
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 THE DAY OF PENTECOST

MAY 19, 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: “Come, Thou Almighty King”

LSB 905

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.

Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; 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.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth 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: "Father Welcomes"**

LSB 605

Sermon

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.

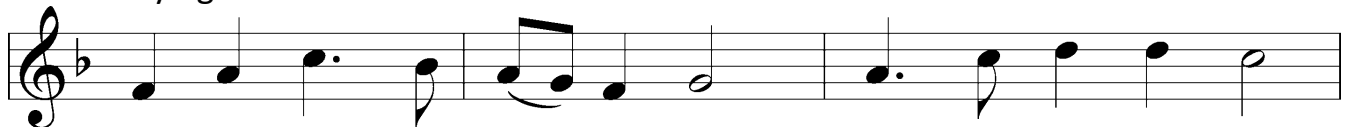
P Lift up your hearts.

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, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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.

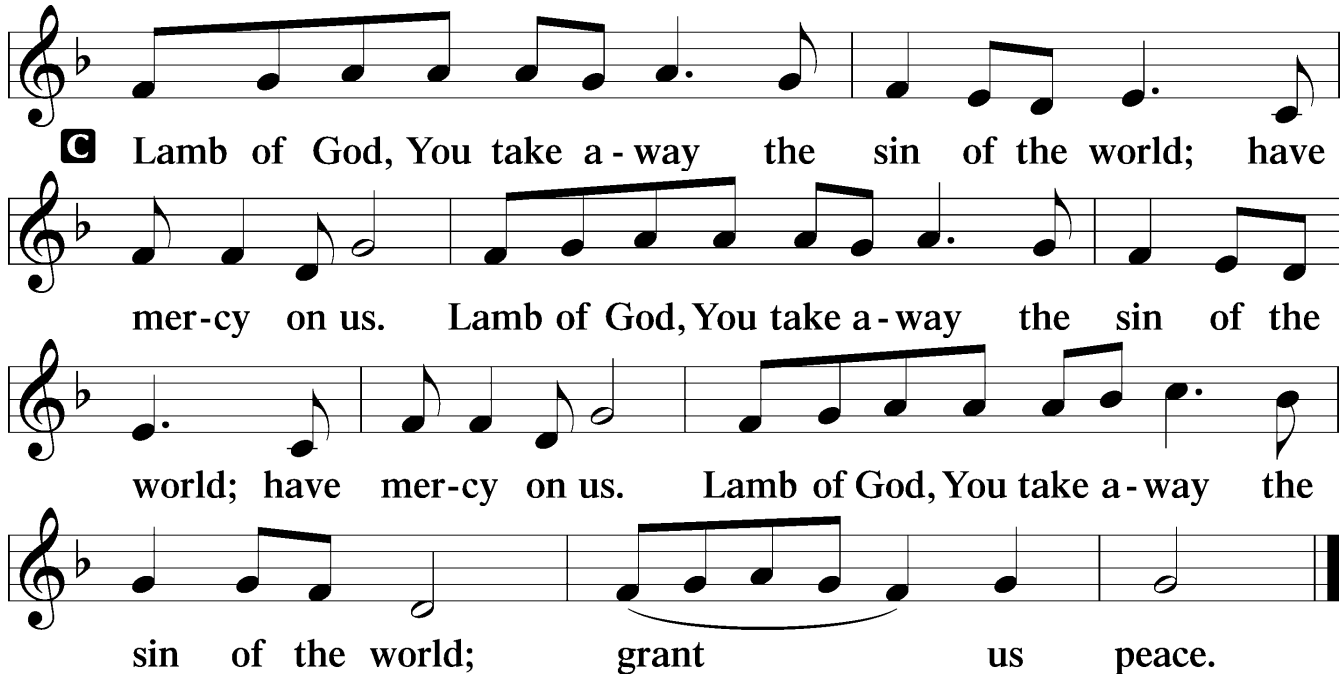
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He 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:

"Now Thank We All Our God"

LSB 895

"Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ"

LSB 769

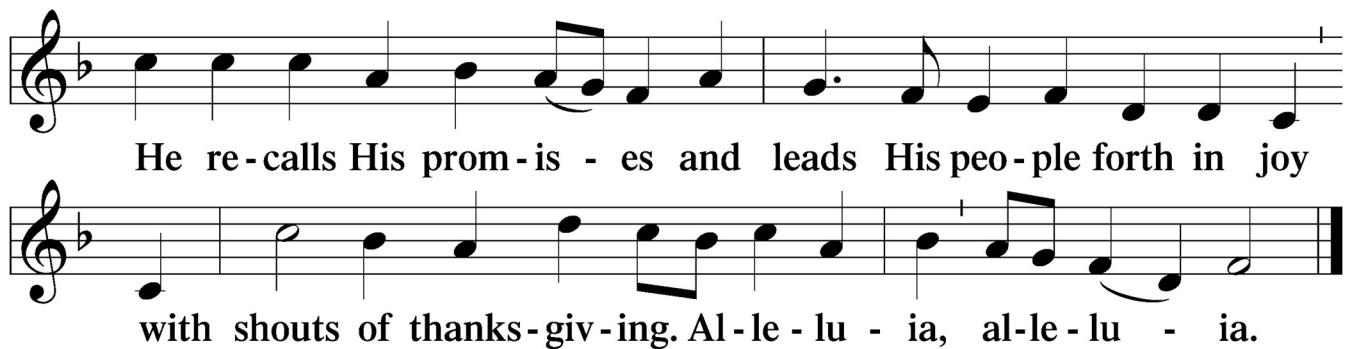
Please Stand

Thank the Lord

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 - joice 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:** “Voices Raised to You We Offer”

LSB 795

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Guest Pastor: Rev. Ben Bahr

Organist: Jeff Crane

Acolytes: Stewert & Abram Smith

Head Ushers: Neil Stenzel & John Loss

Communion Assistants: Randy Broeker & Neil Stenzel

Readers: Sue & John Loss

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley, John Goodnick & John Bahr

Altar Care: Erika Tuscher & Donna Hoffman

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 05/19/24

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

MONDAY – 05/20/24

GLEANINGS DEADLINE

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

TUESDAY – 05/21/24

11:00 am School Board Election
6:00 pm Grace Ladies Meeting

SATURDAY – 05/25/24

9:00 am & VBS
6:00 pm Decorations

NEXT SUNDAY – 05/26/24

9:00 am Christian Education
10:30 am Worship

Statistics for the week of May 12, 2024

Worship Service: 77 Attended, 14 Views
Adult Education: 14
Youth Education: 9
Education Staff: 4

Offering: \$2,632.84
Mission of the Month: \$85.00

* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

GLEANINGS deadline is tomorrow, May 20th.

ATTENTION COUNCIL MEMBERS: There will be a SHORT meeting after worship next Sunday in the chapel.

YOU'RE INVITED! On June 2 (two 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.

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP 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: 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.

COFFEE HOUR IS BACK! Beginning on June 9 and continuing through the summer, we will have coffee and snacks available in the chapel after worship. Plan to stay for a few minutes when you are able and chat with your Grace friends. There is a signup sheet on the glass case for those who would like to help by providing a sweet treat.



SUMMER BIBLE ADVENTURE (formerly VBS) is fast approaching! Registration forms can be found at both sanctuary entrances. Turn yours in before June 30th for a chance to win a \$25 Hoover's gift card.



Our decor and props for Summer Bible Adventure (VBS) are primarily hand-made. Come for our first prep day Saturday, May 25th 9 am to 12 noon. You don't have to be super crafty to help. Needs include straight-cutting paper and snipping zip ties, as well as painting and constructing "stage" sets.

NIAGARA GOSPEL MISSION earns money by sorting and selling ripped and stained clothes. As you sort through your clothing, bring in your *washed clothes* that you can't donate elsewhere because they are too worn, torn, and stained. Bring-in dates for Grace are **June 2nd and 30th**.

Lutheran Braille Workers Update: Rachel Potts of LBW will lead a planning meeting for getting the Large Print Production Center up and running! Join workers from around the Tonawanda/Niagara Falls area on Sunday, June 23rd at noon in the St. Mark gymnasium. Lunch is provided. RSVP at office@stmarknt.org by June 18th.



Below is a letter to the Council and congregation from Laurie Jircitano, who has used the church for her student musical recitals for the past 20+ years.

May 11, 2024

To the Church Council,

I want to express my gratitude to you for the many wonderful recitals that I have been able to have in your beautiful church and with your superior grand piano. I have decided to retire at the end of June this year so this was my last recital. In looking back, I started holding them here when I was teaching your secretary, Lisa Dixon's children. It

was either the year 2000 or 2001. You have been so accomodating and your church staff, whoever was secretary, were so helpful in helping me set up. It made for many hassle-free recitals.

So in closing, thank you again for allowing me + my students to share your church and have so many wonderful memories of our time here.

With fond regards,
Laurie Jircitano





About the Cover

The Holy Spirit, who gives life to dry bones in Ezekiel's vision, is the Helper promised and delivered by the crucified and resurrected Jesus. The Holy Spirit works with power in the life-giving Gospel preached on Pentecost. Though our eyes may not always perceive it, every time we hear the words of forgiveness in Christ, the dead are being brought to life by the Holy Spirit.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 37:1–14

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

Second Reading: Acts 2:1–21

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of

Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

- ¹⁷ "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Holy Gospel: John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

²⁶[Jesus said:] "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. . . .

^{16:4b}"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵Now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹²"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."