
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 FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 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: “Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs”** LSB 812

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.

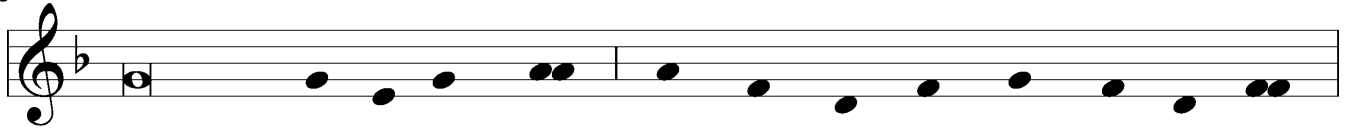
P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise

LSB 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



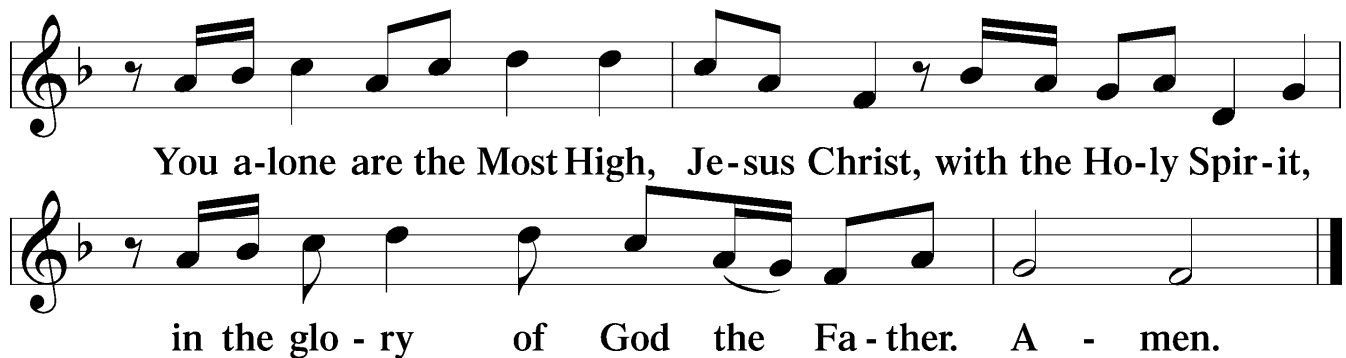
You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; 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 91:11; 103:1



C He will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.
Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!

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 twenty-first 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, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

LSB 655

Sermon

 **The Apostles’ Creed**

Back Cover of Hymnal

Prayer of the Church

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

Then please respond:

C Hear our prayer.

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.

Offering

Offertory: 956 Create in Me

LSB 956



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



Text: Psalm 51:10-12

Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

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: “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”**

LSB 549

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor & Organist: Rev. Ben Bahr

Acolytes: Dillon Deskovic & Stewert Smith

Head Ushers: Gary Krull & Mark Andrews

Readers: Dick & Marla Crawford

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr

Altar Care: Erika Tuscher & Lin Matiasz

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 09/27/26

9:00 am Christian Education
10:30 am Worship

MONDAY – 09/28/26

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

TUESDAY – 10/04/26

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

Statistics for the week of September 20, 2026

Worship Service: 63 Attended, 31 Views
Adult Education: 18
Youth Education: 7
Education Staff: 2

Offering: \$2,263.84
Mission of the Month: \$50.00

* 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, M/W/Th 10-2

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

ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Neil & Michele Stenzel and Amanda & Josh Drozek in loving memory of Dolores C. Stenzel and Jamie Lee Stenzel Wagner.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS are Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 3:4b-14, and Matthew 21:33-46.

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. Please sign up on the glass case BY NEXT SUNDAY if you can help so we will know we have enough help to run this event. We also appreciate donations of candy or other treats to help those who bring their cars. Donations can be left on the tables in the chapel or narthex.

OCTOBER MISSION ENVELOPES will support the Niagara Gospel Mission's "FEED THE FALLS" free Thanksgiving meal. Niagara Gospel Mission anticipates that they will serve at least 2000 dinners this year for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Due to rising food prices, the cost of hosting this event will increase significantly this year. Our donations will help the Gospel Mission continue to provide a nutritious holiday meal to everyone who walks through their doors.

POTTER'S FIELD CHRISTMAS CHILD: Many of the children that attend Potter's Field activities live in situations of poverty and neglect. Christmas gifts are not part of the life that they know. If you would like to help Potter's Field provide gifts for each of their children, PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE GLASS CASE BY NOVEMBER 8. Virginia Markel will provide you with a child's name, age, and wish list for shopping ideas. Bring your wrapped gift(s) back to church marked with the child's name, and Virginia will make sure they get to Potter's Field.

GRACE LADIES are going on a special Fall field trip to Becker Farms on Friday, October 16th. We will carpool and leave the church parking lot at 10am. Tour is at 11am, followed by lunch and pie. Cost is \$12 for tour and pie. Sign-up sheet is on the glass case in the chapel. Choose your favorite 3 pies, we need at least 10 people to sign up.

PLEASE WELCOME Nathanael Gajdos to worship today! Nathanael is a 1st year student at Concordia Seminary St. Catherine's. He will be joining us as a field worker this year.

IN SEARCH OF a used laptop, iPad or notebook for use in the church.





About the Cover

The Israelites thought they could weigh the scales of justice and found God at fault. However, the Israelites ignored God's Law, which showed their ways to be unjust. We cannot tip the scales of justice in our favor by disregarding God's Law, which condemns sinners to death. God, however, does not take pleasure in death. He desires mercy. In Christ, both perfect justice and perfect mercy were delivered when He took the sin of the world upon Himself and suffered the punishment for our sin in our place.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

¹The word of the LORD came to me:
²"What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? ³As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

²⁵"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live."

Epistle: Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any

affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23–27

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."