
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.

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 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 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 DECEMBER 14 , 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 King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”** *LSB 348*

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 T 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)

Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; 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.*

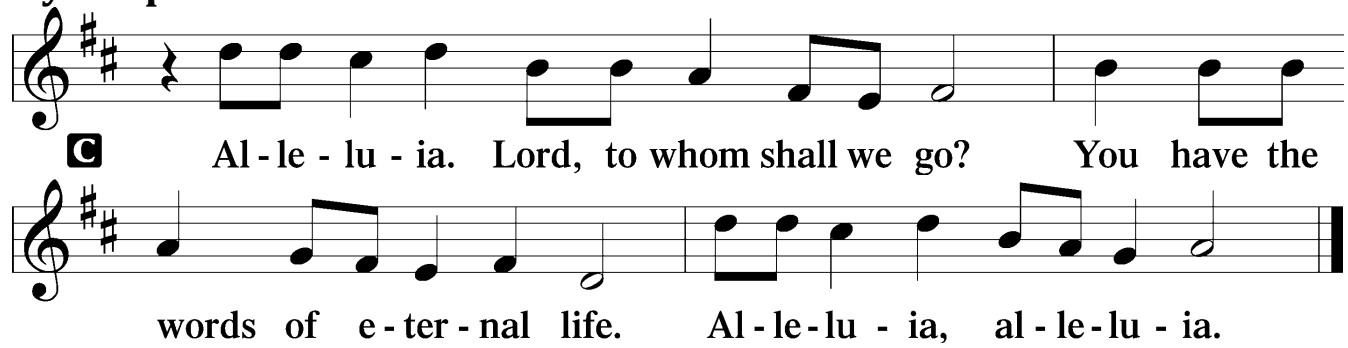
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle Reading

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



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



Hymn of the Day: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

LSB 345

Sermon

The Apostles' 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.

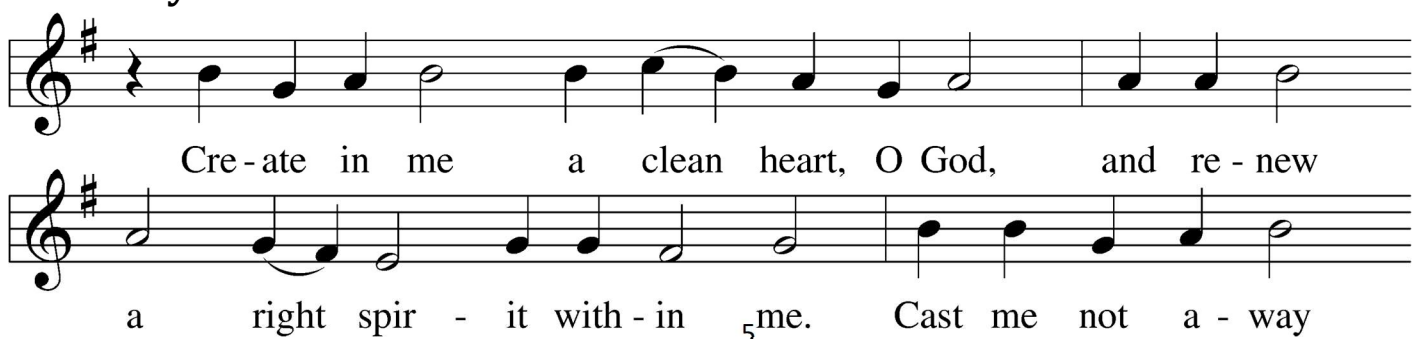
P Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

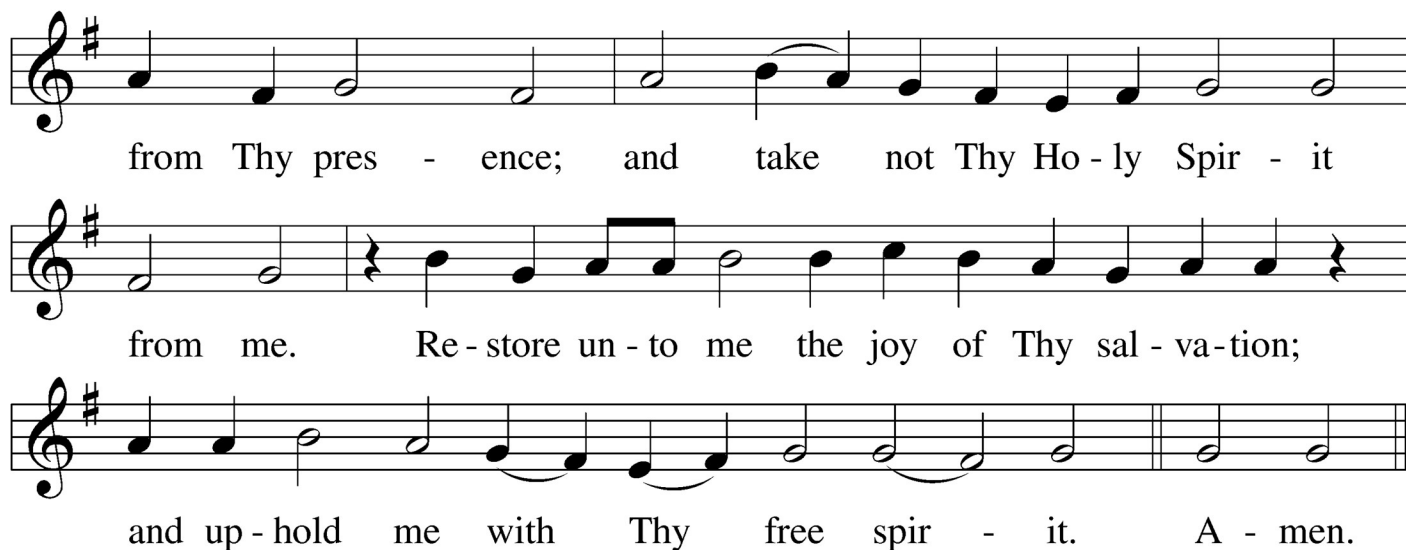
C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: 956 Create in Me

LSB 956





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:** "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"

LSB 342

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!



THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Ben Bahr

Organist: Maye Smith

Acolytes: Daniel Bahr & Audrey Markel

Head Ushers: Gary Krull & Mark Binkley

Reader: Mark Binkley

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley, John Goodnick & John Bahr

Altar Care: Ursula Zimmerman

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 12/14/25

9:00 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Choir Rehearsal

MONDAY – 12/15/25

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

WEDNESDAY – 12/17/25

5:30 pm Simple Supper

6:30 pm Advent Service

SATURDAY – 12/20/25

9:00 am Red Cross Blood Drive

NEXT SUNDAY – 12/21/25

9:00 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship (HC)

11:30 am Sunday School Reception

Statistics for the week of December 7, 2025

Worship Service: 64 Attended, 29 Views

Adult Education: 19

Youth Education: 10

Education Staff: 4

Offering: \$4,500.24

Mission of the Month: \$18.00

* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit new announcements

*by **Wednesday 12pm**: office@gracenf.org.*

December Office Hours 1st Sun 8:30-12:30, W/Th 10-2

***GIVING**: Options at www.gracenf.org*

ALTAR FLOWERS are given today in loving memory of Arlene and Earl Luick by the Majka Family.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS are Isaiah 7:10-17, Romans 1:1-7, and Matthew 1:18-25.

LAST CHANCE: Next Sunday is the last opportunity to donate a turkey or ham to help our partner agencies that offer free Christmas dinners to those in need. Your donations will be delivered on Sunday to Community Mission, Salvation Army, Lord's Day Dinner, and Lighthouse. Thank you for your generous donations.

TODAY: Gifts for **POTTER'S CHRISTMAS KIDS** are due back to Virginia today. Thank you for helping to create Christmas memories for these high risk children from our city.

ADVENT SIMPLE SUPPERS: This Wednesday is our last Advent Simple Supper at 5:30 pm, followed by worship at 6:30 pm. Thank you to those who volunteered to provide food this Advent season.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY 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 in the balcony with the Sunday School after worship today. We will sing during worship next Sunday.

DECEMBER MISSION ENVELOPES will benefit Help & Hope for the Homeless, Inc. This is a local charity founded by John Loss that supports unemployed or underemployed individuals as they pursue a trade or profession. Since their beginning, they have assisted five adults in obtaining training and education that they would not have been able to afford on their own. As a result of this support, four are now employed as LPN's and another was recently hired by Amazon as an electrician apprentice. If you would like to support this charity, place your mission envelope in the offering plate during December, or give online by choosing "monthly mission".

SAVE YOUR CARDS: Grace Ladies would appreciate donations of Christmas cards you plan to discard. There is a donation box located in the coat room by the parking lot entrance.

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
(736 Cayuga Sr., Niagara Falls)

Saturday, December 20th, 2025
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.



About the Cover

Jesus responded to John's question concerning His identity by pointing to the scriptural prophecies in Isaiah. "The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them" (Matthew 11:5). When we have questions, the Lord wants us to go back to His sure Word. His Word alone brings faith in Him and reminds us of the forgiveness of sins and salvation that He accomplished for us through His death on the cross and resurrection.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1–10

- ¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom
like the crocus;
- ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
- ³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
- ⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!"
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."
- ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
- ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
- ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
- ⁸ And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
- ⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
- ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Epistle: James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2–15

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before
your face,
who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹"Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."