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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 MAY 3, 2026

– based on Divine Service 4: LSB 203 –

This symbol (  ) means that part of the service is found in the Lutheran Service Book hymnal.

## Welcome, Announcements

### Hymn of Invocation: “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

LSB 909

**P** Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess our sin. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ.

**C** Before God and one another, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition, and so we pray: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Almighty God, merciful Father, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. In Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children; therefore You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**P** Almighty God, in His mercy, has given his Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Kyrie and Gloria

LSB 204



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



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
 2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
 Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

### Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



- C** These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



- Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



- C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

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

- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**B** Hymn of the Day: "Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses"

*LSB 667*

## Sermon

**B** The Nicene Creed

*Back Cover of Hymnal*

## Prayer of the Church

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

Then please respond:

- C** Hear our prayer.

## 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.

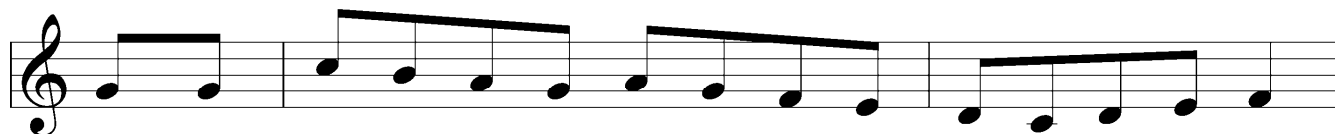
**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, 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 Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**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  $\text{✝}$  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  $\text{✝}$  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.

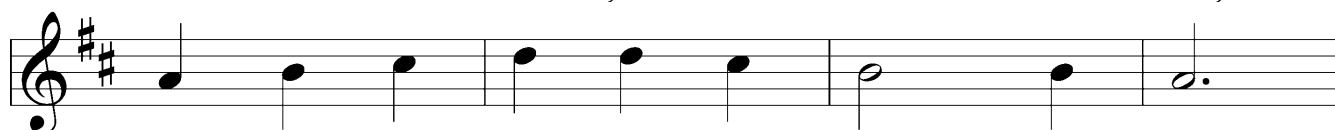
**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

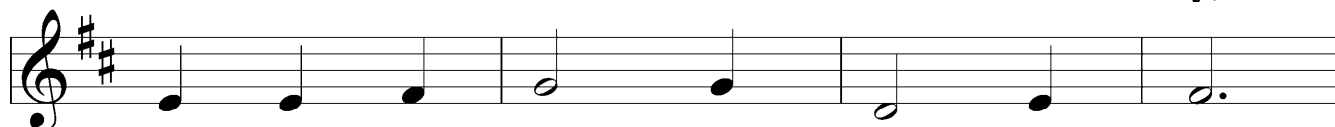
LSB 210



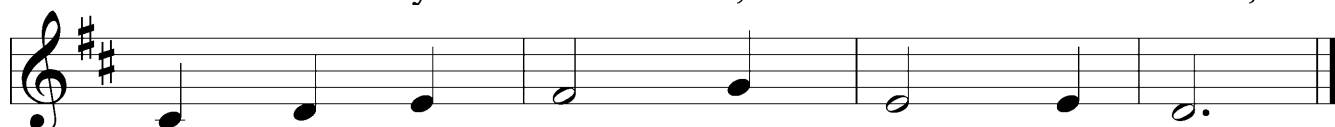
**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## Distribution Hymn:

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

LSB 621

"Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying"

LSB 597

# Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

**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:** “Christ Sits at God’s Right Hand”

*LSB 564*

**P** Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**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: Michael Bahr & Sherry Cassatt

Head Ushers: Neil Stenzel & Jim Wolf

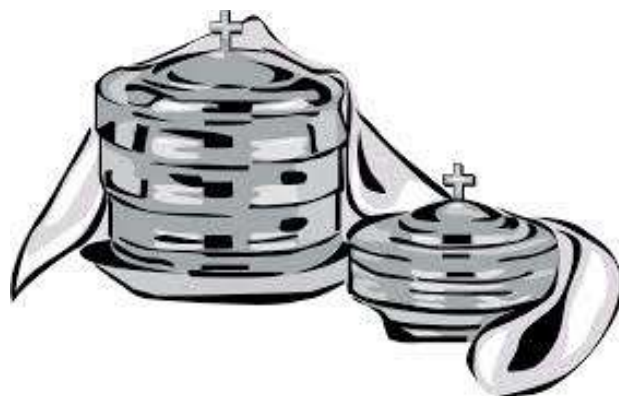
Communion Assistants: Jim Wolf & Mark Binkley

Readers: Jane Schulz & Kristin Lathrop

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr

Altar Care: Erika Tuscher & Donna Hoffman

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## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

### TODAY – 05/03/26

9:00 am Christian Education  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Social Ministries Meeting

### MONDAY – 05/04/26

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

### NEXT SUNDAY – 05/10/26

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

### Statistics for the week of April 26, 2026

Worship Service: 80 Attended, 17 Views  
Adult Education: 16  
Youth Education: 14  
Education Staff: 5

Offering: \$2,722.24  
Sunday School: \$4.00  
Mission of the Month: \$267.00  
\* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given today by Neil & Michele Stenzel and Amanda Drozek in loving memory of Jamie Lee Stenzel.

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS** are Acts 17:16-31, 1 Peter 3:13-22, and John 14:15-21.

**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.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS** have been posted at the narthex and parking lot entrances. Please check out the list and offer birthday wishes and blessings to your friends at Grace.

**SOCIAL MINISTRIES** will meet in the chapel after worship today.

**MAY MISSION ENVELOPES** are designated to support **PIONEER ON THE LAKE** (formerly Camp Pioneer). Pioneer is offering a full slate of events this summer, including special week-long camps, retreats, weekly car cruises, Sunday worship services, VBS, and much more. Their annual Pioneer Fest will be held on July 19. Pioneer offers various accommodations available to rent, including five premier cottages with central air and furnaces. If you would like to support Pioneer, place your mission envelopes in the offering plate during May, or donate online by choosing "monthly mission".

**SPRING MISSION PROJECT:** Beginning next Sunday, tables will be available in the narthex and chapel for donations of baby items to support Summit Life Center in Niagara Falls. Summit supports young women and men facing unplanned pregnancies with free services, including counseling, parenting classes, support groups, and community assistance referrals. Attendance at activities earns clients credits that can be redeemed for baby clothes, blankets, diapers, wipes, and infant toiletries. If you would like to donate these items, we will continue to accept your gifts through Father's Day, June 21.

**Creation/Evolution Class** Grades 3-5 • Saturday, May 9, 10 AM – 12 PM

Let's talk about science, and how it truly aligns with God as designer and the Bible as true history! Students in grades 3-5 come with an adult mentor and learn more about dinosaurs, geology, and biology. Together, we'll discover how evolution and creation are not compatible theories of how life began, and prepare you to defend your faith in years to come.

Register today at:



With questions, contact Lacey Bahr: 716-525-5134 (text or call), laceybahr@gmail.com.

**INDOOR GARAGE SALE:** Saturday, May 16, 9 AM - 2 PM at St. John North Tonawanda. Enjoy gently used items at a low price, freshly baked goods, and vendors' variety. Please call Susan (315-729-3725) by May 2nd to reserve a \$20 table.

**FREE CONCERT:** FIVE14. Saturday, May 23, 7 PM at St. John North Tonawanda. Live praise and worship music, no tickets, wheelchair accessible.



### About the Cover

Jesus' work on the cross and His resurrection was all done so that we may be with Him forever. There is no good apart from Jesus. Jesus is indeed with us this day by the promises of Baptism. We have the promise that He will never leave us. In His Word, He is with us by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Lord's Supper, He is with us in His very body and blood to bring us forgiveness and strengthen our faith. When we die, we will be with Jesus. Finally, when we are raised on the Last Day, we and all believers will be in heaven with Him forever.

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**First Reading: Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60**

<sup>1</sup>Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup>And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." <sup>5</sup>And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup>These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup>And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

<sup>8</sup>And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup>Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

<sup>7:2a</sup>And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

<sup>51</sup>"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup>Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <sup>53</sup>you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

<sup>54</sup>Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." <sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup>Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

### Epistle: 1 Peter 2:2–10

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup>So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"

<sup>8</sup>and

"A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

### Holy Gospel: John 14:1–14

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father?' <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup>"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."