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 NOVEMBER 8, 2026

– based on Divine Service 4: LSB 203 –

This symbol (🕮) means that part of the service is found in the Lutheran Service Book hymnal.

Welcome, Announcements

🕮 Hymn of Invocation: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" *LSB 515*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
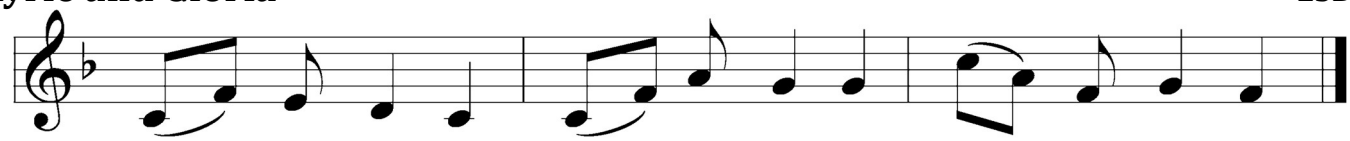
P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess our sin. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ.

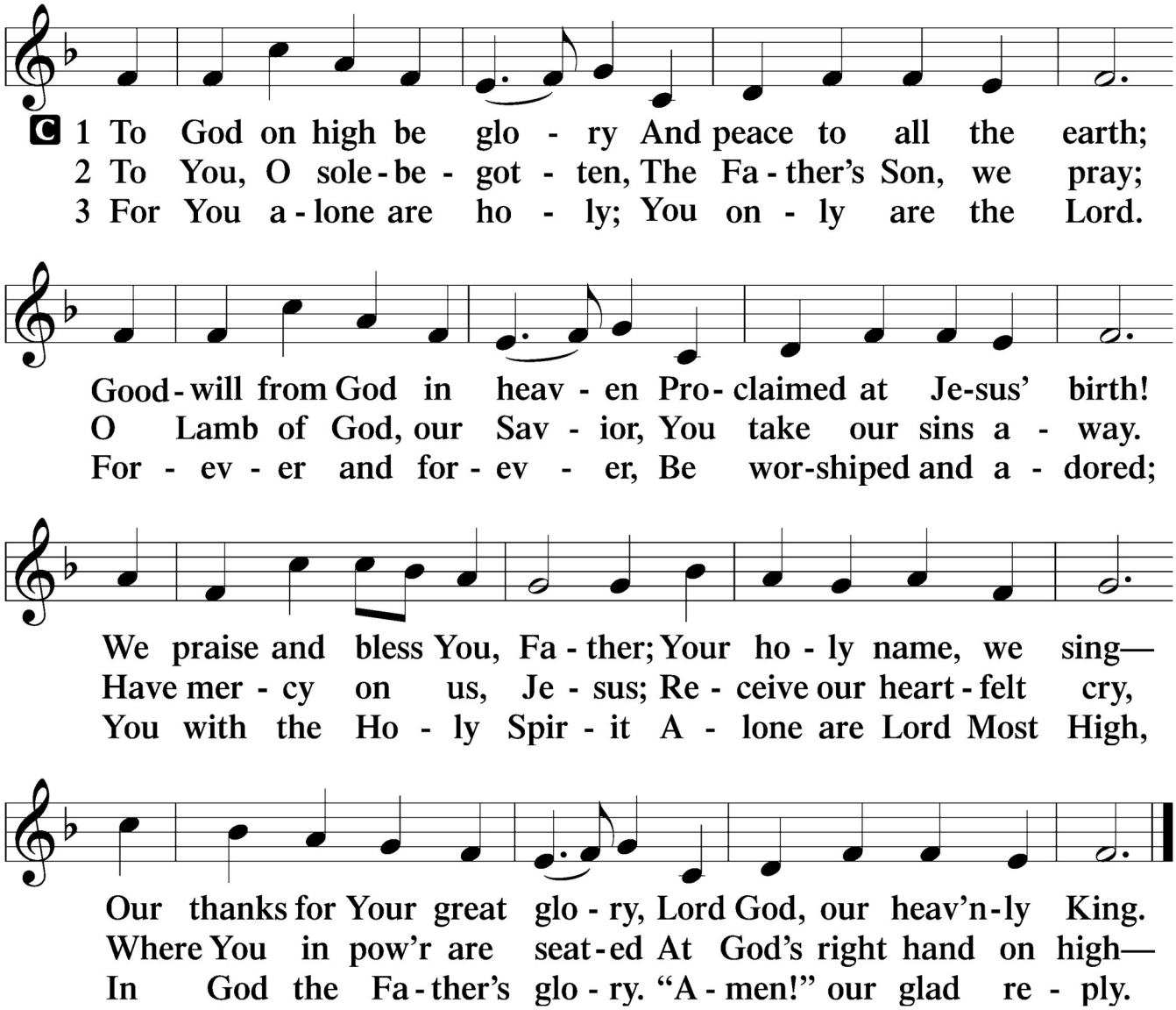
C **Before God and one another, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition, and so we pray: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Almighty God, merciful Father, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. In Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children; therefore You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

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 and Gloria *LSB 204*





Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
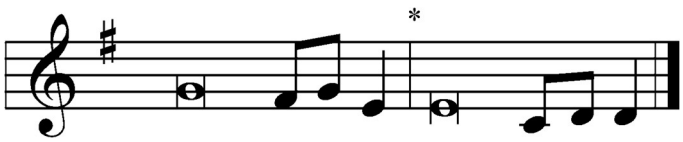
C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

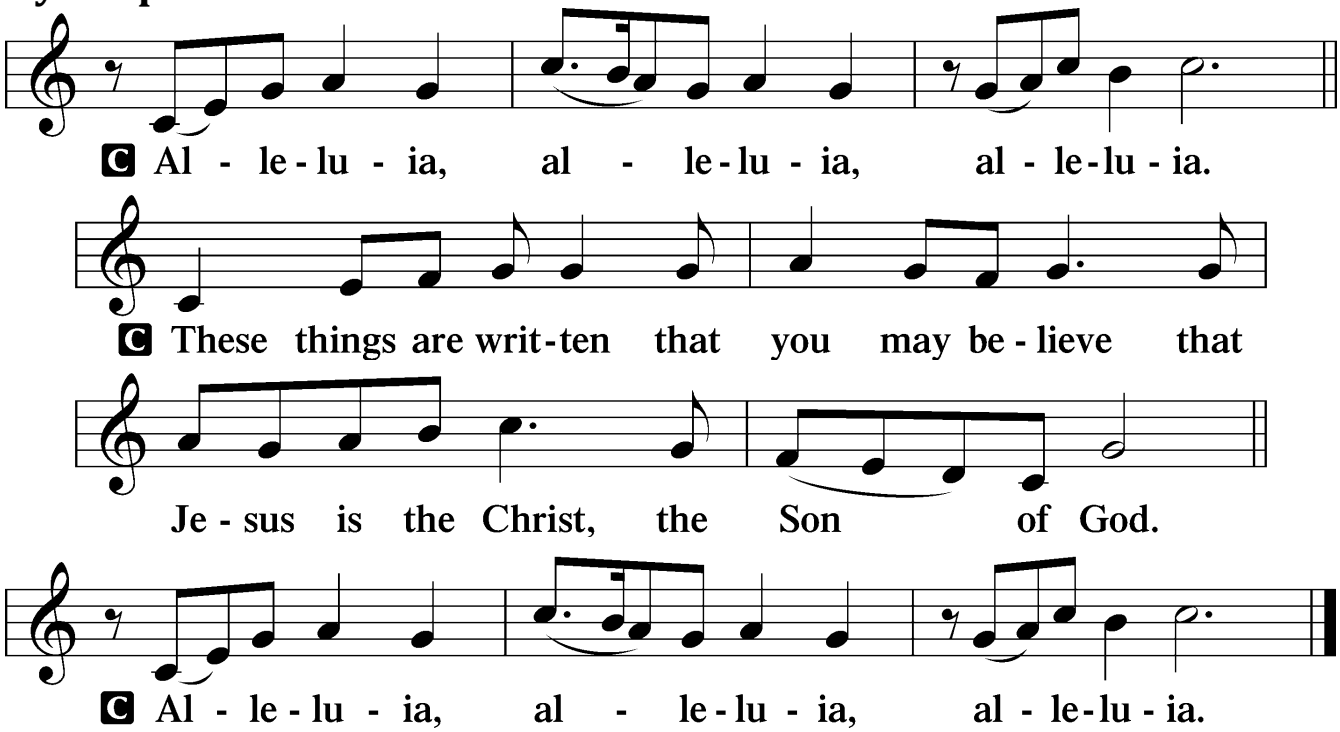


C **These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.***
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.
Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

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-fifth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

P … This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

🕮 Hymn of the Day: "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

LSB 516

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.**

🕮 The Lord's Prayer

Back Cover of Hymnal

Offering

Benediction

℗ Let us bless the Lord. **℃ Thanks be to God.**

℗ 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. **℃ Amen.**

🕮 **Sending Hymn:** "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart" *LSB 708*

℗ Go in peace; serve the Lord. **℃ Thanks be to God!**

THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor & Organist: Rev. Ben Bahr
Acolytes: Zander Hoffman & Virginia Markel
Head Ushers: Ross Folmsbee & John Loss
Reader: Randy Broeker
Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr
Altar Care: Alice Moll & Luann Pyska

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 11/08/26
9:00 am Christian Education
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Social Ministries Meeting

MONDAY – 11/09/26
6:30 pm Survivors' Group

THURSDAY – 11/12/26
6:00 pm Young Adult Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 11/15/26
9:00 am Christian Education
10:30 am Worship (HC)

Statistics for the week of November 1, 2026

Worship Service: 63 Attended, 24 Views
Adult Education: 19
Youth Education: 9
Education Staff: 4

Offering*: $4,794.84
Mission of Month: $8.00
Sunday School: $5.00
* Weekly budget needs $4,206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit new announcements
*by **Thursday 10AM**: office@gracenf.org.*
Office Hours 1st Sun 8:30-12:30, M/W/Th 10-2
***GIVING:** Options at www.gracenf.org*

ALTAR FLOWERS are given today by Jane Schulz to the Glory of God and in celebration of Katelyn Pantano's birthday and Maisy Pantano's baptism birthday, both on November 7th.

CHURCH OFFFICE will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th in observance of Veterans Day.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS are Zephaniah 1:7-16, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, and Matthew 25:14-30.

THE GLEANINGS submission deadline for the next issue is Thursday, November 19th.

GRACE LADIES – Our Christmas party will be Tuesday, December 8th, starting at 5:30pm. It will be catered by ALPS, like last year. Final menu selection will take place at our November 17th Wine & Cheese meeting at 6pm. Hostesses in November are Virginia Markel & Wendy Coleman. There is a Christmas party sign-up sheet on glass case in Chapel. Watch for more Christmas information in bulletins & Gleanings.

NOVEMBER MISSION ENVELOPE DONATIONS will be used to help pay for eyeglasses for Niagara Falls school children whose families cannot afford to purchase them, either because of their economic situation or lack of insurance coverage. Numerous children in the district have vision that does not allow them to clearly see the front of the classroom or reading material necessary for learning. We will be partnering with the Lion's Club to make our donations available to provide glasses for some of these Niagara Falls children. If you would like to support this effort, place your mission envelope in the offering plate during November, or donate online by choosing "monthly mission".

IN TWO WEEKS, our first delivery of **TURKEYS AND HAMS** for our city's free holiday meals will be made. They will be used by Community Mission, Lord's Day Dinner, Salvation Army, and Lighthouse (formerly Magdalene Project) to provide a hot meal for those in need on Thanksgiving. Donations can be placed in the freezer in our basement kitchen. If you need help carrying, please ask an usher.

TODAY SOCIAL MINISTRIES will have their final meeting of the year. We will meet in the chapel for about an hour and lunch will be shared during the meeting. New members are welcome.

HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION: Our annual food drive to support St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on Military Road will continue for **TWO MORE WEEKS.** 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.

WISH LISTS FOR Potter's Christmas Kid's will be available on tables in the chapel today after worship. Please choose the wish list you would like to shop for. They are separated by boys and girls, and each list indicates their name, age, and what they would like. Gifts should be limited to a $25 value. However, if you would like to spend more on your child, please let Virginia Mqrkel know when you return your gift so that Potter's Field can give the "extras" to the kids privately. WRAPPED GIFTS WITH THE CHILD'S NAME ATTACHED should be returned to Virginia no later than Sunday, December 13.

GIFT CARDS WELCOME: Potter's Field is also accepting gift cards in the amount of $25 (or less) from Walmart, Target, and Amazon for their older teenagers. If you would like to purchase a gift card, it should be given to Virginia Markel on or before Sunday, December 13.

Pentecost



About the Cover

The day of the Lord is not a day of light but of darkness for the complacent who have abandoned the ways of the Lord. God's Law strikes the knell of coming judgment. That Law is in our hearts today. But through prophets like Amos, the Lord gives us His Word so that we will repent before the day of judgment, turn from our sin, and turn toward our Savior. The fear of the dark day of judgment is removed in the light of Christ alone (John 8:12).

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Amos 5:18–24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why would you have the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, and not light,
19 as if a man fled from a lion,
and a bear met him,
or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,
and a serpent bit him.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 "I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
24 But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1–13

1 [Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' 10 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Scripture: ESV®
Cover verse: Amos 5:18
Cover image: © Shutterstock.com
(Proper 27) November 8, 2026
© 2026 CPH
Printed in USA
Concordia Publishing House • Your church's publisher • Visit us at CPH.org
26112