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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 NOVEMBER 30, 2025

– 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

### Hymn of Invocation: “The Advent of Our King”

LSB 331

**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.

## Kyrie

LSB 152

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

### *(Hymn of Praise Omitted during Advent)*

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Old Testament Reading

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*



**C** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.\*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;\*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.\*

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

### Epistle Reading

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

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



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

 **Hymn of the Day: "Savior of the Nations, Come"**

LSB 332

## Sermon

 **The Nicene Creed**

*Back Cover of Hymnal*

## Prayer of the Church

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

*Then please respond:*

**C** Hear our prayer.

## Offering

**Offertory: 956 Create in Me**

LSB 956





Text: Psalm 51:10-12

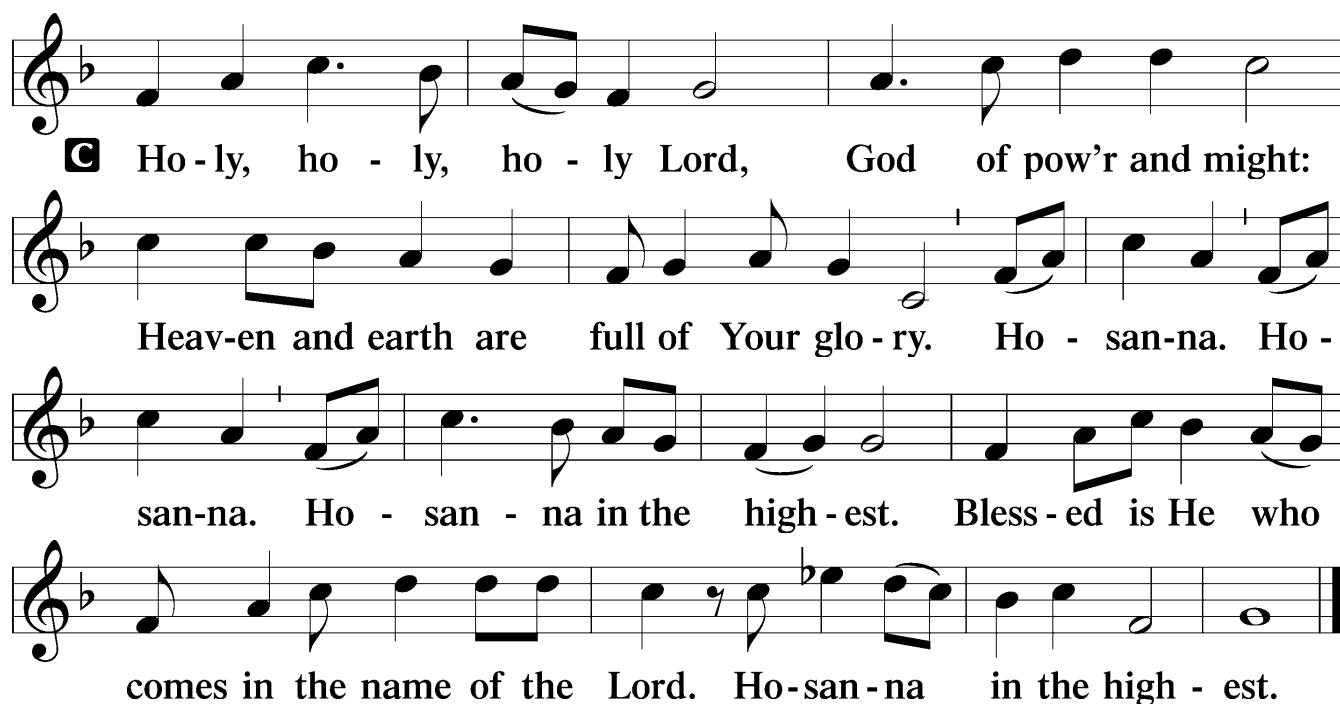
Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## *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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in 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:



**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.

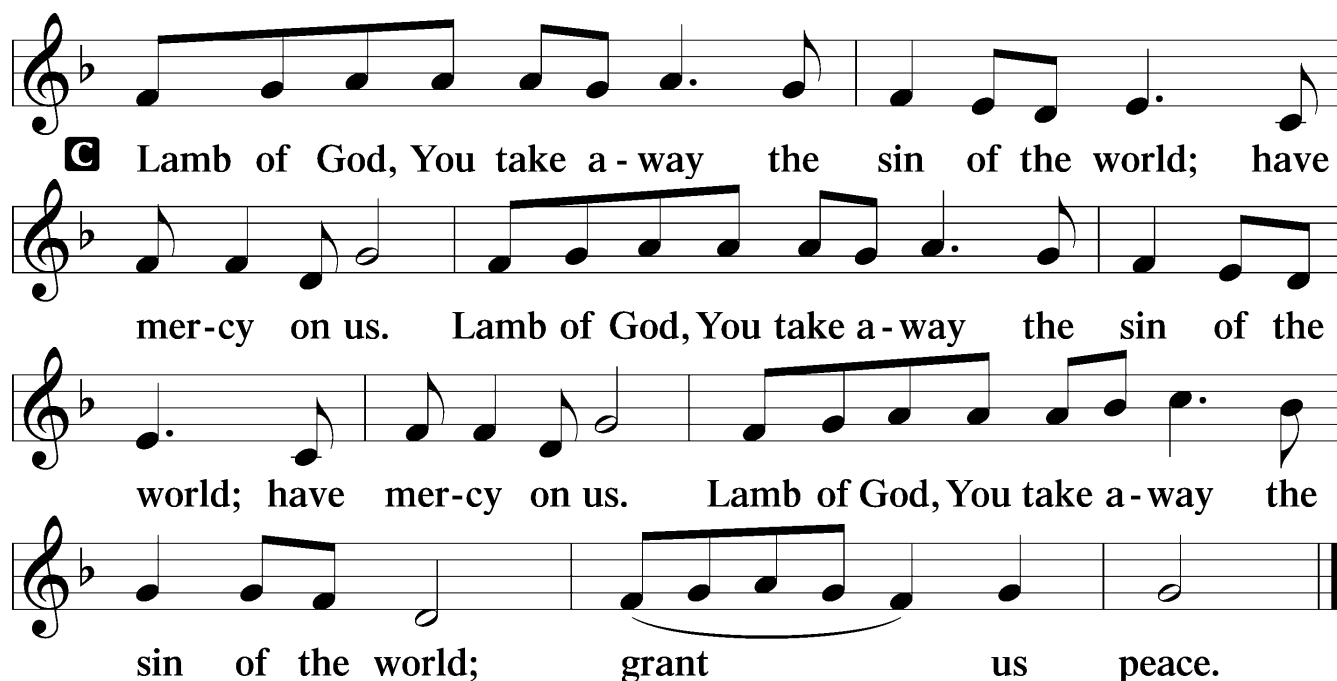
**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when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

### Distribution Hymn:

"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

*LSB 352*

"Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread"

*LSB 625*

## 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:** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

LSB 338

**P** Go in peace; serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

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## THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Ben Bahr

Organist: Maye Smith

Acolytes: Abram & Stewert Smith

Head Ushers: Ross Folmsbee & John Loss

Communion Assistants: Dick Crawford & Mark Andrews

Readers: Pastor & Jane Brese

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley, John Goodnick & John Bahr

Altar Care: Alice Moll & Luann Pyska

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## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

### TODAY – 11/30/25

9:00 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship (HC)

11:30 am Choir Practice

### MONDAY – 12/01/25

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

### WEDNESDAY – 12/03/25

5:30 pm Simple Supper

6:30 pm Advent Service

### NEXT SUNDAY – 12/07/25

9:00 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship (HC)

11:30 am Christmas Decorating

### Statistics for the week of

November 23, 2025

Worship Service: 57 Attended, 36 Views

Adult Education: 11

Youth Education: 8

Education Staff: 5

Offering: \$1,806.24

Mission of the Month: \$20.00

Youth Gathering: \$785.00

Sunday School: \$10.00

\* Weekly budget needs \$4,206



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit new announcements  
by **Wednesday 12pm**: [office@gracenf.org](mailto:office@gracenf.org).  
Office Hours: 1<sup>st</sup> Sun 8:30-12:30, Th 10-2  
**GIVING**: Options at [www.gracenf.org](http://www.gracenf.org)



**CHURCH OFFICE** will be open on Thursday's from 9am-4pm for the next two weeks. If there is an emergency outside that time please contact either Dick Crawford or Mark Andrews.

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS** are Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13, and Matthew 3:1-12.

**VOTER'S MEETING** will be held today following church.

**TURKEYS & HAMS**: Twenty turkeys were delivered last Sunday to our partner agencies that used them for their free Thanksgiving dinners for those in need in our community. We will continue to accept donations of turkeys and hams until December 21, when we will make a second delivery to help provide Christmas dinners. Thank you for helping your neighbors.

**NEXT SUNDAY**: December 7, we will be decorating the sanctuary after worship. Many hands make light work. Please plan to stay if you are able.

**ADVENT SIMPLE SUPPERS & WORSHIP** begin this week. A simple supper will be offered at 5:30 pm. each Wednesday, followed by worship at 6:30 pm. If you cannot make the supper, you are welcome to join for worship. Suppers and worship will be offered each Wednesday through 12/17. There is a sign-up sheet available on the glass case for volunteers to help provide food.

**ADVENT GIVING TREE**: Donations to our Giving Tree tables in the narthex and chapel will support Heart, Love, & Soul, Potter's Field, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, and Niagara Gospel Mission. If you would like to participate, take as many tags as you would like, purchase the item(s) requested, and bring it back to the table unwrapped. We will be accepting donations through December.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**: On Sunday, December 21, our Sunday School students will be participating in worship as greeters, readers, acolytes, and ushers. They will be singing special music, including a selection they will sing with our choir. All are invited to stay for a pizza reception in the chapel after worship. We hope you will join us as we prepare to celebrate the greatest birth in history.

**CHOIR** will practice after worship today. New members who would like to join in singing special Christmas music are welcome to attend practice.

**NOVEMBER MISSION ENVELOPES** will benefit Niagara Falls Meals on Wheels. They are a non-profit group located in Niagara Falls that provides nutritious meals to our city's residents who cannot shop for or cook their own meals. They DO NOT receive any government funding for the services they provide. Because of this, they are able to serve people who do not qualify for other programs and might otherwise slip through the cracks. If you would like to support Meals on Wheels, use your mission envelope during November or give online by choosing "monthly mission".

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS** have been posted at the narthex and parking lot entrances. Check out the list and offer birthday greetings to your friends at Grace.

**GRACE LADIES** Christmas Party will be on Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Food will be provided by ALPS Catering and cost is \$15. Please bring a \$5 wrapped gift to exchange.

**FREE BIBLES:** Our congregation provides free Bibles for guests and neighbors who come through our doors for voting, Survivors' Group meetings, VBS, Trunk or Treat, and many other events. Our supply is running low, and it's time to restock. Each case of 40 is about \$100. If you'd like to support this mission, please mark your gift "Bible Outreach" (for online: choose the Special Missions category first). Those who receive Bibles are very grateful!

## **Grace Lutheran Church 2026 Budget Proposal**

### **Church Council:**

Church office – Secretary, Copier lease, Supplies and Postage - \$19,265

Missions – Social Ministries and Eastern District - \$8,400

Other – Employee Social Security Taxes, Convention Assessment and Bank Charges – \$4,424

**Total - \$32,089**

### **Elders:**

Evangelism Materials - \$790

Family Ministries – Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Confirmation, VBS, Youth - \$9,300

Pastoral office – Salary, Mileage, Materials and Conferences – 38,862

Stewardship – Contribution Envelopes - \$350

Worship – Organist, Music and Worship Materials - \$16,750

**Total - \$66,052**

### **Trustees:**

Custodian - \$15,500

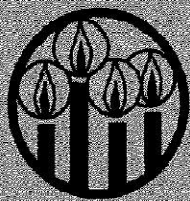
Insurance - \$10,417

Building and Grounds Maintenance - \$38,042

Utilities and Telephone - \$13,824

**Total - \$77,783**

**Proposed Budget total - \$175,924**



### About the Cover

Although Jesus is the King from eternity, His earthly life was marked by humility. He was humbly born of a virgin and laid in a manger. His life of humility led to His entry on a donkey into His holy city during the week of His Passion. Christ the King willingly died a humiliating death upon the cross, but on the third day, He rose. One day, the King will come again. On that day, He will return in the fullness of His glory.

## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 2:1–5

- <sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- <sup>2</sup> It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the LORD  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and all the nations shall flow to it,
- <sup>3</sup> and many peoples shall come,  
and say:  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”  
For out of Zion shall go the law,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;  
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.
- <sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD.

### Epistle: Romans 13:11–14

<sup>11</sup>Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup>The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off

the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup>Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:1–11

<sup>1</sup>Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

- <sup>5</sup> “Say to the daughter of Zion,  
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” <sup>10</sup>And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup>And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”