
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 FOR APRIL 12, 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: “This Joyful Eastertide”**

LSB 482

L Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

C Amen.

L 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.

L 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.

L 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.

Kyrie

LSB 152

L In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C Lord, have mer - cy.

L 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.

L 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.

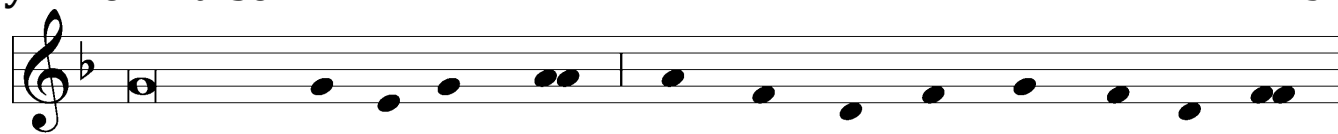
L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise

LSB 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



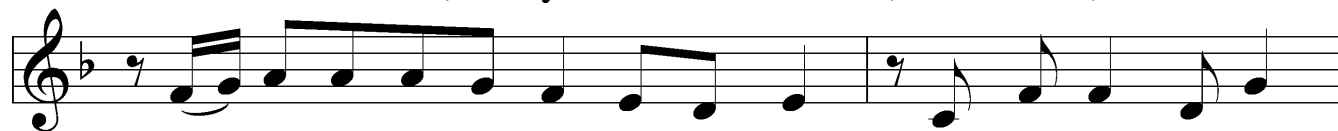
C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



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



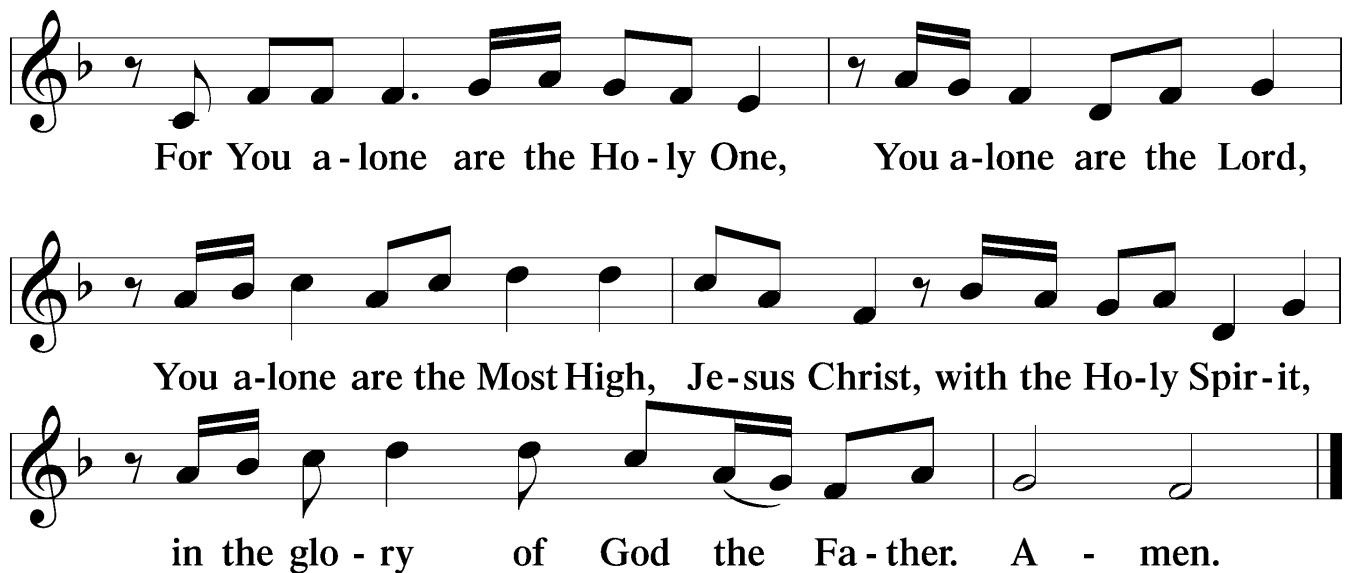
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



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

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6



C Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.

He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*


he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle Reading

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel



C 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.

L The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

L ...This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

 **Hymn of the Day:** "O Sons and Daughters of the King"

LSB 470

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.

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: 488 He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

LSB 488



He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec - on - ciled



is God, my Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen.

My Je - sus did tri - um - phant die, And Sa - tan's ar -
rows bro - ken lie, De - stroyed hell's fierc - est weap - on.
O hear what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, Ris - ing glo - rious,
Life is giv - ing. He was dead but now is liv - ing!

*Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608
Text and tune: Public domain*

Benediction

- Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: “He’s Risen, He’s Riden”

LSB 480

- Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- Go in peace; serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God!**

THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Leader: Neil Stenzel

Organist: Maye Smith

Acolytes: Emme Fees & Elizabeth Washburn

Head Ushers: Dick Crawford & Randy Broeker

Readers: Dick & Marla Crawford

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr

Altar Care: Ursula Zimmerman

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 04/12/26

9:00 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship

MONDAY – 04/13/26

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

TUESDAY – 04/14/26

6:00 pm Young Adult Group

SATURDAY – 04/18/26

9:00 am Coffee w/ Chris

NEXT SUNDAY – 04/19/26

9:00 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship (HC)

**Statistics for the week of
April 12, 2026**

Worship Service: 108 Attended, 38 Views

Easter Sunrise: 51

Good Friday: 60

Maundy Thursday: 42

Youth Education: 14

Education Staff: 3

Offering: \$5,794.84

Sunday School: \$3.00

Mission of the Month: \$35.40

* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit new announcements

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

Office Hours: 2nd Sun 8:30-12:30, M/T/Th/F 10:30-1

GIVING: Options at www.gracenf.org

CHURCH OFFICE for the next two weeks will be open M/T/Th/F from 10:30a-1:00p.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS are Acts 2:14a, 36-41, 1 Peter 1:17-25, and Luke 24:13-35.

GOLISANO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL: Throughout April, we will be accepting donations of small toys, coloring and activity books, crayons, etc., for the children hospitalized at Golisano (formerly Oishei) Children's Hospital. Volunteers offer these items to the families to help parents entertain their children. There are SHOPPING LISTS of suggested donations on tables in the chapel and narthex for your convenience if you would like to participate. PLEASE NOTE: Donations of toiletries are NOT needed at this time. 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.

APRIL MISSION ENVELOPES are designated to support our military at this time when many of our men and women are being deployed to the Middle East. Your donations will support the "MILITARY PROJECT", located at our Concordia Seminary at Fort Wayne. They provide theological resources, support, basic supplies, and encouragement to military chaplains around the world as they work to bring the mercy of Christ to military members. Pastor Bahr has received materials from them for his work as chaplain at the Niagara Falls Air Base. If you'd like to participate, place your mission envelope in the offering plate during April, or donate online 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.





About the Cover

Peter's convicting words that were given to the leadership to bring about repentance are applied to us as well. For God exalted Christ to deliver the forgiveness of sins by faith in Him. All of us have been born into and contributed to the sin that put Christ to death. When we are convicted of our sin by the work of God's Law on our hearts, it is always in order to bring about repentance and faith in Christ, our Savior, who has been raised for our justification.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 5:29–42

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."
³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.
³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.
³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.
³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while.
³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men.
³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing.
³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered.
³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail;
³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice,
⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.
⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.
⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:3–9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,
⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you

have been grieved by various trials,
⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,
⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Holy Gospel: John 20:19–31

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."
²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.
²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."
²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.
²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."
²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."
²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"
²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;
³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.