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# 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

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*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.

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

*\* 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!

*\* The plate's coming. Do I have to give an offering?*

Members of Grace have the privilege and responsibility of stewarding the mission of our congregation through generous giving. God teaches that giving comes from a joyful heart, not under compulsion. If you are visiting today, you are not expected to participate in the offering; please direct your gift to your home congregation.

*\* What about Holy Communion?*

Communion is celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 this understanding will be receiving it to their great harm.

For this reason, 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 are not a member of a Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod congregation, please speak with the pastor before you commune.


If you are not communing today, you are welcome to come forward for a pastoral blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest at the rail. 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.

In the timeless tradition of the Christian church, the Common Cup is offered to all. If you desire to commune using the common cup, raise your hand as the individual cups approach, then assist the Elder by holding the chalice at its base and guiding it as you receive.


**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 SEPTEMBER 14, 2025


– based on Morning Prayer: LSB 235 –

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

## Welcome, Announcements

 **Hymn of Invocation: “Today Your Mercy Calls Us”**

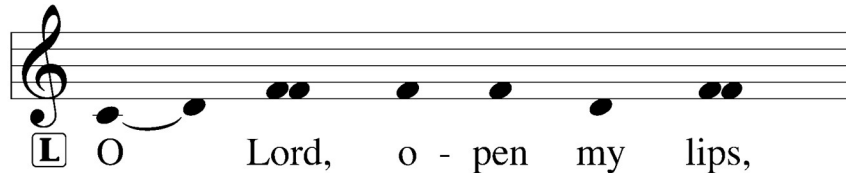
LSB 915

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

**C** Amen.

## Versicles

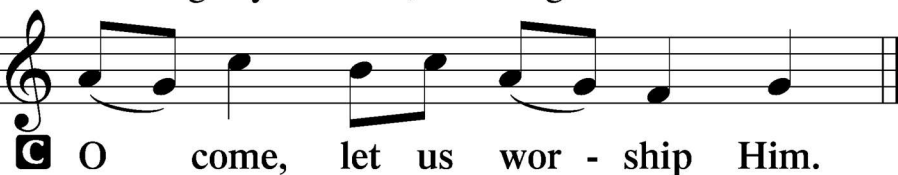
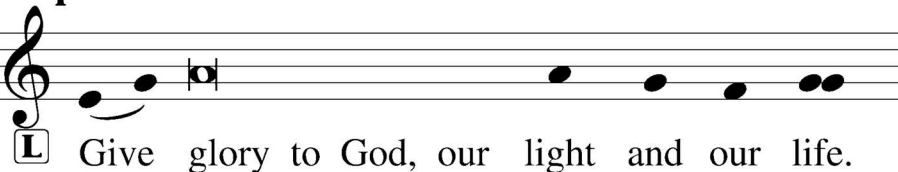
LSB 235



## Alleluia



## Antiphon





**C** O come, let us sing to the Lord;



let us make a joy-ful noise to the rock of our sal-va - tion.



**I** Let us come in - to His pres - ence with thanks - giv - ing;



let us make a joy-ful noise to Him with songs of praise.



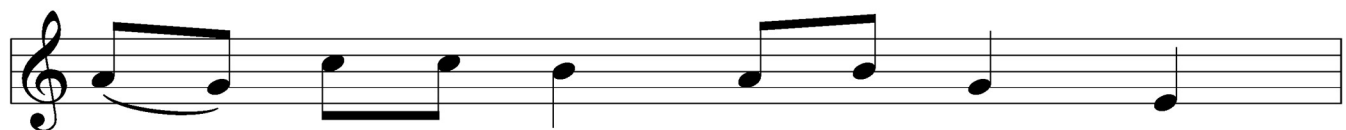
**II** For the Lord is a great God and a great king a-bove all gods.



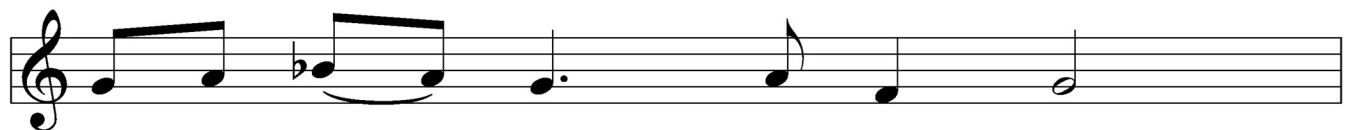
**I** In His hand are the depths of the earth;



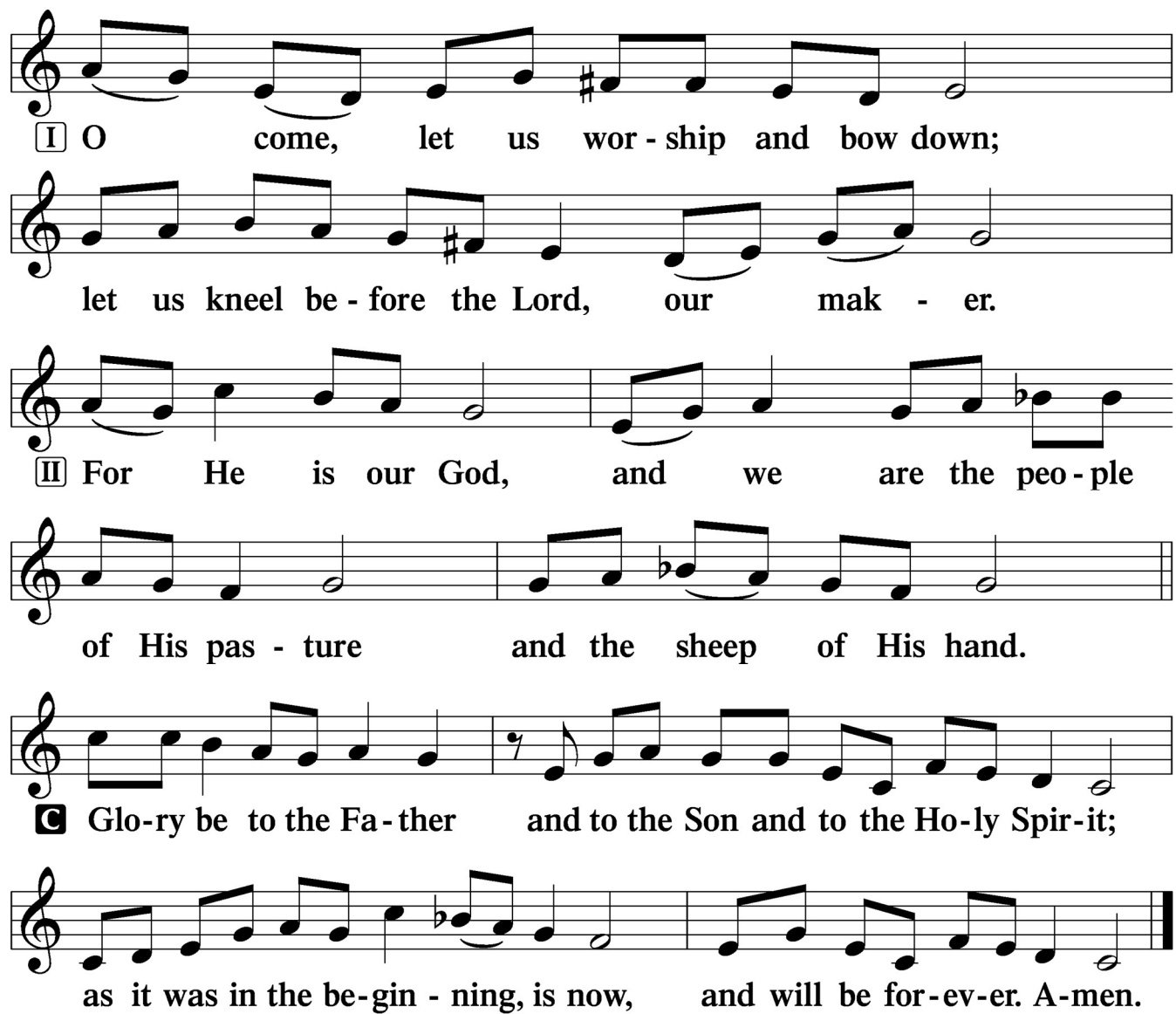
the heights of the moun - tains are His al - so.



**II** The sea is His, for He made it;



and His hand formed the dry land.



**I** O come, let us wor - ship and bow down;  
 let us kneel be - fore the Lord, our mak - er.

**II** For He is our God, and we are the peo - ple  
 of His pas - ture and the sheep of His hand.

**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;  
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

## Antiphon

LSB 237



**L** Give glory to God, our light and our life.

**C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

## Collect of the Day

**L** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*



**C** Fear the LORD, | you his saints,\*  
for those who fear him lack | nothing!  
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,\*  
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

## Epistle Reading

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Final Reading Response

*LSB 238*

**P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.  
**C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

## Holy Gospel

 **Hymn of the Day:** “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

*LSB 709*

## Sermon

 **The Apostles’ Creed**

*Back Cover of Hymnal*

## Offering

## Prayer of the Church

*The Pastor will close each section:* **P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
*Then please respond:* **C** Hear our prayer.

**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

**P** Let us bless the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.  
**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you. **C** Amen.

 **Sending Hymn:** “Now Thank We All Our God”

*LSB 895*

**P** Go in peace; serve the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God!

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

### THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Ben Bahr  
Organist: Maye Smith  
Acolytes: Zak & Emma Fees  
Head Ushers: Gary Krull & Mark Andrews  
Readers: Mark Binkley & Bev Mills  
Tech Crew: Mark Binkley, John Goodnick & John Bahr  
Altar Care: Erika Tuscher & Lin Matiasz

### TODAY – 09/14/25

9:00 am Christian Education  
10:30 am Worship  
11:45 am Confirmation

### MONDAY – 9/15/25

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

### TUESDAY – 09/16/25

6:00 pm Grace Ladies Meeting

### NEXT SUNDAY – 09/21/25

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

### Statistics for the week of September 7, 2025

Worship Service: 87 Attended, 18 Views  
Adult Education: 25  
Youth Education: 21  
Education Staff: 4  
Offering: \$3,593.24  
Mission of the Month: \$40.40  
Sunday School: \$14.75

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please submit new announcements by **Wednesday 12pm**: [office@gracenf.org](mailto:office@gracenf.org).*

*Office Hours THIS week: W/Th 10-2*

**GIVING:** Options at [www.gracenf.org](http://www.gracenf.org)

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS** are Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-15 and Luke 16: 1-15.

**NEXT SUNDAY** Social Ministries will meet after worship. Lunch will be shared during the meeting. New members are always welcome to join the meeting as we decide how to be good stewards of the gifts that God has blessed us with to help others in need. No reservations are necessary.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Trunk or Treat at Grace will be held on Saturday, October 18. We hope you will mark your calendars and plan to participate with your cars or attend with your kids (and your friends' kids). There will be a sign-up sheet and more information available soon.

**SEPTEMBER 28:** Ben and Ella Goehring, LCMS missionaries, will be visiting with us. They will be presenting information on their upcoming deployment to Romania during Bible Class, and will join us for worship on that day. Everyone is welcome to attend Bible Class to hear about the work being done by LCMS International Mission. Watch for further details in next week's bulletin.

**MISSION ENVELOPES:** This September support the mission of our local Lutheran schools: Holy Ghost and Saint John. Both provide quality education with a biblical foundation to kids in PreK through 8th grade. To donate, use your designated September mission envelopes or write "September mission" on your check or the envelope find in the pew. Your donations will go to tuition assistance to help more children afford going to these great schools!

**GRACE LADIES:** Mark Your Calendars! This Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting is at 6PM. The guest speaker is Lt. Kerfoot from NFPD, sharing about scams and frauds. Hostess is Alice Moll. Next month on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 6PM our guest speaker is Karrie Genhardt from HOSPICE (not Roswell). Hostess is Robin Stephenson.





### About the Cover

The crucifix can bring about many different reactions. On the one hand, it reminds us of the suffering and death that Jesus encountered upon that Roman form of execution, the horror of our sin, and God's wrath poured out upon it. On the other hand, the crucifix is, above all, a reminder of the lengths to which Jesus was willing to go to have us as His own forever. It is a symbol of His outstretched love, as He shed His own blood to forgive and save sinners.

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11–24

<sup>11</sup>"For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

<sup>17</sup>"As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. <sup>18</sup>Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? <sup>19</sup>And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

<sup>20</sup>"Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken."

### Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:12–17

<sup>12</sup>I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, <sup>13</sup>though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup>To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

### Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1–10

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup>"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."