

Grace Lutheran Church

736 Cayuga Drive
Niagara Falls, New York 14304
www.gracenf.org
Divine Service: Sunday 10:30 AM

Rev. Benjamin G. Bahr, Pastor

Office (716) 283-1843
office@gracenf.org

Our Vision: Welcoming people to grow in hope, love, and certainty through God's Word of grace.

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR PALM SUNDAY – MARCH 29, 2026

– based on Divine Service 1: LSB 151 –

Welcome, Announcements

Entrance Response

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

C **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna to the Son of David!**

P Let us pray. Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

C **Blessed is the King of Israel! Hosanna!**

As the hymn is sung, please turn to face the processional cross as it passes. We always look to the cross!

Processional Hymn: “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

LSB 442

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To You, Re - deem - er, King,
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the King of Is - rael And Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;
4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;
5 As You re - ceived their prais - es, Ac - cept the prayers we bring,



Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.
 And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.
 Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.
 To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
 O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious King.

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

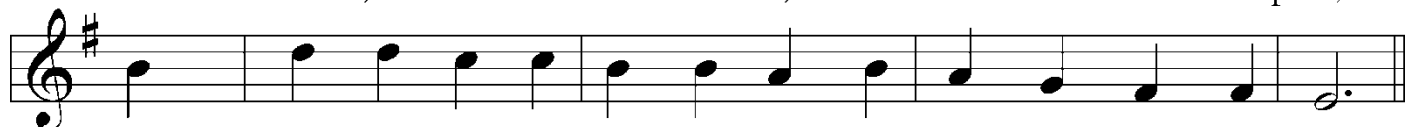
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution: Lord Jesus, Think on Me

LSB 610



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
 5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
 Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
 In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
 Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

Public domain

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, 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.

Epistle Reading

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵"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.'"

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And 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!" ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

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



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

 **The Nicene Creed**

Back Cover of Hymnal

Prayer of the Church

A setting of The Lord’s Prayer

- P** Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.
God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil’s kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [names] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Offering

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 accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. 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 Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

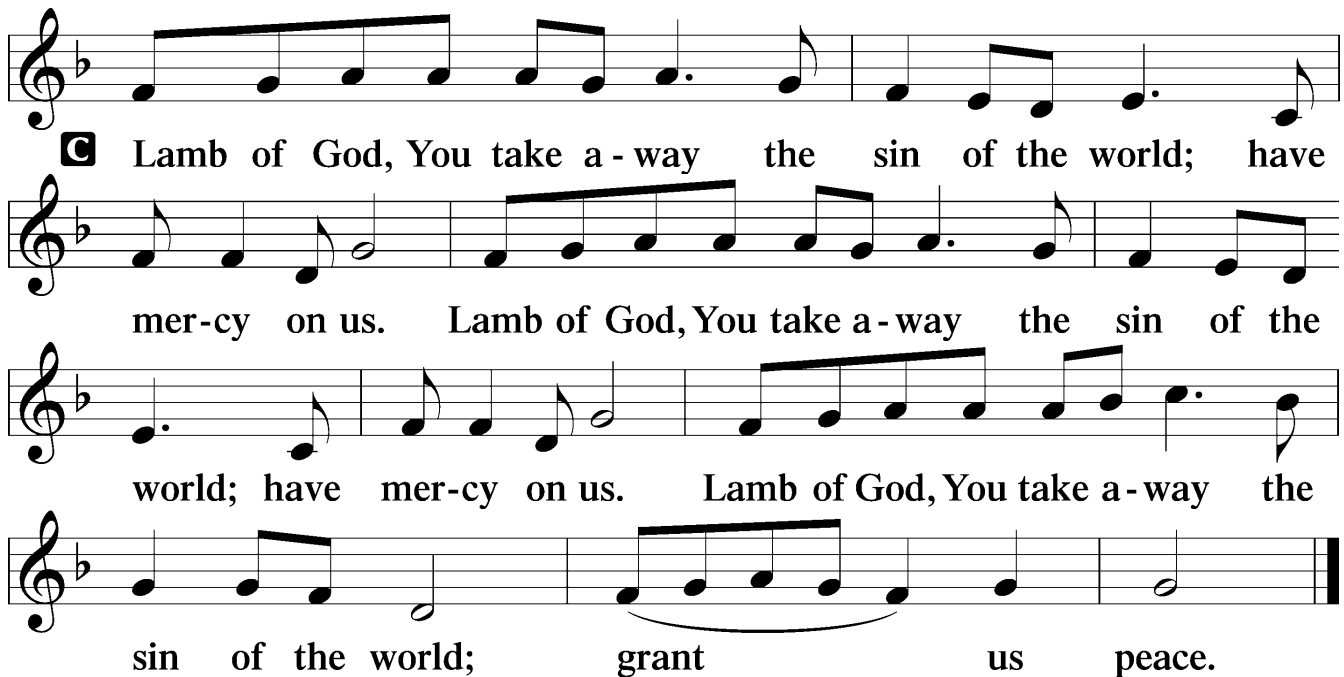
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He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

"Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed "

LSB 560

"O Savior, Precious Savior"

LSB 527

Post-Communion Canticle: On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

*Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.
Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758
Text and tune: Public domain*

Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

LSB 443

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Ben Bahr
Organist: Maye Smith
Reader: Mark Andrews
Acolytes: Dillon Deskovic & Stewert Smith
Head Ushers: Neil Stenzel & Randy Broeker
Communion Assistants: TBD
Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr
Altar Care: Ursula Zimmerman

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 03/29/26 – PALM SUNDAY

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

MONDAY – 03/30/26

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

THURSDAY – 04/02/26

6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service (HC)

FRIDAY – 04/03/26

7:00 pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service

NEXT SUNDAY – 04/05/26 – EASTER

8:00 am Sunrise Service
8:30 am Easter Breakfast
9:15 am Christian Education
10:30 am Easter Jubilee Service (HC)

Statistics for the week of
April 22, 2026

Worship Service: 75 Attended, 35 Views
Adult Education: 19
Youth Education: 8
Education Staff: 4

Offering: \$2,414.24
Mission of the Month: \$170.00
Sunday School: \$1.00

* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS are Acts 10:34-43, Colossians 3:1-4, and Matthew 28:1-10.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed April 5th through 10th and open the second Sunday in April.

ATTENDANCE SHEETS found in the bulletin assist us in making sure that all of our members are being cared for as needed. Please fill one out EACH WEEK and place it in the offering plate.

SOMETHING NEW: We currently have ten members of our congregation with mobility concerns who prefer to take communion in the front row rather than attempt the steps leading up to the communion railing. To help them avoid injury, we will be reserving the front row on the chapel side for their use on communion Sundays. We thank you for your understanding.

CHOIR: Ross will be in the balcony immediately after worship today for anyone who would like an optional review of our anthems for Good Friday (7 pm service) and Easter (10:30 am service).

NEXT SUNDAY and continuing through April, we will be accepting donations of small toys, coloring and activity books, crayons, and markers for the children hospitalized at GOLISANO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL. Volunteers offer these items to the families to help parents entertain their children. There will be shopping lists of suggested donations on tables in the chapel and narthex for your convenience if you would like to participate. Jim Wolf volunteers at Children's each week and would be glad to answer any questions you have about this project or about volunteering at the hospital.

TODAY is the last Sunday to donate using our MARCH MISSION ENVELOPES, designated to support Samaritan Counseling. You can also donate online until Tuesday by choosing "monthly mission".

GRACE LADIES will be selling Treichler gift cards again this year. See the sign-up sheet on glass bookcase. Cost is \$25 – cash or check made out to Grace Ladies. Sign-up sheet is available from April 12th through May 3rd. Please pay Ursula Zimmerman or Alice Moll.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held on Saturday, April 25th at 9:00AM here at Grace.



HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM (with Holy Communion)

Good Friday Tenebrae: 7:00 PM

Easter Sunrise: 8:00 AM

Easter Breakfast: 8:30 AM

Christian Education: 9:15 AM

Easter Jubilee: 10:30 AM (with Holy Communion)



About the Cover

Christ came to us in humility, taking the form of an obedient servant. On Palm Sunday, He again came in humility, riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Then, the ultimate sign of His humility was shown on Good Friday. Paradoxically, it was His being lifted up on the cross that was the greatest sign of His glory and exaltation. It is through His death on the cross that Christ has won for us the forgiveness of sins. This alone is the power of God for salvation for all who believe (see 1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 1:16). We proclaim today, "Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11).

PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 50:4–9a

- ⁴ The Lord God has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a
word
him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
- ⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.
- ⁶ I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out
the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.
- ⁷ But the Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to
shame.
- ⁸ He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.
- ^{9a} Behold, the Lord God helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Epistle: Philippians 2:5–11

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 26:1–27:66

... ^{27:38}Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴²"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and

we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." ⁴⁸And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

⁵⁵There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁵⁶among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶²Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' ⁶⁴Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." ⁶⁶So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.