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 15, 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: " O Worship the King" *LSB 804*

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, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, 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.

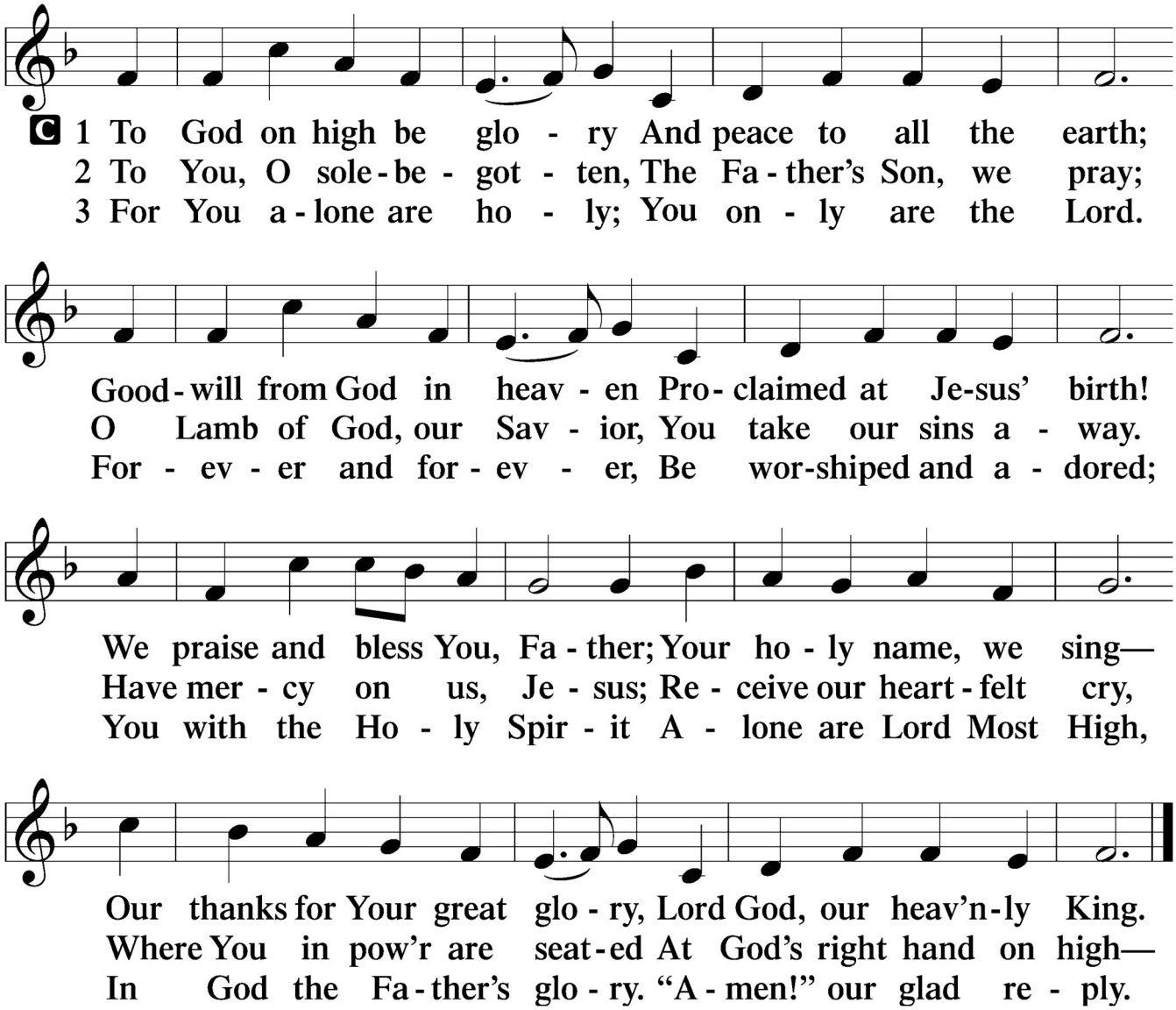
C **Before God and one another, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition, and so we pray: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Almighty God, merciful Father, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
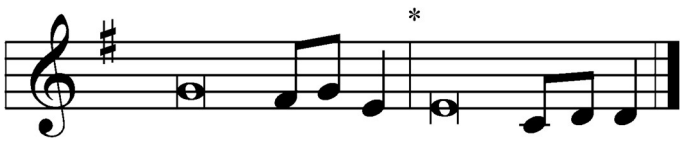
C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

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

Gradual

Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

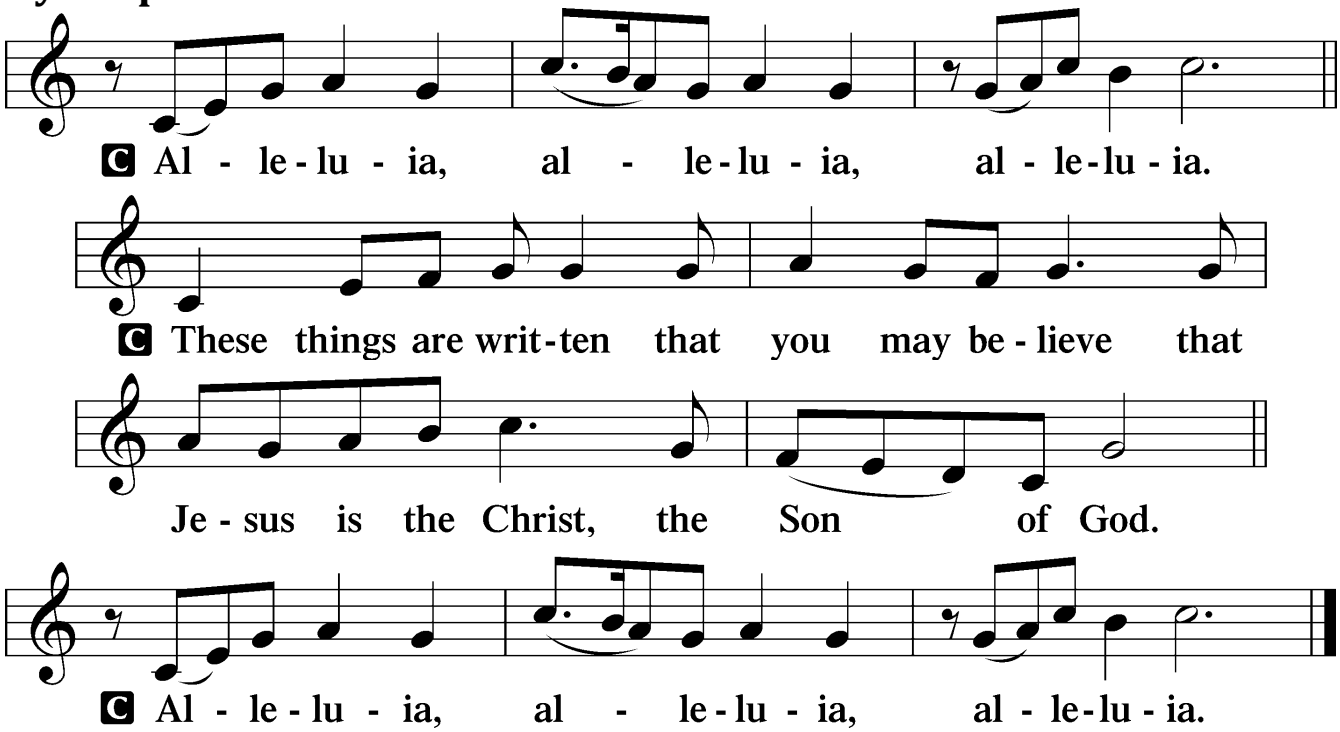


C **These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.***
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.
Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

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: "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

LSB 545

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

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

If you have not communed with us before, please read "What about Holy Communion?" on page 2.

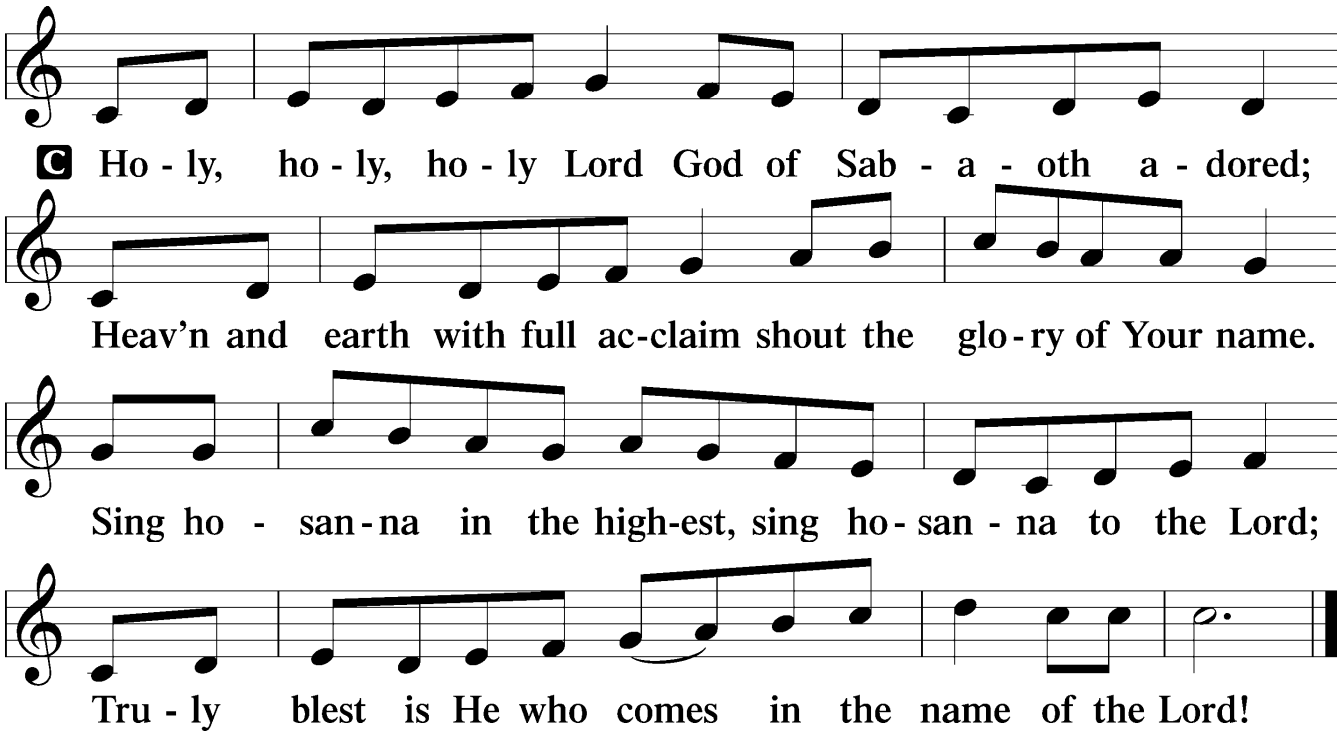
P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

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 **Amen.**



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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."

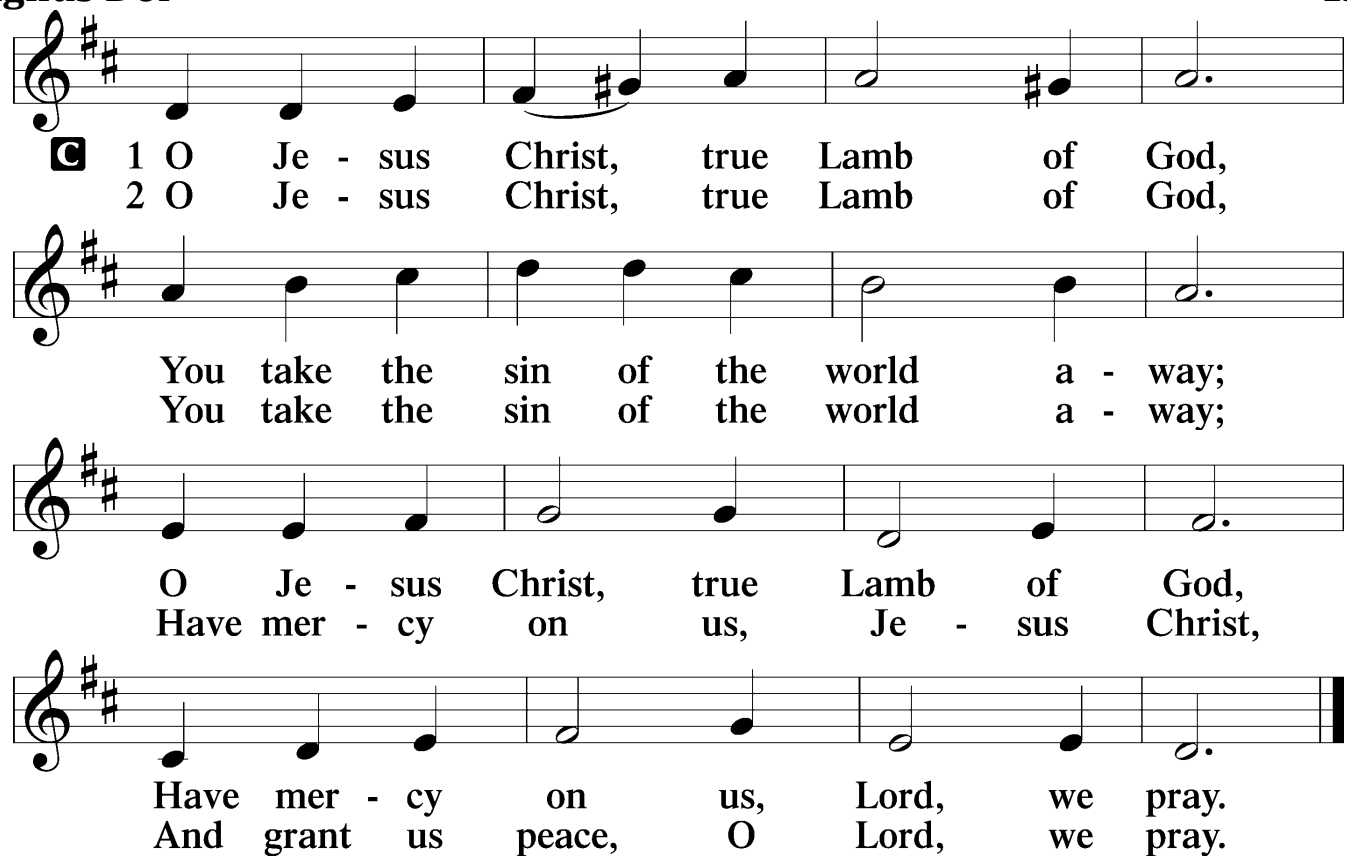
P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*
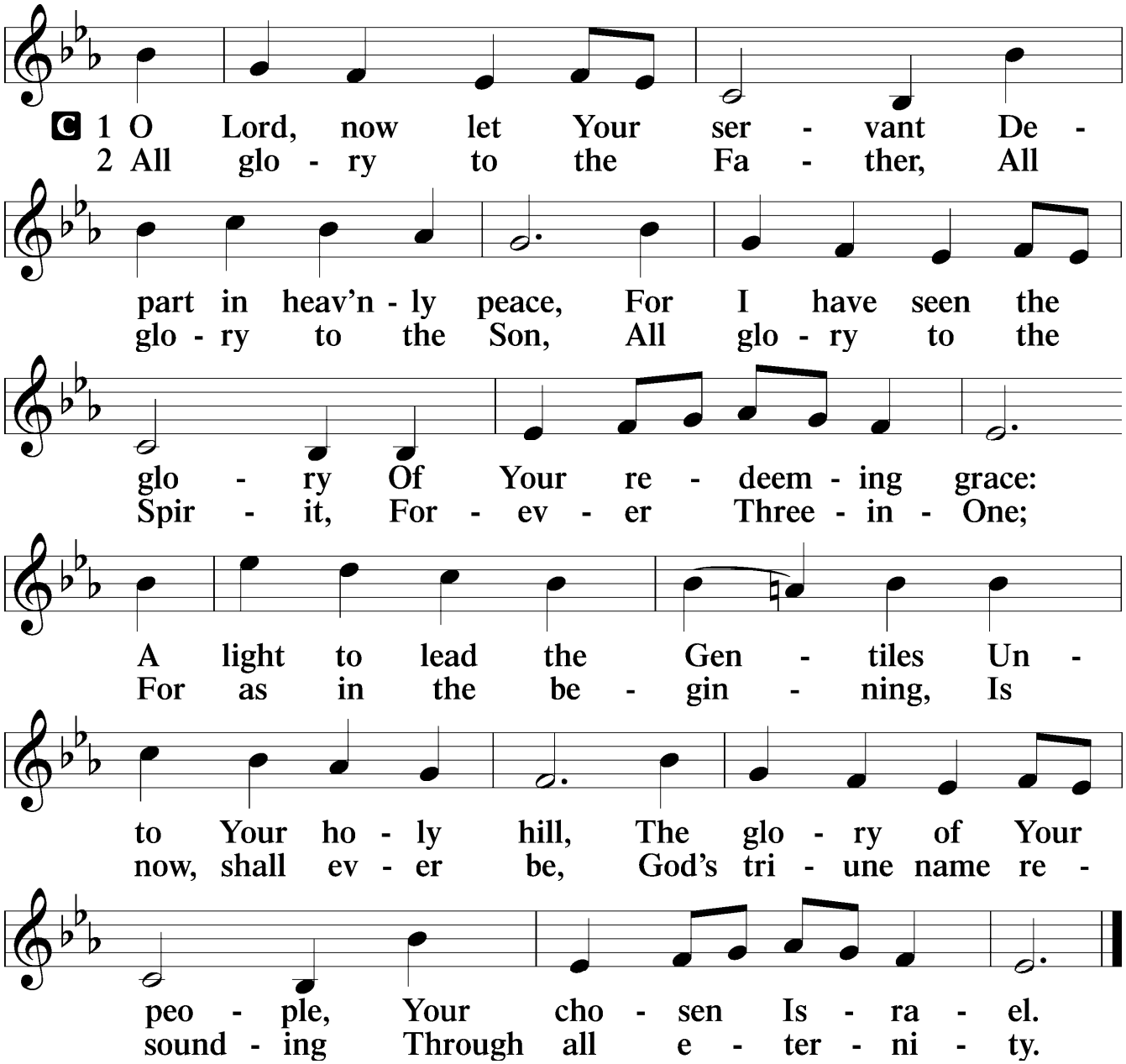


🕮 Distribution Hymn:

"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table" *LSB 618*

"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" *LSB 636*

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 211*



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:** "What Is the World to Me" *LSB 730*

P Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C Thanks be to God!**

THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Guest Pastor: Rev. Alan Bauch
Acolytes: Zak Fees & Abram Smith
Head Ushers: Ross Folmsbee & John Loss
Communion Assistants: Neil Stenzel & Randy Broeker
Reader: Nathanael Gajdos
Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr
Altar Care: Alice Moll & Luann Pyska



THIS WEEK AT GRACE

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

MONDAY – 11/16/26
6:30 pm Survivors' Group

TUESDAY – 11/17/26
6:00 pm Grace Ladies Meeting

THURSDAY – 11/19/26
GLEANINGS DEADLINE
6:00 pm Young Adult Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 11/22/26
9:00 am Christian Education
10:30 am Worship

Statistics for the week of
November 8, 2026

Worship Service: 72 Attended, 17 Views
Adult Education: 20
Youth Education: 12
Education Staff: 4

Offering: $2,691.84
Mission of the Month: $25.00
* Weekly budget needs $4,206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS are Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, and Matthew 25:31-46.

CHURCH OFFICE will be open Wednesday and Thursday from 10am-3pm this upcoming week.

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 with our donations reserved 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".

NEXT SUNDAY 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.

LAST CHANCE--next Sunday is the last opportunity to donate to our **HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION.** 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 are available for Potter's Christmas Kid's. If you have not picked yours up yet, please see Virginia in the chapel after worship. Gifts should be limited to a $25 value. However, if you would like to spend more on your child, please let Virginia 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 on or before Sunday, December 13.

Pentecost



About the Cover

The great day of judgment cannot be treated as if it is a day that will be delayed. Whether the end of this earthly life or the return of the Lord comes first, we ought to be sober-minded in waiting for its arrival (1 Thessalonians 5:6). However, we who believe in Christ need not be afraid. For in Christ, the day of judgment has already come at His cross, where He made full atonement for our sins. So, we look only to Him. "Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1:7–16

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is near;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.
8 And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
9 On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
10 "On that day," declares the LORD,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.
11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'
13 Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them."
14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
15 A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

1Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14–30

14[Jesus said:] "It will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents, here I have made five talents more.' 21His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' 23His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Scripture: ESV®
Cover verse: Zephaniah 1:14
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