
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 OCTOBER 18, 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 of Grace and God of Glory”

LSB 850

L In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L 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.

L 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.

L In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Kyrie

LSB 152

L In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

L For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

L 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.

L 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.

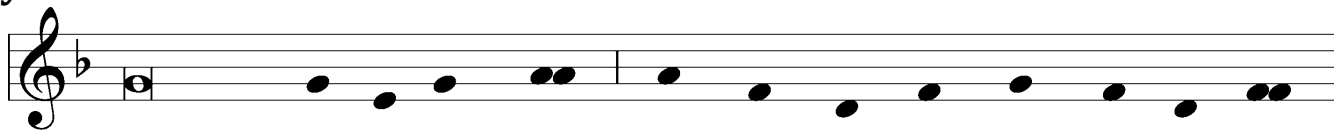
L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



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:



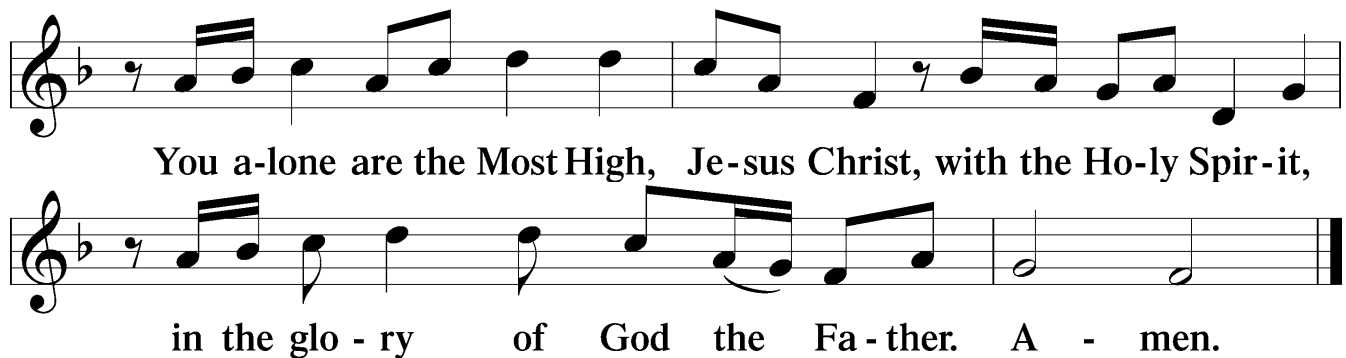
You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; 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 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



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second 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: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

LSB 733

Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

Back Cover of Hymnal

Prayer of the Church

The Leader will close each section: **L** 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

Benediction

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn: “The Lord, My God, Be Praised”

LSB 794

L Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Leader: Dick Crawford

Acolytes: Stewert & Abram Smith

Head Ushers: Mark Andrews & Neil Stenzel

Reader: Mark Andrews

Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr

Altar Care: Sherry Cassatt & Virginia Markel

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 10/18/26

9:00 am Christian Education
10:30 am Worship

MONDAY – 10/19/26

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

TUESDAY – 10/20/26

6:00 pm Grace Ladies Meeting

SATURDAY – 10/24/26

9:00 am Coffee w/ Chris
3:00 pm Trunk or Treat

SUNDAY – 10/25/26

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

Statistics for the week of October 11, 2026

Worship Service: 65 Attended, 40 Views
Adult Education: 21
Youth Education: 10
Education Staff: 3

Offering: \$2,269.84
Mission of the Month: \$35.00
Sunday School: \$5.00
* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit new announcements

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

Office Hours: 1st Sun 8:30a-12:30p, M/W/Th 10:00a-2p

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS are Revelation 14:6-7, Romans 3:19-28, and John 8:31-36.

YOU'RE INVITED!! Trunk or Treat is this Saturday (10/24) from 3 - 4:30 p.m. in our parking lot (indoors if raining). IT'S NOT TOO LATE to sign up and bring your trunk to pass out candy! Everyone is invited to bring family and friends to trick or treat, play the games, win prizes, and enjoy Timbits and cider. We have lots of freebies for the kids. See you there!!

OCTOBER MISSION ENVELOPES will support the Niagara Gospel Mission's "FEED THE FALLS" free Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Niagara Gospel Mission anticipates that they will serve at least 2000 dinners this year for Thanksgiving, and more for Christmas. Because generous community partners have stepped up, the Mission can provide each dinner for just \$2.50. That means a \$25 donation in your mission envelope will feed 10 people a holiday meal. Our donations will help the Gospel Mission provide a nutritious holiday meal to everyone who walks through their doors.

HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION: Our annual food drive to support St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on Military Road will continue until the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Shopping lists of their most-needed items are located on the donation tables in the chapel and narthex, but all non-perishable food items are appreciated. PLEASE be sure your donations do not expire before the end of 2026.

TURKEYS AND HAMS donations are now being accepted to help our city's soup kitchens provide a holiday meal for those in need. Donations can be placed in the freezer in our basement kitchen. If you need help carrying, please ask an usher.

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.



About the Cover

The Pharisees' question over taxes was meant to trap Jesus as either an unfaithful Jew or a political threat to the Roman government. However, Jesus astonished them all with His answer. God reigns over all things, even governments. So, yes, we are to pay our taxes, but we owe our whole lives to our Lord, who gave His whole life for us on the cross, paying for our sins in full.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 45:1–7

- ¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:
- ² "I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
- ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
- ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know me.
- ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
- ⁶ that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
- ⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make well-being and create calamity,
I am the LORD, who does all these things."

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in
God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³remembering before our

God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:15–22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.