
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 MAY 12, 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: “Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

LSB 650

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.

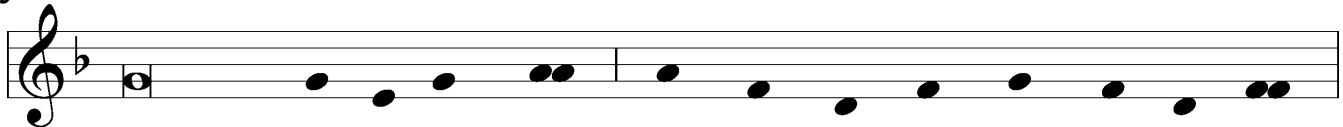
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present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

L Let us pray.

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

First 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. John, the seventeenth 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: "Have No Fear, Little Flock"

LSB 735

Sermon

Please Stand

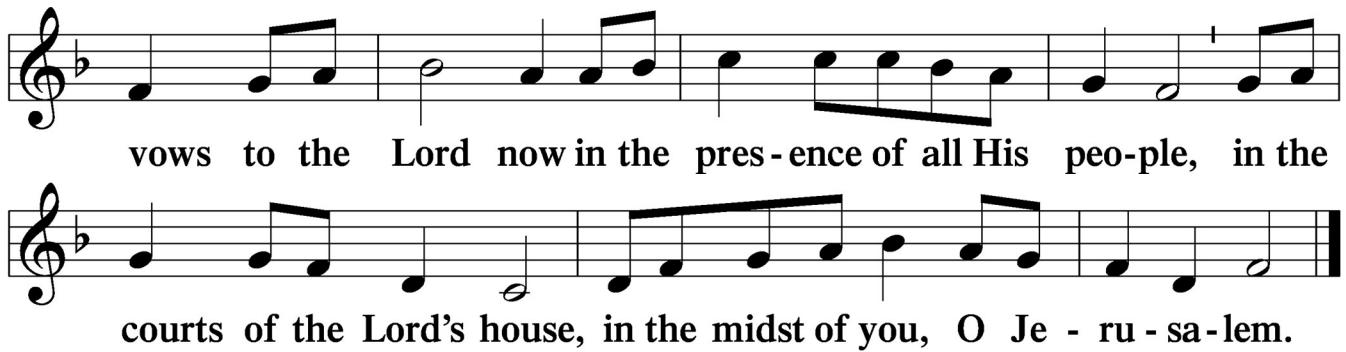
📖 The Nicene Creed

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

Please Stand

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 Gracious Lord, be with our congregation as we move through this season of vacancy. Grant us patience and trust as we wait on your good and perfect timing. Help us to remain unified. Help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, show love toward one another, and care for those in need. Keep us safe from the assaults of the devil as we look forward to welcoming the new shepherd you have planned to lead our church. 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:** "The Church's One Foundation"

LSB 644

L Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Leader: Neil Stenzel

Organist: Jeff Crane

Acolytes: Daniel Bahr & Zakary Fees

Head Ushers: Neil Stenzel & John Loss

Readers: Denise & Brittany Hoffman

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley, John Goodnick & John Bahr

Altar Care: Erika Tuscher & Donna Hoffman

Statistics for the week of

May 5, 2024

Worship Service: 72 Attended, 27 Views

Adult Education: 13

Youth Education: 9

Education Staff: 4

Offering: \$4,243.84

Sunday School: \$5.00

Mission of the Month: \$87.00

LCMS Youth: \$500.00

* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

** Boiler Fund To Date: \$22,374.61

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 05/12/24

Mother's Day

9:00 am Christian Education
10:30 am Worship

NEXT SUNDAY – 05/19/24

9:00 am Christian Education
10:30 am Worship (HC)
11:30 am Social Ministries Mtg.

MONDAY – 05/13/24

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The next **GLEANINGS DEADLINE**
is Monday, May 20th.

YOU'RE INVITED! On June 2 (three weeks from today), we will celebrate the blessing of our Christian Education opportunities as we end another year of Sunday School and Bible Class. Our children will participate in various ways in worship on that day, including singing two of their favorite songs. After worship, everyone is invited to stay for a picnic lunch. Hamburgs, hotdogs, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share if you are able. There is a sign up sheet on the glass case.

NEXT SUNDAY the Board of Social Ministries will meet in the chapel after worship. Lunch is shared during the meeting. New members are welcome to join in--no reservations necessary.

MAY MISSION ENVELOPES are designated to support **Pioneer on the Lake** as they continue their outdoor ministry on Lake Erie in Angola. This summer, Pioneer will be offering retreats, family camps, a camp for music lovers, and camp opportunities for disabled individuals, as well as several special events. Cottages are available to rent for families or friend groups. Your donations will aid in the upkeep of the camp and programming plans. If you would like to support Pioneer, please place your mission envelope in the offering plate during May, or give online by choosing "monthly mission".

SPRING MISSION PROJECT: Starting today and continuing through Father's Day (June 16), we will be accepting donations of baby supplies to support Summit Life Center. Items that are needed include new infant clothing, blankets, diapers, and baby toiletries. Summit, located on Pine Avenue in Niagara Falls, is run by volunteers who provide support to girls and young women in unplanned pregnancy situations. Summit's free services include pregnancy testing, sonograms, peer counseling, and a variety of classes pertaining to pregnancy and parenting. Each contact for counseling or classes results in earning credits that can be used for baby supplies from their Parenting Shoppe. Let's help "Stock the Shoppe".

BABY BOTTLE BANKS: If you would prefer to support Summit with a cash or check donation, Baby Bottle Banks will be available on the donation tables for your use. Please turn your bottle banks into the office or to Alice Moll.



About the Cover

The eternal life God gives us is full and abundant. That first Easter morning has opened to us a new horizon of eternal life. Christ has overcome the devil, the world, and our sin to give us life by believing in Him. God has taken care to give us His Word and Sacraments so that we may have life by believing in His name.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 1:12–26

¹²Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰"For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

"May his camp become desolate,
and let there be no one to dwell in
it";

and

"Let another take his office."

²¹"So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned

aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Epistle: 1 John 5:9–15

⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

Holy Gospel: John 17:11b–19

^{11b}[Jesus said:] "Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth."