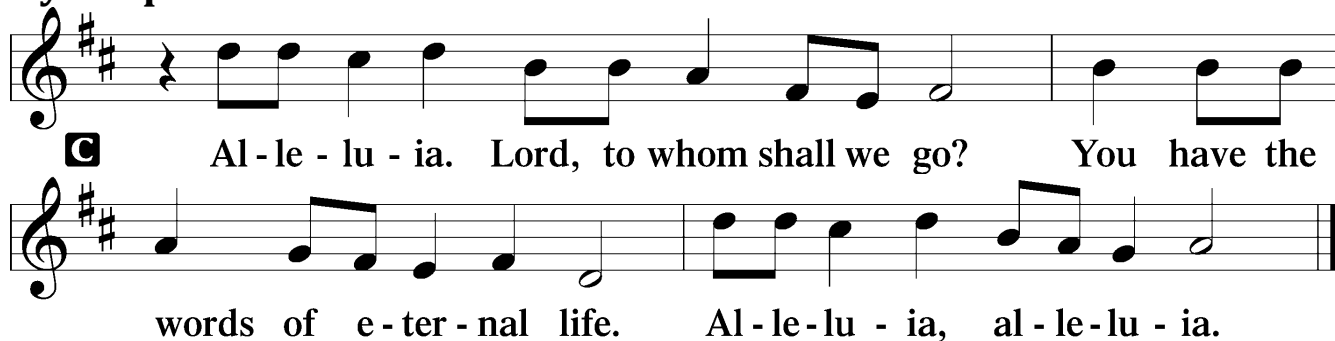
Epistle Reading

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

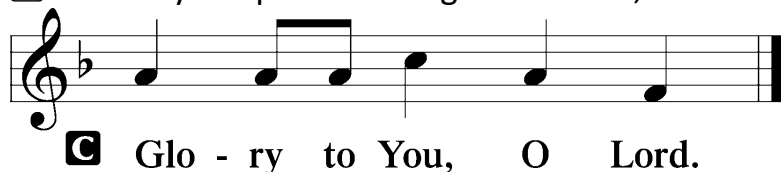
Please Stand

Holy Gospel



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

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

P ...This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

 **Hymn of the Day: "O Christ, Our True and Only Light"**

LSB 839

Sermon: "The Wounded Healer"

Please Stand

 **The Apostles' Creed**

Back Cover of Hymnal

Prayer of the Church

The Pastor will close each section: **P** Lord, in Your mercy,

Then please respond: **C** Hear our prayer.

P We speak together:

C Faithful Father, during this time of vacancy we pray for our Call Committee. Thank you for bringing these workers together to serve your church in this way. Bless them with wisdom and send your Holy Spirit to guide them in the many decisions that will be made. Give them the ability to speak openly in kindness and listen faithfully to each other. Create among our congregation a spirit of mutual respect and love for each other as we trust their leadership. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Please be seated.

Offering

Please Stand

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

If you have not communed with us before, please read "What about Holy Communion?" on page 2.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

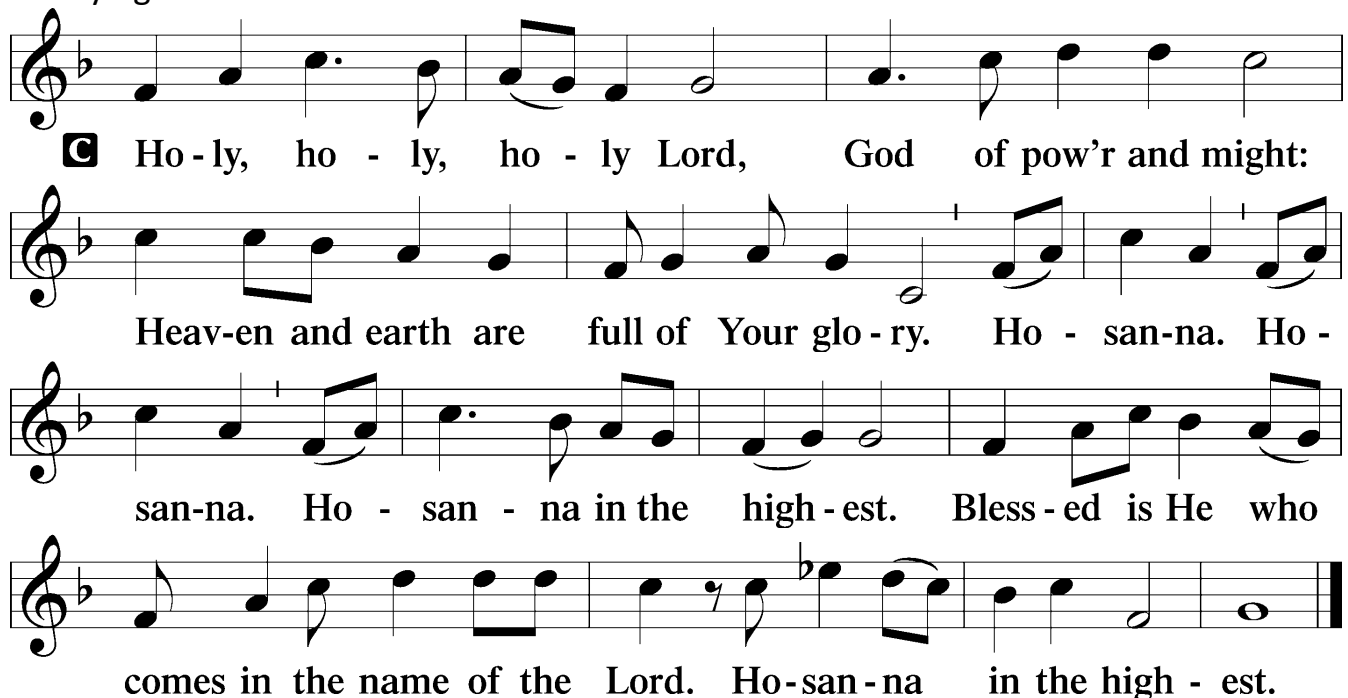
P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

P Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

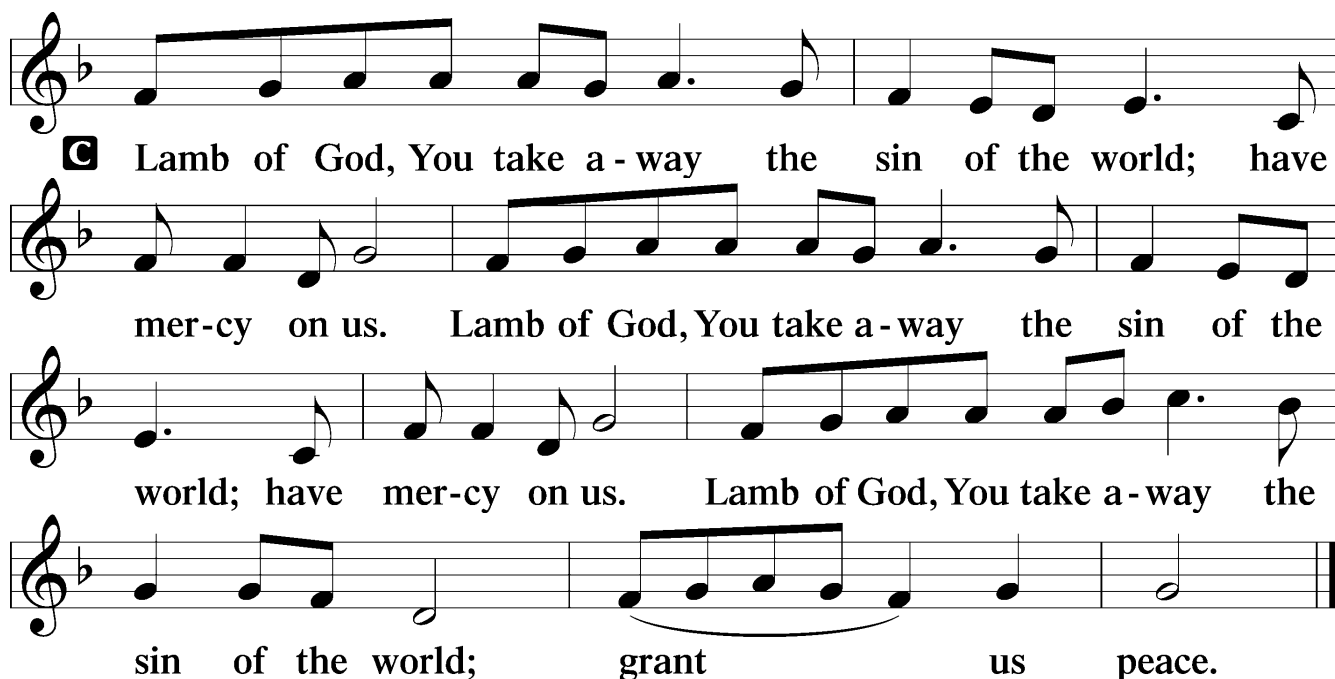
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated.

📖 Distribution Hymn:

"Come, Follow Me', the Savior Spake"

LSB 688

"O God of God, O Light of Light"

LSB 810

Thanksgiving

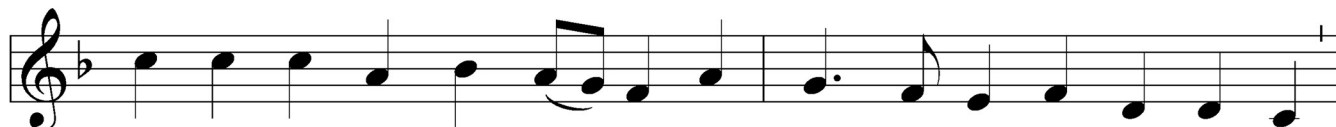
LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **C** Amen.

 **Sending Hymn:** "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

LSB 685

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Guest Pastor: Rev. Chris Wicher

Organist: Maye Smith

Acolytes: Stewert & Abram Smith

Head Ushers: Mark Andrews & Jim Wolf

Communion Assistants: Neil Stenzel & Mark Binkley

Reader: Erika Tuscher

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Goodnick

Altar Care: Sherry Cassatt & Virginia Markel

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 01/21/24

9:00 am Here We Stand!

10:30 am Worship (HC)

11:30 am Social Ministries Meeting

MONDAY – 01/22/24

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 01/28/24

9:00 am Here We Stand!

10:30 am Worship

Statistics for the week of
January 14, 2023

Worship Service: Cancelled for weather

Offering: \$626.84

* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

** Boiler Fund To Date: \$21,589.90

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit new announcements

*by **Wednesday 12pm**: office@gracenf.org.*

Office Hours: First Sunday of Month 8:30-12:30, M/W/Th 10-2

GIVING: Options at www.gracenf.org



ALTAR FLOWERS are given today by John and Sue Loss to the Glory of God for the gift to them of 34 years of marriage on January 13th.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES will meet after worship today (rescheduled from last Sunday). New members are welcome to join us.

HOSPICE SPRING BOUQUET SALE: A signup sheet for pre-ordering bouquets is available on the glass case. Each bouquet costs \$10 (please pay Jane Schulz). Bouquets will be placed on the altar on March 17 and can be taken home after worship on that day. Proceeds benefit Niagara Hospice. Deadline for signing up is February 11.

LENT SIMPLE SUPPERS: There is a signup sheet on the glass case for those interested in helping with food for our Simple Suppers during Lent. The first supper will be held on February 21. If you can assist with a main dish, side dish, dessert, or drinks, please sign up on your preferred date (or dates).

JANUARY MISSION ENVELOPES are designated to support Food for the Poor in memory of our former minister, Rev. Daniel Otto, who was a long-time volunteer for this Christian ministry to those living in extreme poverty. In 2023, FFTP served over 176 million meals, built 1251 homes, delivered almost 2000 trailers of aid to disaster areas, and worked to provide medical care and clean water to numerous communities. If you would like to donate, please place your mission envelope in the offering plate during January, or donate online by choosing the "monthly mission" option.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: We are in need of old (or new) Christmas cards to make Christmas booklets for next year. There is a bag on the glass case for your donations.

Note of Appreciation - The five members of the Board of Directors for Help and Hope for Homeless, Inc. would like to thank Grace Lutheran church and its members for your generous donation of \$1016.66 for the December special missions. This will be put to good use with our goal of helping an individual man or woman to be able to leave their homeless lifestyle behind them. We plan to do this for them by paying their entire tuition at Orleans-Niagara BOCES for vocational training in a career of their choice. Do you know of anyone who might be a candidate for this option? Any questions speak to Robin Stephenson, Sue Loss, or John Loss.

HOLY GHOST LUTHERAN SCHOOL will be hosting an open house this Tuesday, January 23rd from 6pm-7:30pm. This is for Pre-K through 8th grade.

Epiphany



About the Cover

Even after boarding a ship for Tarshish to avoid the Lord's call, being rescued in a great fish, and preaching to the people of Nineveh, Jonah was slow to get on board with the Lord's mercy.

Though Jonah was reluctant, the Lord was not. Today, Christ gives us new eyes to see all people as those for whom He has died—including us! May the Lord grant us repentance and faith to receive the benefits of what He has accomplished.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Old Testament Reading: Jonah 3:1–5, 10

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. . . .

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 7:29–31

²⁹This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those

who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:14–20

¹⁴After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

¹⁶Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.