
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 JULY 19, 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! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You”**

LSB 668

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

Music found in LSB #155

C REFRAIN: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Refrain

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

Refrain

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

Refrain

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; 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

Romans 11:33, 36



C Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!*
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable | his ways!
For from him and through him and to him are | all things.*
To him be glory forever. | Amen.

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 thirteenth 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: "Amazing Grace"

LSB 744

Sermon

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

Offertory

LSB 192



C 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.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

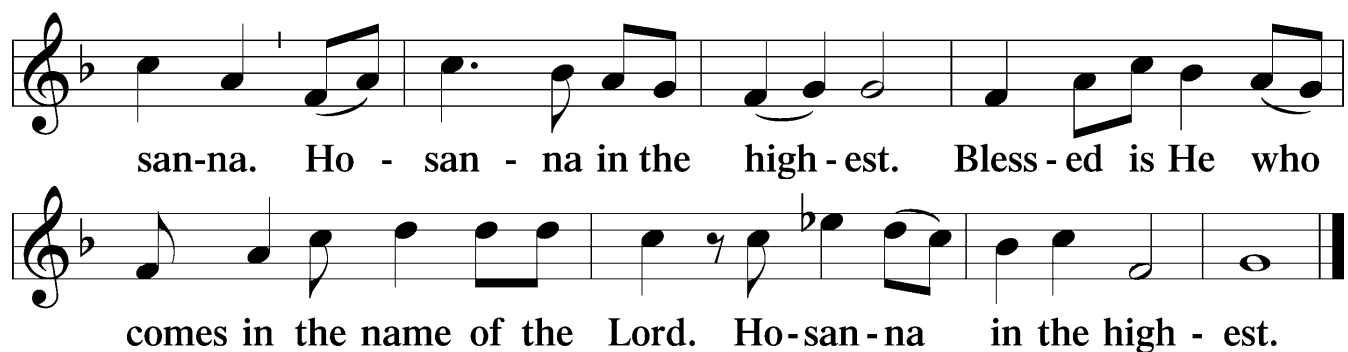
If you have not communed with us before, please read "What about Holy Communion?" on page 2.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 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. 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 -



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.

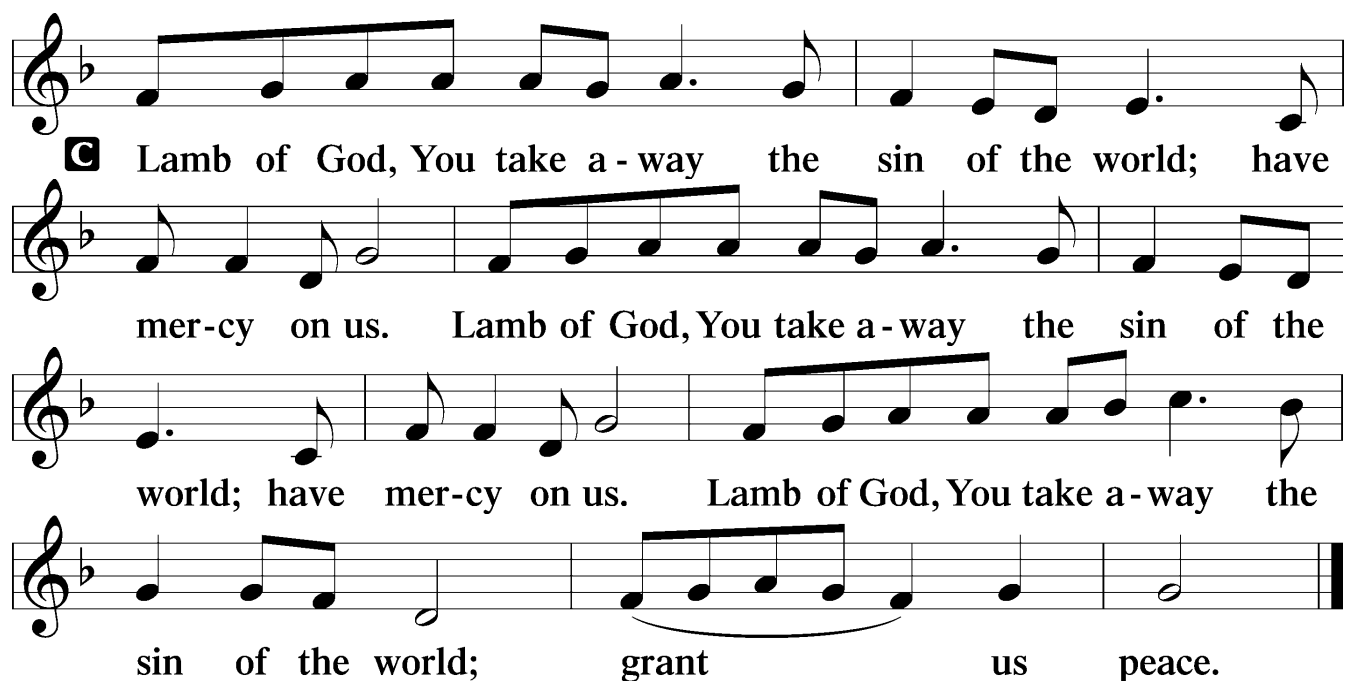
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He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



Distribution Hymn:

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

LSB 809

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

LSB 770

Thank the Lord

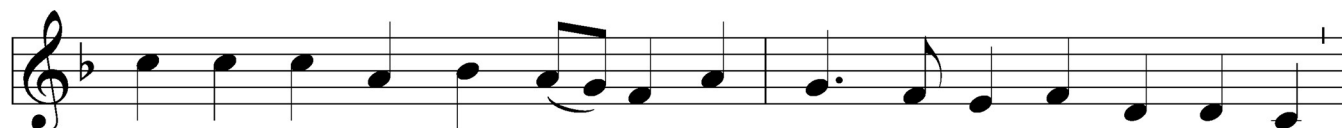
LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

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: “Almighty Father, Bless the Word”

LSB 923

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: Stewert & Abram Smith

Head Ushers: Neil Stenzel & Randy Broeker

Communion Assistants: Mark Binkley & Mark Andrews

Reader: Jim Wolf

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr

Altar Care: Virginia Markel & Sherry Cassatt



THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 07/19/26

10:30 am Worship (HC)

11:30 am Coffee Hour

MONDAY – 07/20/26

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 07/26/26

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Coffee Hour

Statistics for the week of

July 12, 2026

Worship Service: 55 Attended, 21 Views

Offering: \$2,698.84

Mission of the Month: \$225.00

Sunday School: \$5.00

* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit new announcements

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

July Office Hours: 3rd Sun 9:30-12:30, T/Th 10:00-3

GIVING: Options at www.gracenf.org



NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS are Deuteronomy 7:6-9, Romans 8:28-39, and Matthew 13:44-52.

DON'T FORGET: Next Sunday we will celebrate our Grace members who have or will turn 80 or older during 2026. Invite your families and friends to worship that day and join us for coffee hour after worship. We will enjoy a piece of birthday cake as we congratulate the senior members of our Grace family.

JULY MISSION ENVELOPES are designated to support the Niagara Falls Lord's Day Dinners. The founders of this mission, Yvonne and Matt Davis, provide free holiday meals to those in need at the VFW Post on Seneca Avenue. But they don't limit their service to holidays only. Anyone who is hungry can knock on their Ashland Avenue home's side window at any time and they will receive food to eat. They have been doing this for over thirty years, and they are funded strictly by donations. If you would like to help them with this mission, place your mission envelope in the offering plate during July or donate online under "monthly mission".

SUMMER MISSION PROJECT: Tables have been set up in the chapel and narthex to receive donations to our annual collection of school supplies and children's underwear and socks. Needed supplies include (but are not limited to) notebooks, folders, crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, pens & pencils, scissors, and erasers. We also accept donations of socks and underwear, items that our children often go without because their family budgets cannot afford them. All donations will be distributed directly to students in need by teachers and school nurses in September.

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS: Kathy Majka has generously volunteered to help you with the Thrivent Cause Kits you are eligible to order every year. On the Thrivent website, under the "generosity" tab, you can choose a solar light or water filter. It will be sent to you free of charge, and Kathy will assemble it and return it to Thrivent. These items are distributed in disaster areas in the United States as well as around the world. Help your neighbor in Christ by ordering your kit today.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: There are still opportunities available in August to provide a snack for our coffee hour after worship. Please sign up on the glass case if you are able to help.

GRACE LADIES SUMMER PICNIC – Come join us on Tuesday, August 4th at 5:30pm at church for annual picnic. Sign-up sheet is on glass case in chapel. Bring a side dish or dessert to go with our hot dogs and hamburgers. Also, if you made a mosaic picture frame at our June field trip to Orange Poppy Art Studio, bring that along to display our artistic abilities. Hope to see you August 4th!



About the Cover

Sometimes the heartache of this world and our weakness can leave us speechless in our prayers. So we lean on the Word that God continues to speak into our lives, trusting that the "Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." Jesus has already won for us redemption and eternal life through His cross and resurrection. We wait in eager expectation for His return and the restoration of all creation.

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 44:6–8

- ⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
⁷ Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.
Let him declare and set it before me,
since I appointed an ancient people.
Let them declare what is to come,
and what will happen.
⁸ Fear not, nor be afraid;
have I not told you from of old
and declared it?
And you are my witnesses!
Is there a God besides me?
There is no Rock; I know not any."

Epistle: Romans 8:18–27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who

searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' " . . .

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."