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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 FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2026

– 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: “Rise, Shine, You People”**

LSB 825

## Rite of Holy Baptism

*Elias Markel*

**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

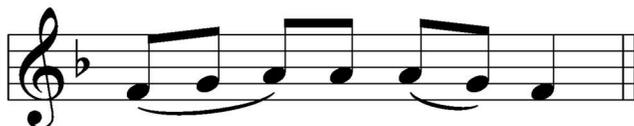
LSB 152

**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.



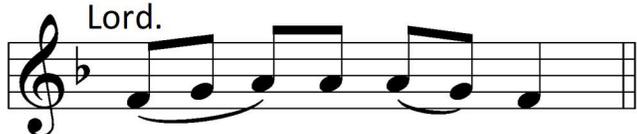
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**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.

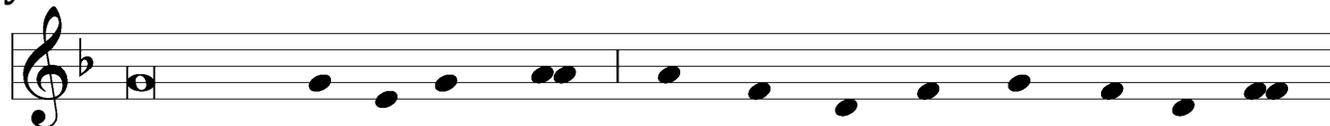
**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Hymn of Praise

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:



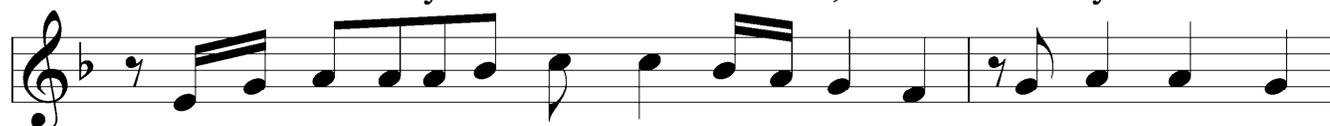
We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



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

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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

*Psalms 117:1-2a; 96:8*



**C** Praise the LORD, all | nations!\*

Extol him, all | peoples!

For great is his steadfast | love toward us,\*

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;\*

bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

### Epistle Reading

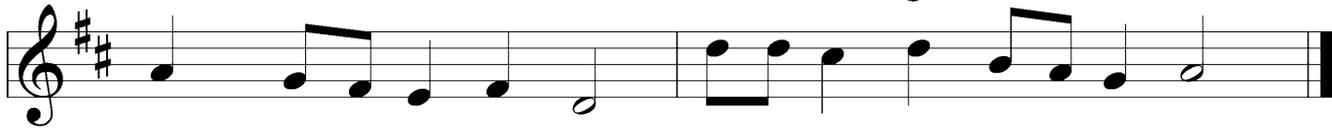
**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Holy Gospel



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. Matthew, the fifth 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:** “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service” LSB 848

## Sermon

## Prayer of the Church

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

Then please respond:

**C** Hear our prayer.

## Offering

## Offertory: 956 Create in Me

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new



a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way



from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;



and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

*Text: Psalm 51:10-12*

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

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## 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:** “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”

*LSB 917*

**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: Virginia Markel & Elizabeth Washburn

Head Ushers: Mark Binkley & John Loss

Readers: Rich Fees & Lacey Bahr

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley, John Goodnick & John Bahr

Altar Care: Erika Tuscher & Lin Matiasz

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## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

### TODAY – 02/08/26

9:00 am Christian Education  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Choir Rehearsal

### MONDAY – 02/09/26

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

### THURSDAY – 02/12/26

6:30 pm Church Council

### SATURDAY – 02/14/26

9:00 am Red Cross Blood Drive

### NEXT SUNDAY – 02/15/26

9:00 am Christian Education  
10:30 am Worship (HC)  
11:30 am Choir Rehearsal

## Statistics for the week of February 1, 2026

Worship Service: 69 Attended, 43 Views  
Adult Education: 19  
Youth Education: 13  
Education Staff: 4

Offering: \$4,384.24  
Mission of the Month: \$60.00  
Sunday School: \$2.00

\* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please submit new announcements  
by **Wednesday 12pm**: [office@gracenf.org](mailto:office@gracenf.org).  
Office Hours: First Sunday of Month 8:30-12:30, M/W/Th 10-2  
**GIVING**: Options at [www.gracenf.org](http://www.gracenf.org)*

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS** are Exodus 24:8-18, 2 Peter 1:16-21, and Matthew 17:1-9.

**FEBRUARY MISSION ENVELOPES** are designated to support **YOUNG LIFE**, an international youth organization with local chapters. At Young Life, responsible, caring Christian mentors work to bring teens to the knowledge of Christ. We have several members that have participated as teens in Young Life activities, and Dick Crawford has been associated with Young Life for many years. He would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding their mission and local work. If you would like to support Young Life, place your mission envelope in the offering plate during February, or donate online by choosing "monthly mission".

**CHURCH COUNCIL** will meet on Thursday February 12th at 6:30pm.

**NEXT SUNDAY** is the last Sunday to order bouquets in support of **NIAGARA HOSPICE**. The order form can be found on the glass case. Bouquets are \$10 each. Payment should be given to Jane Schulz and can be cash or check (made out to Niagara Hospice). Bouquets will be placed on the altar on March 15, and can be taken home after worship.

**SIMPLE SUPPERS** begin in two weeks and will be offered through Lent at 5:30 p.m., prior to our 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evening services. (There will NOT be simple suppers on Ash Wednesday or during Holy week.) Volunteers are needed to provide food and drinks beginning February 25 through March 25. Please add your name to the sign up sheet on the glass case if you are able to help.

**YOUNG LIFE DINNER** will be held at Classics V on March 19 beginning at 6:15 p.m. A sign up sheet is available on the glass case. There is no charge for the dinner, but donations to Young Life are appreciated. Table(s) will be reserved for Grace members to sit together. Please see Dick Crawford if you have questions. All are welcome to attend.

**CHOIR** will rehearse in the balcony after worship today and again next Sunday. We will be singing on Ash Wednesday, February 18. New members are always welcome.

**GRACE LADIES:** The next meeting will be our Mardi Gras Tea Party on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6PM. Hostesses are Linda Broeker and Flory Bellreng.

**40 DAYS OF LIFE** Begins their Lenten prayer vigil for unborn children and their parents on Ash Wednesday. To participate or to sign up for a prayer shift, please contact Kristen Jorg at 231-286-8685 or Lacey Bahr at 716-525-5134. Please pray for all affected by this event.

**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are on the table in the Chapel. Please check your name off the sheet once you have picked up your envelopes. If you do not have envelopes listed and would like a box please leave a note for Erin Anthony in the office.

**2026 FLOWER CHART** is now hanging in the narthex. Cost for a centerpiece is \$50, or you can choose two vases at a cost of \$64. When you sign up for a date, please find the altar flower order form outside either sanctuary entrance. Please complete the form and return to the church office no later than the Sunday week before your date.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** will be held here at Grace on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm.



### About the Cover

Like rays of light stretching out over the horizon, the Lord promises that repentance and sincerity will be met with a new dawn filled with righteousness, healing, and the Lord's protection. Jesus has entered into the darkness of our sin through His death on the cross, but the break of a new day came on the first Easter morning to show us that He lives to bring us His righteousness, healing, and protection.

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 58:3–9a

- <sup>3</sup> “Why have we fasted, and you see it not?  
Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?  
Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,  
and oppress all your workers.
- <sup>4</sup> Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to hit with a wicked fist.  
Fasting like yours this day  
will not make your voice to be heard on high.
- <sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day for a person to humble himself?  
Is it to bow down his head like a reed,  
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?  
Will you call this a fast,  
and a day acceptable to the LORD?
- <sup>6</sup> “Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of wickedness,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?
- <sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover him,  
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
- <sup>8</sup> Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up speedily;  
your righteousness shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
- <sup>9a</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

### Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:1–12

<sup>1</sup>And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup>and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. <sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

### Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:13–20

<sup>13</sup>[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”