
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 FOR JANUARY 28, 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: “Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

LSB 620

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

C Amen.

L 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.

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

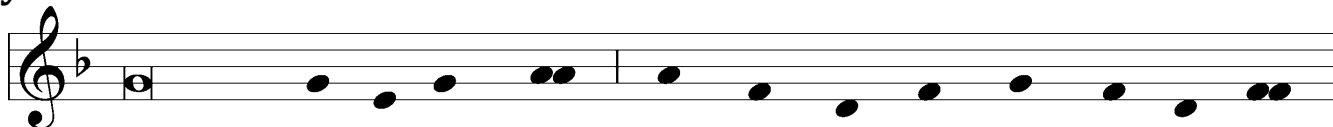
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present 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.

L In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Hymn of Praise

LSB 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



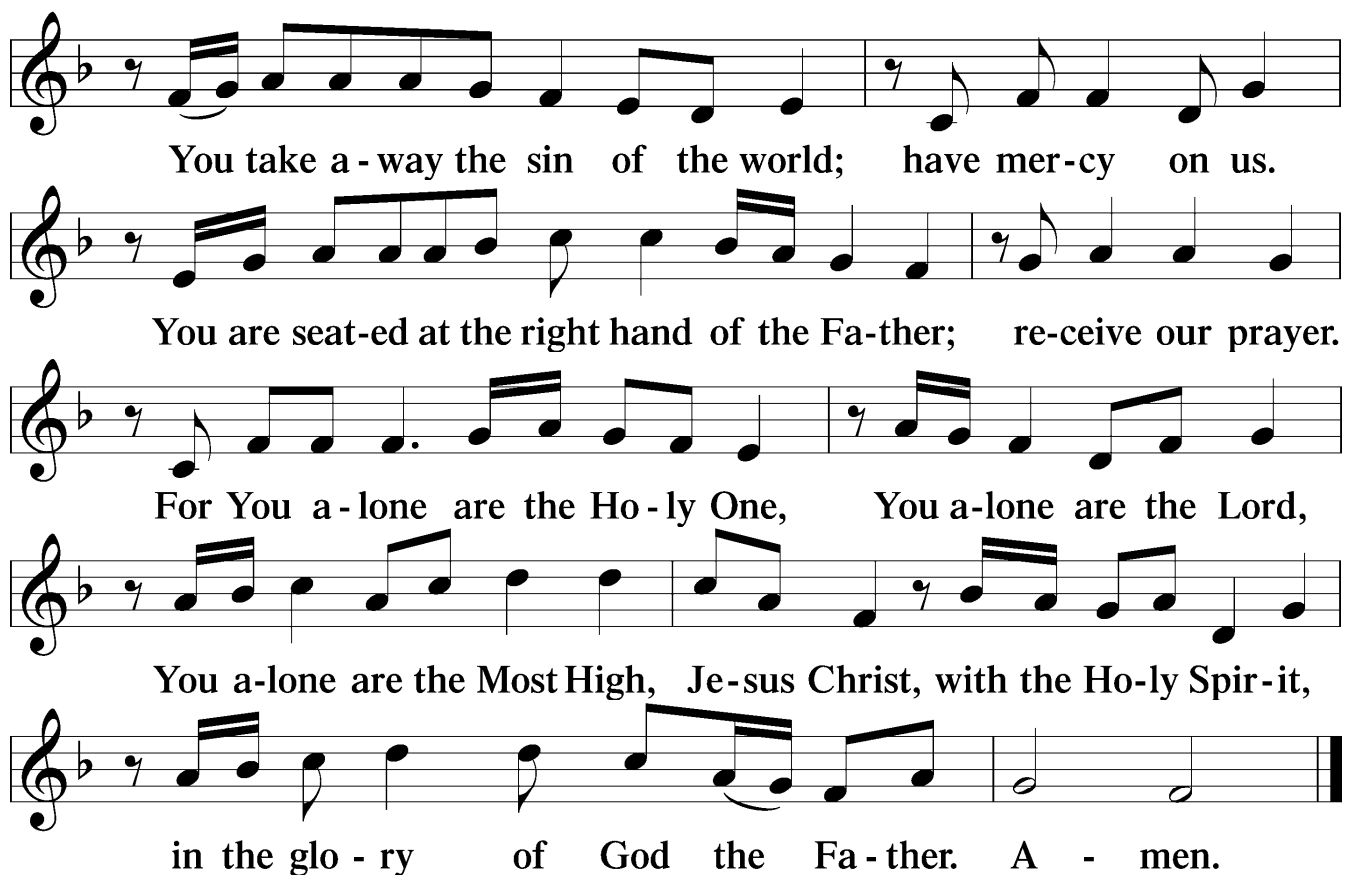
C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For You a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,

You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

L 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.

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

L ...This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day: "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

LSB 842

Sermon

Please Stand

The Nicene Creed

Back Cover of Hymnal

Please be seated.

Offering



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Prayer of the Church

The Leader will close each section: **L** Lord, in Your mercy,

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

L We speak together:

C O Lord, our Good Shepherd, during this time of vacancy we pray for our Elders and worship leaders. Among the many blessings you have bestowed upon our church, you have provided faithful leaders that continue to share the Word of God to the glory of Christ. We pray that you grant them confidence as they lead our worship services. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard their hearts and minds, that they may be able to victoriously run the race that you have set before them. In Your name we pray. Amen.

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.


Benediction

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C Amen.

 **Sending Hymn:** "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

LSB 394

L Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Leader: Randy Broeker

Organist: Maye Smith

Acolytes: Virginia Markel & Sherry Cassatt

Head Ushers: Mark Andrews & Jim Wolf

Reader: Wendy Coleman

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley, John Goodnick & John Bahr

Altar Care: Sherry Cassatt & Virginia Markel

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 01/28/24

9:00 am Here We Stand!

10:30 am Worship

SUNDAY – 02/04/24

9:00 am Here We Stand!

10:30 am Worship (HC)

MONDAY – 01/29/24

6:30pm Survivors Group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please submit new announcements
by **Wednesday 12pm**: office@gracenf.org.
Office Hours: 1st Sun 8:30-12:00, M/W/Th 10-2
GIVING: Options at www.gracenf.org*

CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER Saturday, March 30,
2024 5:30 pm. Understand the connection
between the Israeli Passover, the Last Supper,
and your Communion experience through an
interactive lesson. Save the date; reservation
information will be coming soon.

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, or
donate online by choosing the "monthly mission" option by Wednesday.

CHOIR will rehearse in the balcony after worship today. We will be singing next Sunday (2/4) and also
on Ash Wednesday (2/14). New members are welcome to join the group.

TOILET TISSUE MISSION PROJECT: Beginning next Sunday, we will be accepting donations of toilet
tissue for Heart, Love, & Soul. While for most of us, this is an item on our grocery list that we put in the
cart without a second thought. But for those who are struggling to make ends meet and have to choose
between putting food on the table or paying the electric bill, toilet paper becomes a luxury. It's not
unusual for those families to use public restrooms as often as possible, stuff extra tissue into their
pockets to use at home, or even substitute a variety of other materials for tissue. If you would like to
support this project to help your neighbors, donation tables will be available in the narthex and chapel
during February to accept your donations.

YOUNG LIFE will have their annual fundraising dinner at Classics V Conference & Banquet Center on
March 14. There is a signup sheet on the glass case for those interested in attending. We will be
reserving a table (or two) for Grace members and friends. There is no charge for the dinner, but
donations are appreciated. Please see Dick Crawford if you have questions.

Statistics for the week of January 21, 2024

Worship Service: 58 Attended, 24 Views
Adult Education: 13
Youth Education: 7
Education Staff: 2

Offering*: \$2,099.84
Energy Support: \$26.00
Mission of the Month: \$162.00
* Weekly budget needs \$4,206
** Boiler Fund To Date: \$21,589.90



About the Cover

Paul shows us that our life of freedom resulting from the Gospel does not entail an individualistic freedom to trample upon the weaker brother.

Sometimes, freedom means abstaining from what is permitted for the sake of the broader family of faith. We have a Lord who willingly gave His own life on the cross for our sake and our brothers and sisters in the faith in order to save us from our sins.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15–20

¹⁵"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' ¹⁷And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'"

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

¹Concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through

former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21–28

²¹They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.