
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 SEPTEMBER 6, 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: “Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

LSB 915

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, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.



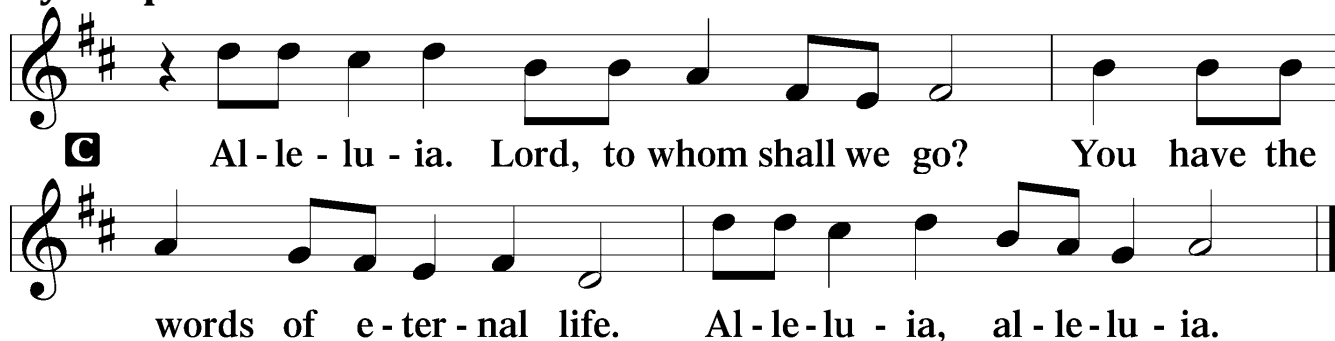
C Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*
for those who fear him lack | nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

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 eighteenth 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:** “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

LSB 707

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

Offering

LSB 955

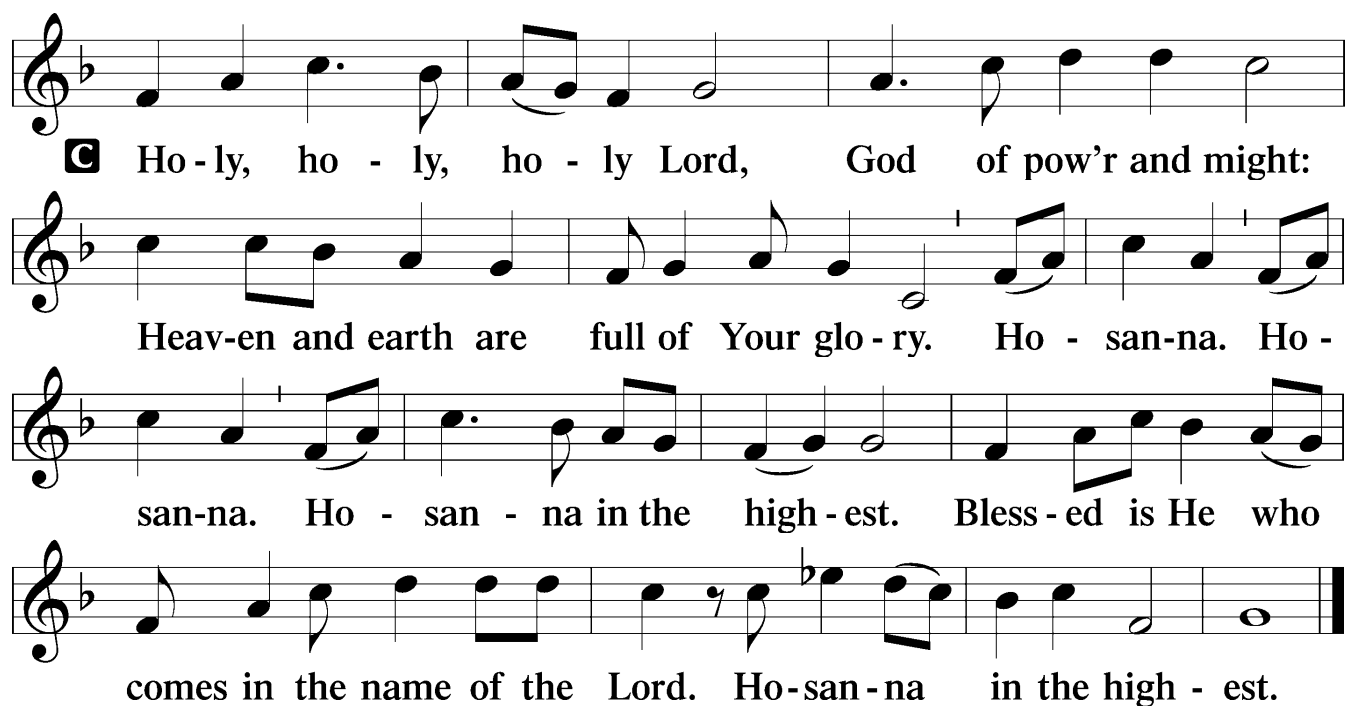
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

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.

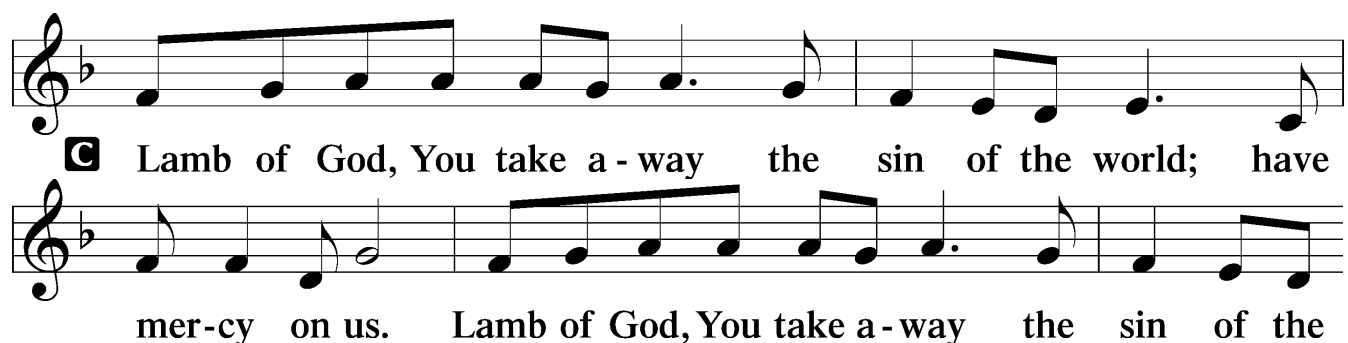
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He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

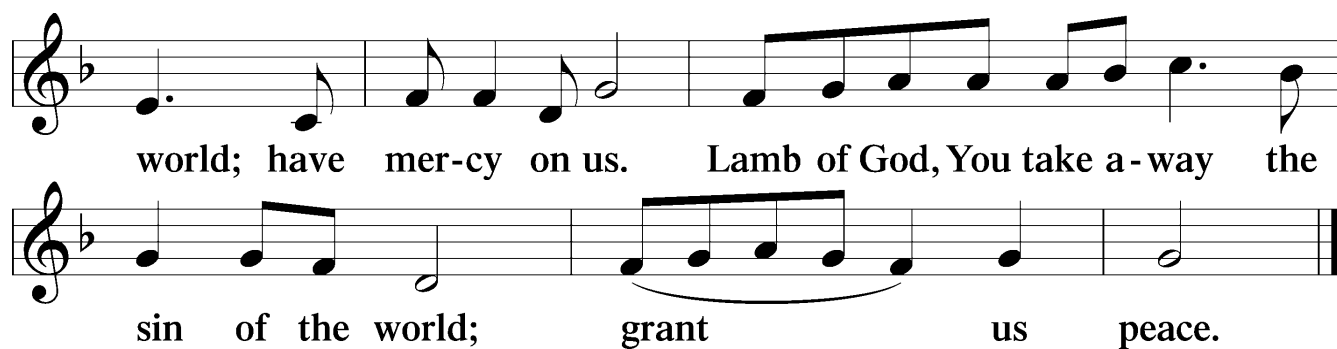
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.



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



Distribution Hymn:

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

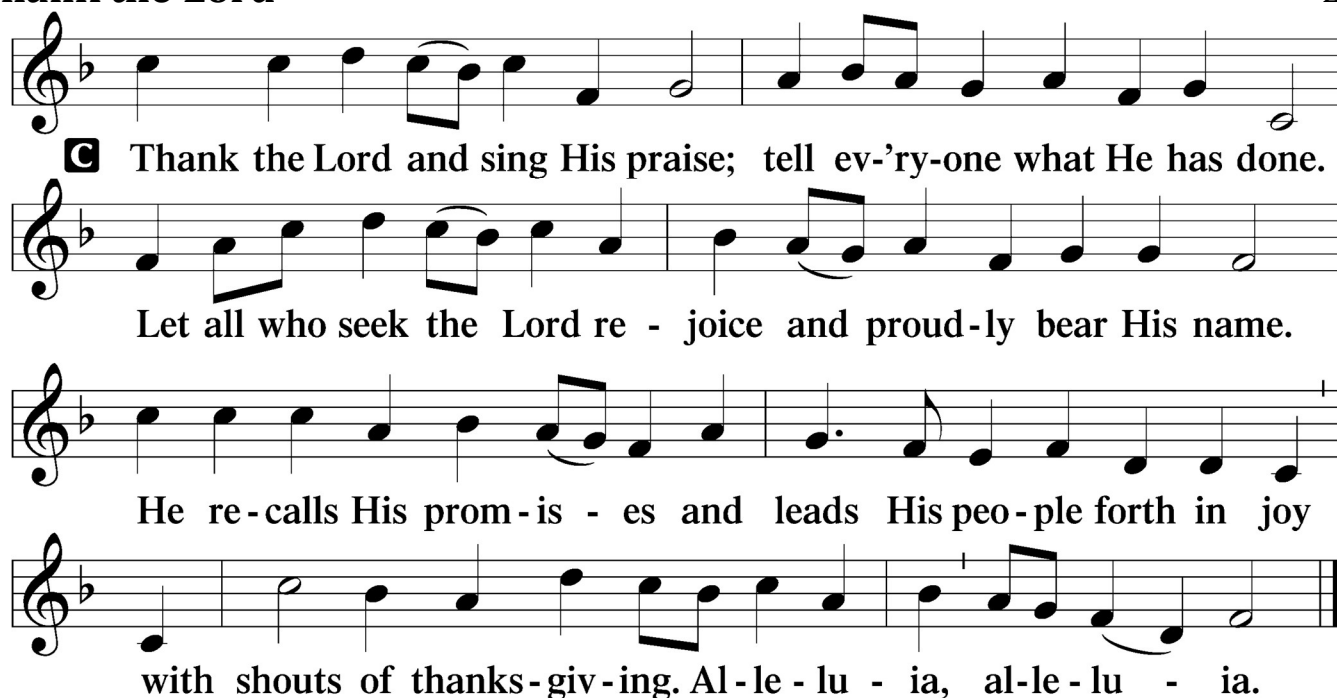
LSB 843

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

LSB 711

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



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: “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

LSB 922

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: Virginia & Elias Markel

Head Ushers: Gary Krull & Mark Andrews

Communion Assistants: Dick Crawford & Mark Binkley

Reader: Jim Wolf

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr

Altar Care: Erika Tuscher & Lin Matiasz

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 09/06/26

9:00 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship (HC)

MONDAY – 09/07/26

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 09/13/26

9:00 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Rally Day Picnic

Statistics for the week of

August 30, 2026

Worship Service: 60 Attended, 40 Views

Offering: \$2,141.84

Sunday School: \$2.00

Mission of the Month: \$275.00

* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit new announcements

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

September Office Hours: 3rd Sun 8:30-12:30, T/Th 10:00-3

***GIVING:** Options at www.gracenf.org*



ALTAR FLOWERS are given by the choir to the Glory of God and in honor of our organist, Maye Smith. We are thankful to Maye for her devoted support of our choir ministry, and for her many years of sharing her time and musical talents with Grace to enhance our worship services. We pray that God will bless and prosper her in her future endeavors. We will miss her.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS are Genesis 50:15-21, Romans 14:1-12, and Matthew 18:21-35.

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.

DEADLINE IS TODAY to sign up for next week's Rally Day picnic. All are welcome! Please sign up on the glass case today if you plan to attend so we know how many to plan for.

THANK YOU for supporting Niagara Falls children in need with your generous donations to our school supply, socks, and underwear collection. Your donations will be delivered to Harry Abate Elementary School as soon as they are settled into the new school year and have identified the students that require this type of assistance.

CHECK OUT THE GLASS CASE: There are some items on the case (reading glasses, a hat) that have been left behind in recent weeks. They would like to be reunited with their original owners.

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

Every single little sheep in the Lord's flock is precious to Him. He, like a shepherd in search of his lost sheep, is willing to go to great lengths to find every missing sheep. You are also precious to Your Savior, who laid down His life for you on the cross (John 10:17). He knows you by name (John 10:3). He has gone to great lengths to find you, who was once lost. But today, you are found, and there is great rejoicing!

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

Epistle: Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he

put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."