
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 AUGUST 30, 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: “With the Lord Begin Your Task”

LSB 869

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.

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; 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.

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.



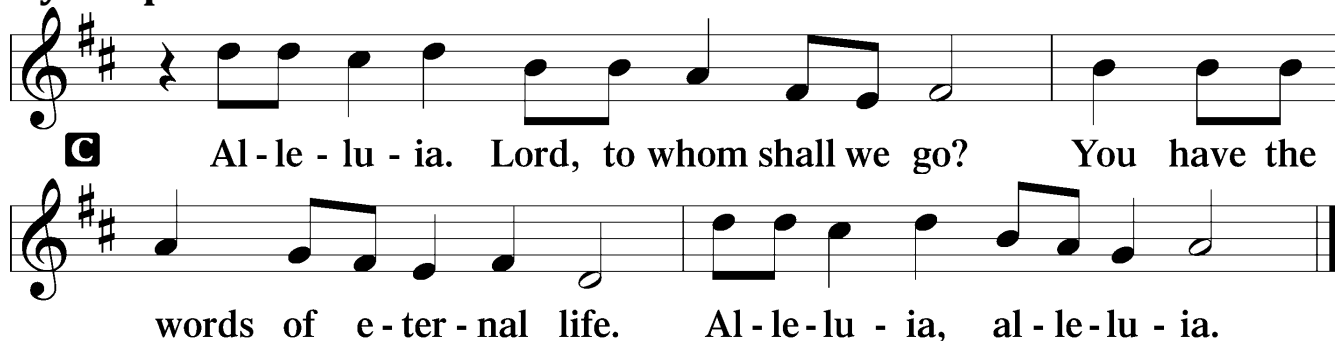
C Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*
for those who fear him lack | nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

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 sixteenth 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: "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

LSB 842

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.

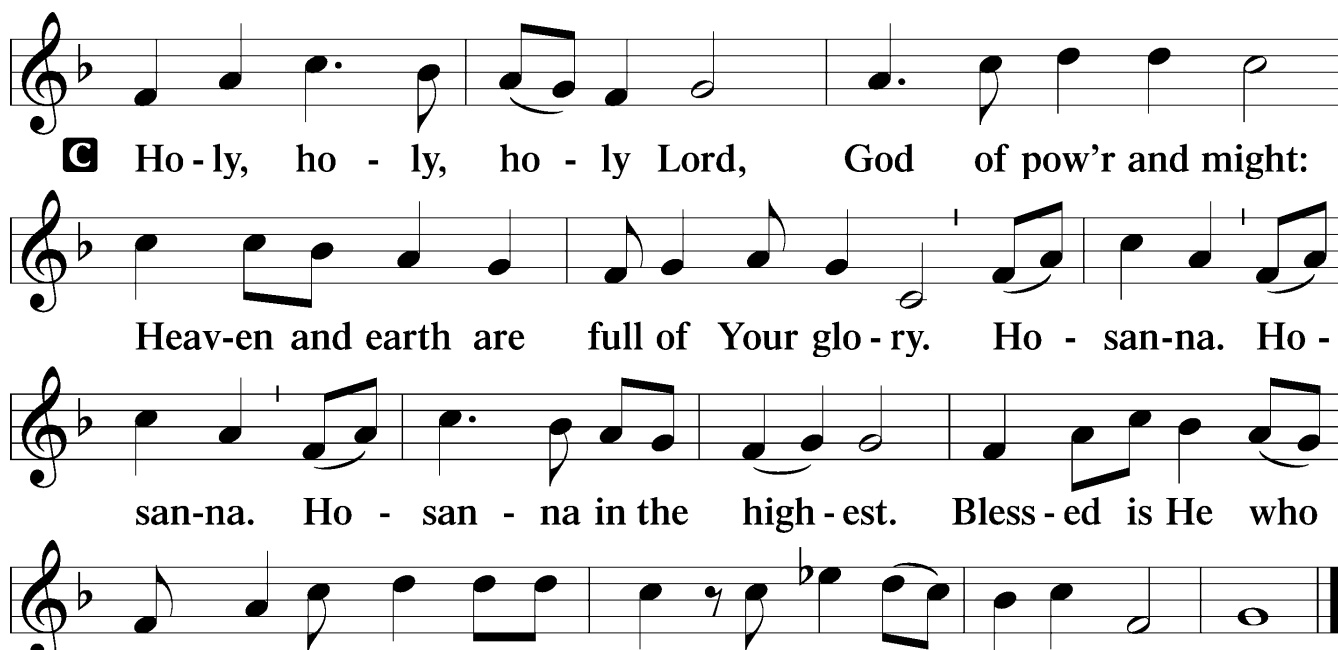
Offering

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 -
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** 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.

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:

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

LSB 851

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

LSB 621

Thank the Lord

LSB 164

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:** “Christ Be My Leader”

LSB 861

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: Dillon Deskovic & Stewert Smith

Head Ushers: Mark Binkley & Jim Wolf

Communion Assistants: Gary Krull & Neil Stenzel

Reader: Doug Goodnick

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr

Altar Care: Erika Tuscher & Lin Matiasz

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 08/30/26

10:30 am Worship (HC)

MONDAY – 08/31/26

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 09/06/26

9:00 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship

Statistics for the week of

August 23, 2026

Worship Service: 68 Attended, 19 Views

Offering: \$2,877.84

Sunday School: \$7.00

Mission of the Month: \$10.00

* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please submit new announcements
by **Wednesday 12pm**: office@gracenf.org.
August Office Hours: T/Th 10:00-3
GIVING: Options at www.gracenf.org*



NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS are Ezekiel 33:7-9, Romans 13:1-10, and Matthew 18:1-20.

ENDING TOMORROW: Tomorrow is the last day to donate to support **WINGS FLIGHTS OF HOPE**. If you would like to help Wings Flights of Hope with their mission to fly patients to medical care not available in Western New York, place your mission envelope in the offering plate today or donate online by tomorrow at www.gracenf.org (choose "give now" and then "mission of the month").

NEXT SUNDAY IS THE DEADLINE for donating school supplies, socks, and underwear for Niagara Falls school children in need. All donations will be distributed directly to students by their teachers (and school nurses) as they determine individual needs during the first weeks of school. Thank you for your generosity.

TODAY SOCIAL MINISTRIES will meet after worship. Lunch will be enjoyed during the meeting. New members are always welcome--just join us in the chapel after worship today.

PICNIC SIGNUP SHEET: Rally Day is scheduled for September 13 (two weeks from today). There will be a congregational picnic after our 10:30 a.m. worship service. All are welcome! Hamburgs, hotdogs, and drinks are provided. You're invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please sign up on the glass case by **NEXT SUNDAY (September 6)** if you plan to attend so we know how many to plan for.

SEPTEMBER MISSION OFFERINGS: For one month only, your mission envelopes will go to our two local Lutheran Schools. St. John in North Tonawanda and Holy Ghost in Bergholz provide quality education in a Christ-centered environment. Your offering will help children hear about Christ each day, even when their families can't afford it, by contributing to their tuition assistance fund.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

Find out more at: www.stjohnnt.com/school and <https://holyghostlcms.org/school-home/>

SEPTEMBER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Office will be closed from September 4th – 14th. The office will then be open the 3rd Sunday and the week of the 20th revert back to Monday, Wednesday & Thursdays from 10am-2pm.

THE 70th CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT VESPER will be at First Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 13th at 5:00 pm (pre-service begins at 4:30 pm).

We are excited to announce that the Vesper message will be presented by Tanner Olson, a noted author, poet, speaker, and podcaster. Attendees of the 2025 LCMS National Lutheran Youth Gathering responded enthusiastically to Tanner's poetry, connecting deeply with his messages of faith, hope, and God's presence in everyday life. His thoughtful and relatable words resonated with young people throughout the event, inspiring reflection, encouragement, and meaningful conversations. Don't miss the opportunity to hear Tanner speak at Vespers, where his unique blend of storytelling, poetry, and faith-filled encouragement is sure to be a highlight.

All are welcome to sing in the Vespers Choir, and we encourage you to share this invitation with your circle of family and friends.

Rehearsals: Mondays 7:00 – 9:00 pm beginning October 5th | Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. beginning October 8th.

Confirm choir participation with David Werth at dwerth@FirstTrinity.com (716) 731-7183

FALL WOMEN'S LUNCH: All women are invited to join us on Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 AM at St. John Lutheran Church for a casual, friendly brunch, "Grounded in Faith". Enjoy a hot chocolate and coffee bar, a meaningful devotion, and a simple servant event. This brunch is a potluck, so plan to bring a dish to share. No cost. RSVP to rlf@stjohnnt.com. Find more information at <https://stjohnnt.com/rlf/>.

25th Anniversary of 9/11 - Prayer Service & Talk: Join us at St. Mark Lutheran Church & Preschool on Friday, September 11 at 6:30 PM in the St. Mark Gym as we mark the 25th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. The evening will begin with a prayer service, including Scripture, prayer, a devotion and hymnody as we remember those who lost their lives and give thanks for those who served in the midst of tragedy.

Light refreshments will be provided.

All are welcome to join us for this evening of remembrance, prayer, and Christian hope.



About the Cover

Jesus was heading to Jerusalem, where He would suffer, be killed, and rise again. Peter attempted to lead Him in another direction, but Jesus directed him and the other disciples to follow Him and take up their own crosses. However, the cross of Jesus was His alone to bear in order to bring us forgiveness. We follow Him by the gift of faith. Following Jesus means dying to ourselves, confessing our sins, and trusting that death in Him means resurrection life.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 15:15–21

- ¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my
persecutors.
In your forbearance take me not away;
know that for your sake I bear
reproach.
- ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate
them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.
- ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of
revelers,
nor did I rejoice;
I sat alone, because your hand was
upon me,
for you had filled me with
indignation.
- ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Will you be to me like a deceitful
brook,
like waters that fail?
- ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:
“If you return, I will restore you,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not
what is worthless,
you shall be as my mouth.
They shall turn to you,
but you shall not turn to them.
- ²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
declares the LORD.
- ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of
the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of
the ruthless.”

Epistle: Romans 12:9–21

- ⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is
evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love
one another with brotherly affection.
Outdo one another in showing honor.
¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in

spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope,
be patient in tribulation, be constant in
prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the
saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless
and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with
those who rejoice, weep with those
who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one
another. Do not be haughty, but asso-
ciate with the lowly. Never be con-
ceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but
give thought to do what is honorable
in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as
it depends on you, live peaceably with
all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves,
but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is
written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay,
says the Lord.” ²⁰To the contrary, “if
your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is
thirsty, give him something to drink; for
by so doing you will heap burning coals
on his head.” ²¹Do not be overcome by
evil, but overcome evil with good.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:21–28

²¹From that time Jesus began to show
his disciples that he must go to Jerusa-
lem and suffer many things from the
elders and chief priests and scribes, and
be killed, and on the third day be raised.
²²And Peter took him aside and began to
rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you,
Lord! This shall never happen to you.”
²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get
behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance
to me. For you are not setting your mind
on the things of God, but on the things
of man.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any-
one would come after me, let him deny
himself and take up his cross and follow
me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will
lose it, but whoever loses his life for my
sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit
a man if he gains the whole world and
forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give
in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man
is going to come with his angels in the
glory of his Father, and then he will repay
each person according to what he has
done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some
standing here who will not taste death
until they see the Son of Man coming in
his kingdom.”