
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 20, 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: “God Himself Is Present”

LSB 907

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.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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.



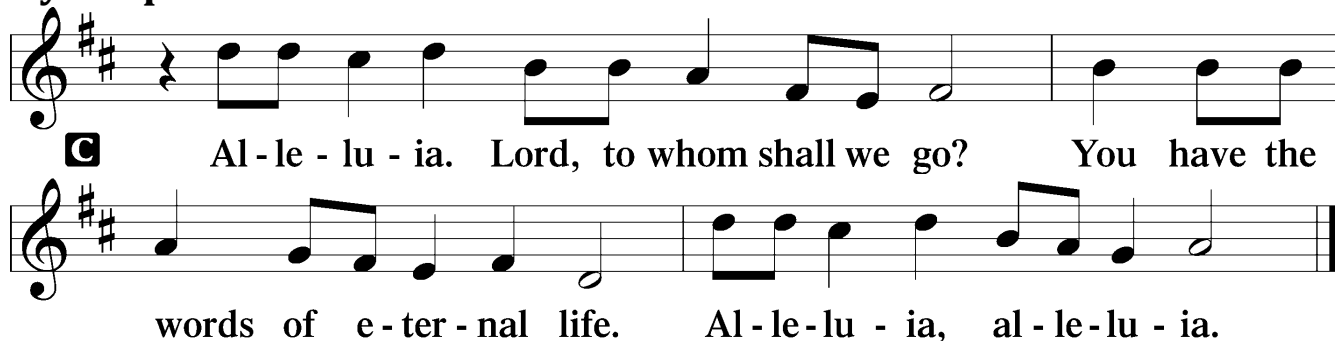
C Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*
for those who fear him lack | nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

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 twentieth 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: "Lord of All Hopefulness"

LSB 738

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

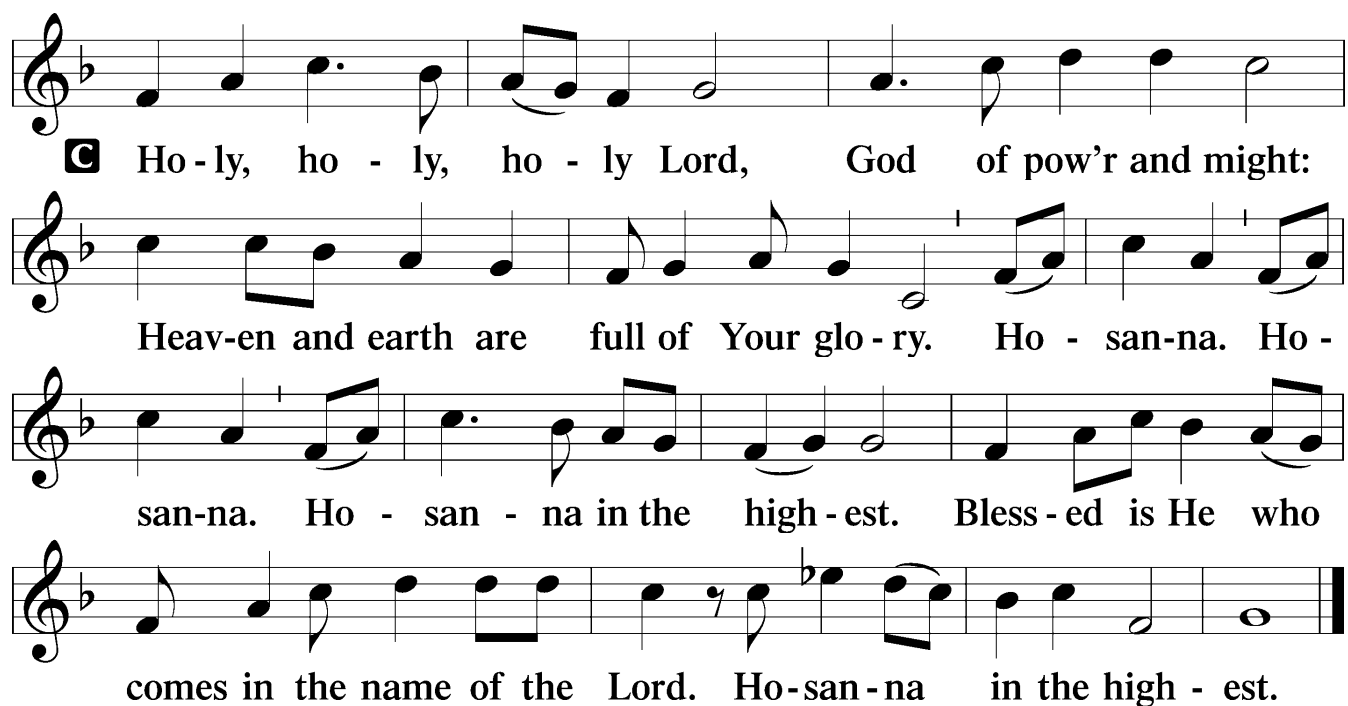
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your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



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

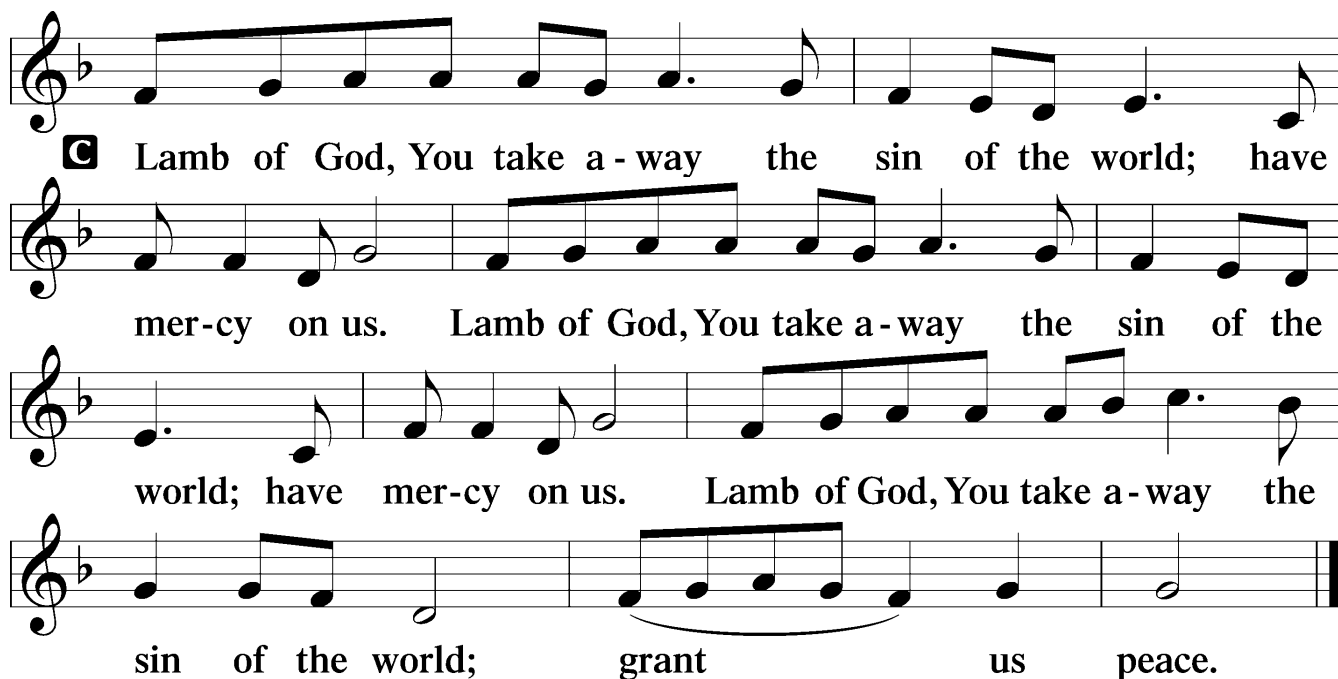
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He 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
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn:

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

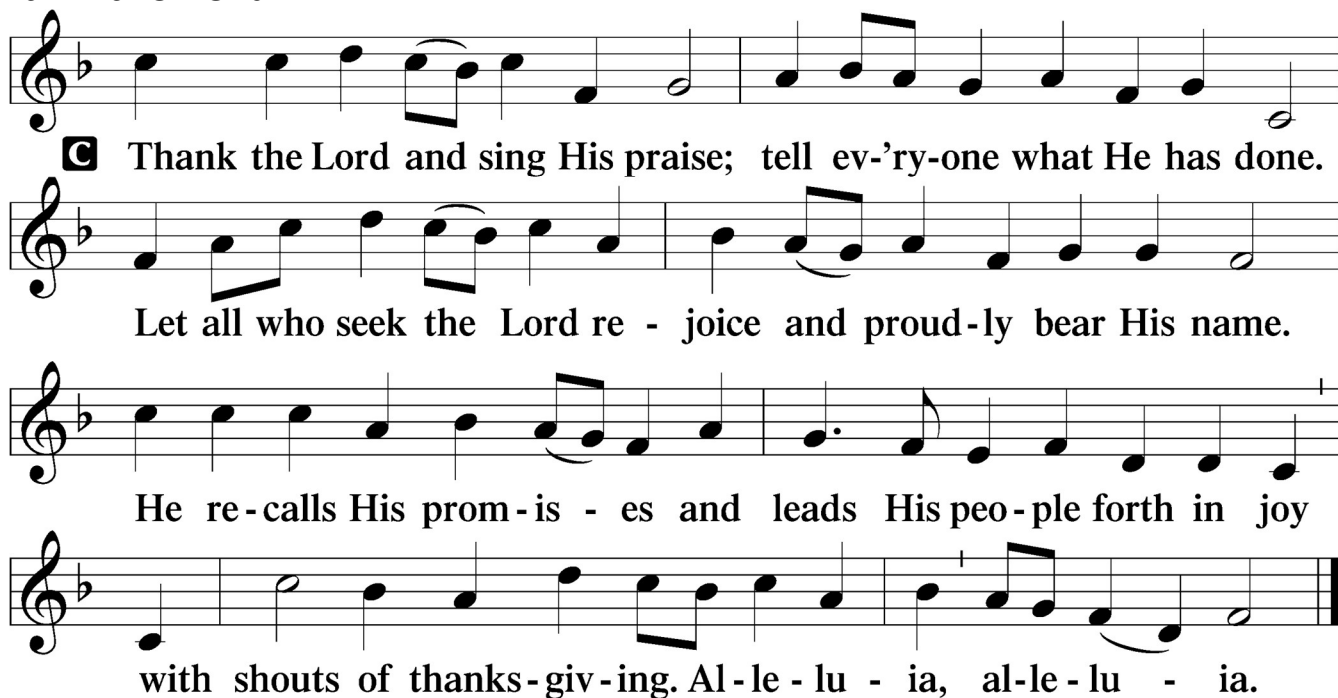
LSB 761

“Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face”

LSB 631

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:** “Christ Is Our Cornerstone”

LSB 912

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor & Organist: Rev. Ben Bahr

Acolytes: Daniel Bahr & Audrey Markel

Head Ushers: Gary Krull & Mark Andrews

Communion Assistants: Jim Wolf & Randy Broeker

Reader: Mark Andrews

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr

Altar Care: Erika Tuscher & Lin Matiasz

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 09/20/26

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

MONDAY – 09/21/26

GLEANINGS DEADLINE

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 09/27/26

9:00 am Christian Education
10:30 am Worship

Statistics for the week of August 6, 2026

Worship Service: 72 Attended, 20 Views

Adult Education: 15

Youth Education: 9

Education Staff: 4

Offering: \$4,574.84

Sunday School: \$5.00

Mission of the Month: \$53.00

Statistics for the week of August 13, 2026

Worship Service: 68 Attended, 13 Views

Adult Education: 16

Youth Education: 13

Education Staff: 4

Offering: \$2,228.84

Mission of the Month: \$300.00

* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please submit new announcements
by **Wednesday 12pm**: office@gracenf.org.
Office Hours: 3rd Sun 8:30-12:30, M/W/Th 10:00-3
GIVING: Options at www.gracenf.org*



NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS are Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18, and Matthew 21:23-27.

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.

TRUNK OR TREAT volunteers are needed. It will be held this year on Saturday, October 24, from 3 - 4:30 p.m. We need people to bring their cars and hand out candy. (Decorating your cars or wearing a costume or fun T-shirt adds to the festivities, but is optional.) We also appreciate donations of candy or other treats to help those who bring their cars. Please sign up on the glass case AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if you can help so we will know we have enough help to run this event.

REMINDER: We collect old glasses for the Lion's Club, and pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Both donation boxes are located in the coat room by the parking lot door. We also have a box for small sized toiletries which are given to homeless individuals by our partner agencies. And there is a box for your old Christmas cards if you still have them taking up space after last Christmas. They are used by Grace Ladies to make inspirational booklets.

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/>

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



About the Cover

The weight of our sin can only be lifted by the Lord. How blessed are we, His children, to know that He desires to forgive us abundantly! There is no sin too great for His grace and pardon. Christ's love is so abundant for us that He died for us before we even had a say in the matter (Romans 5:8). So, by faith in His promises, we receive the abundant life-giving benefits of His death and resurrection forever.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:6–9

- ⁶ "Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his
thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he
may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will
abundantly pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your
thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,
declares the LORD.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the
earth,
so are my ways higher than your
ways
and my thoughts than your
thoughts."

Epistle: Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

...¹⁹For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that

whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1–16

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."