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 29, 2026

– based on Divine Service 4: LSB 203 –

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

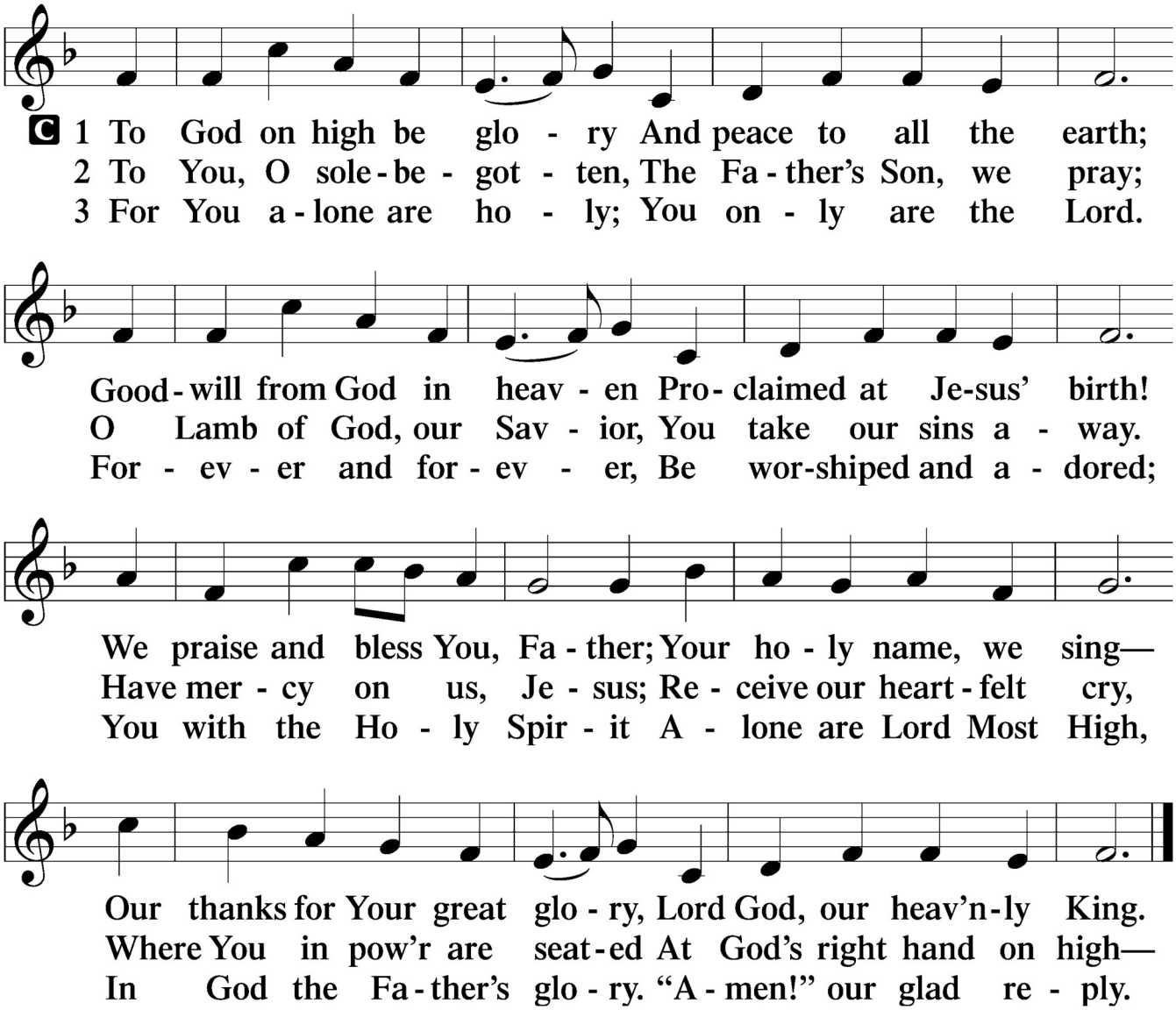
Welcome, Announcements

🕮 Hymn of Invocation: "The Advent of Our King" *LSB 331*

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

A Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

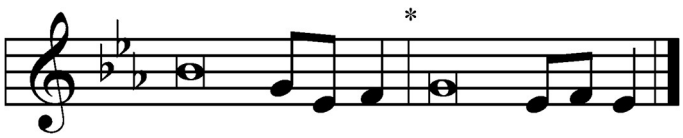
C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

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

Gradual

Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

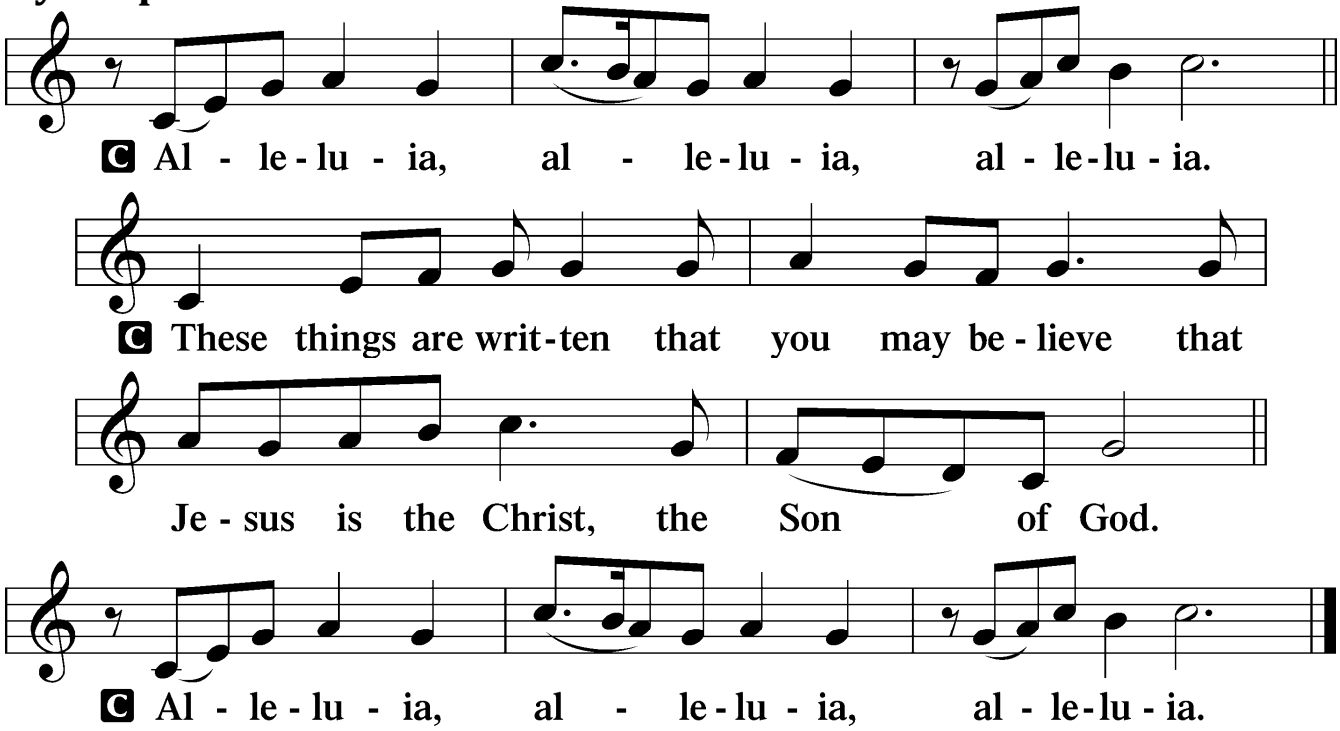


C **These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.***
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.
Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

Epistle Reading

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

Holy Gospel



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth 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: "Savior of the Nations, Come"

LSB 332

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.

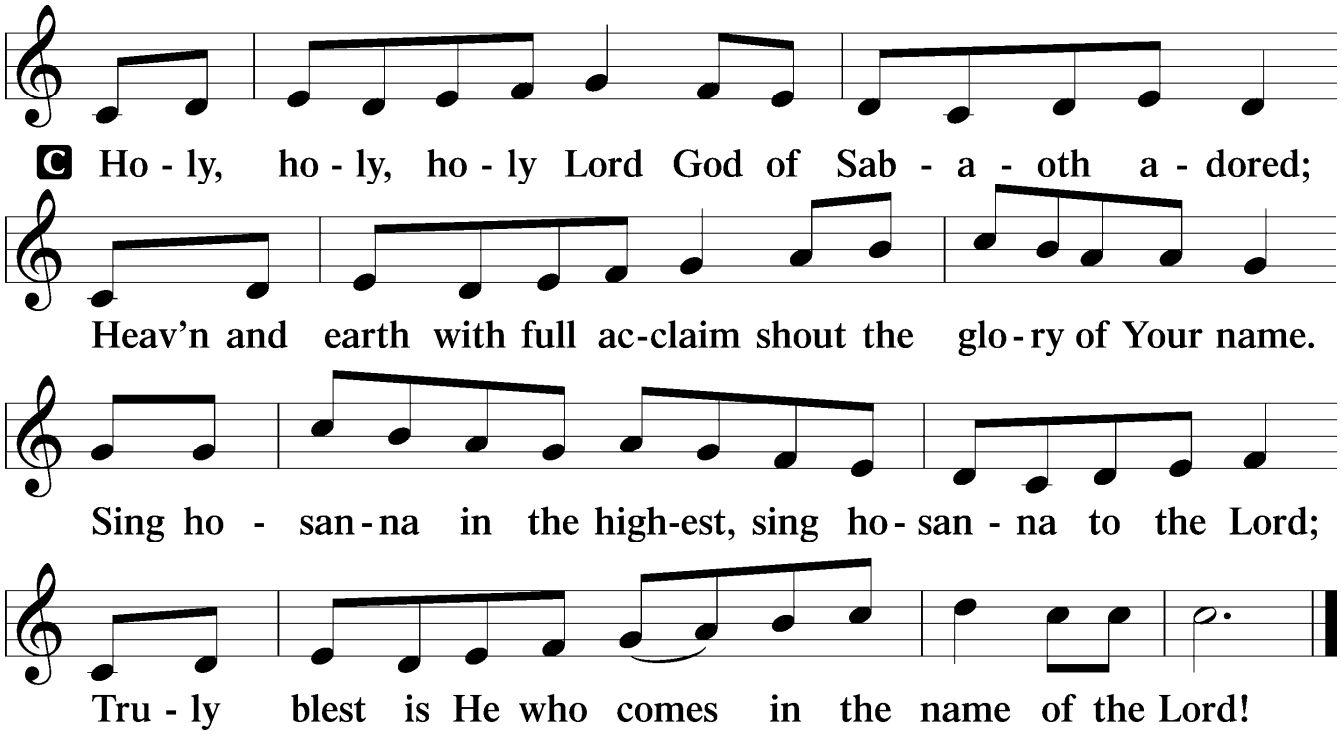
P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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 boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

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.

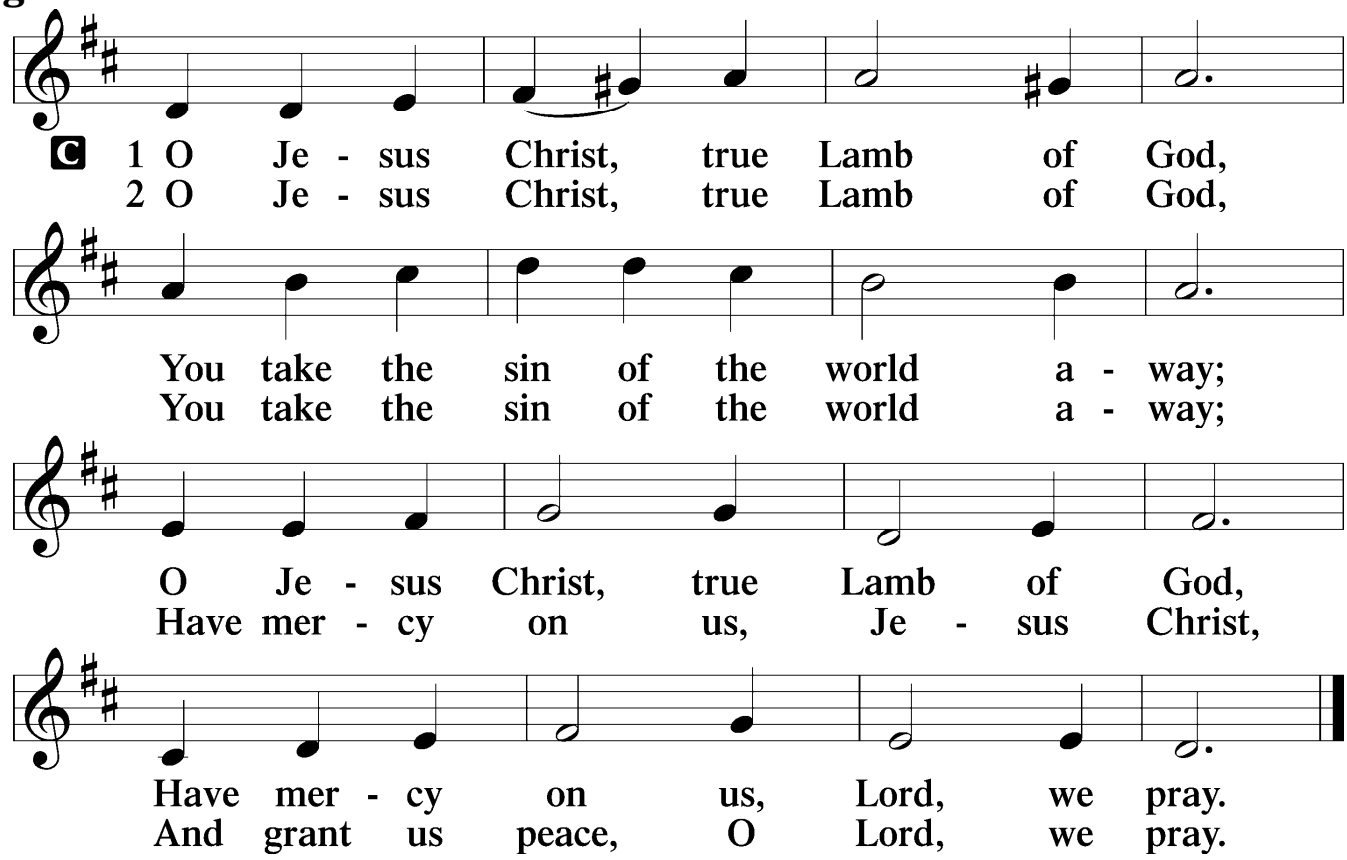
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210



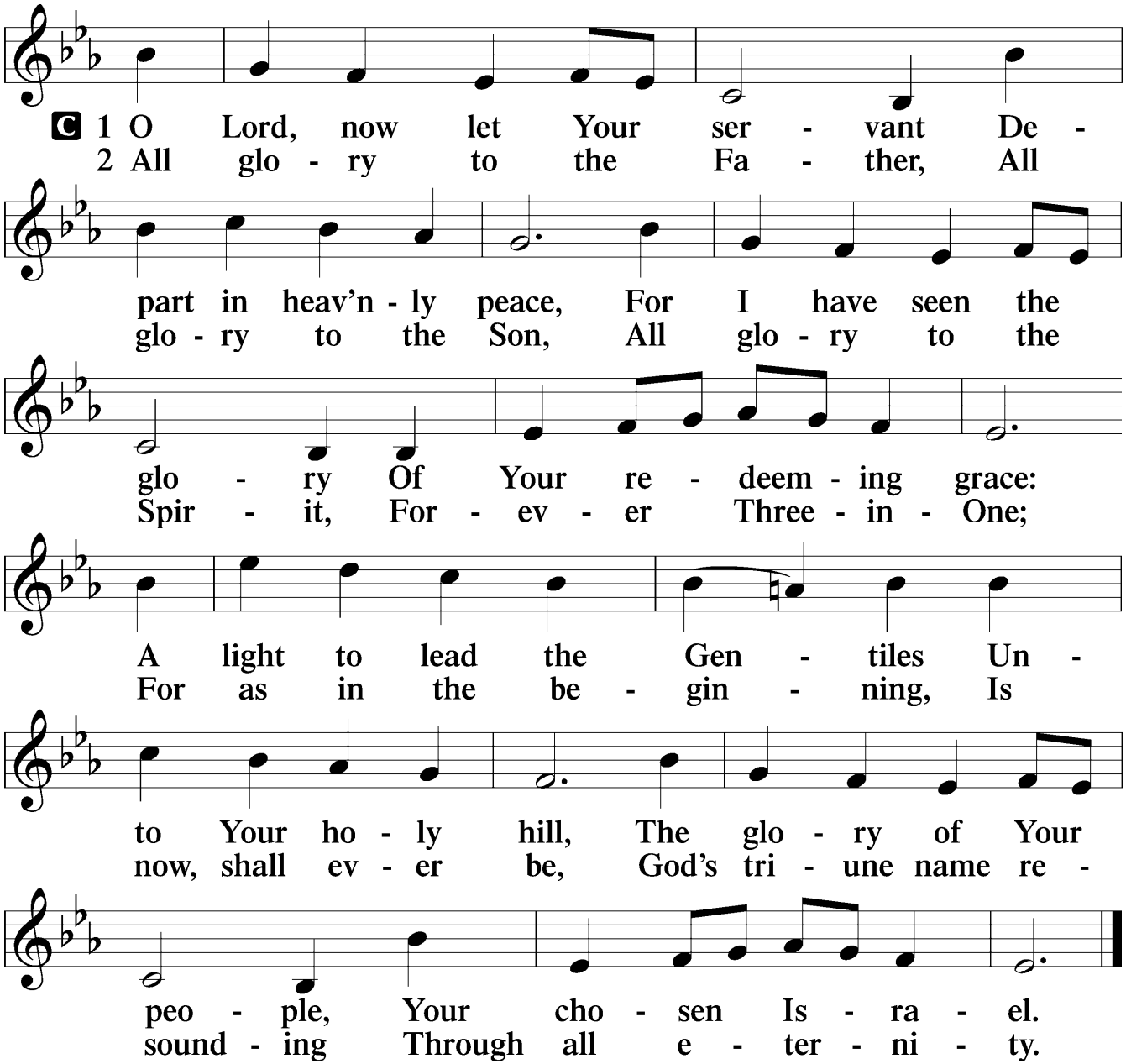
🕮 Distribution Hymn:

"O Savior, Precious Savior" *LSB 527*

"Jerusalem the Golden" *LSB 672*

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211



A Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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:** "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" *LSB 336*

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

THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor & Organist: Rev. Ben Bahr
Liturgist: Nathanael Gajdos
Acolytes: Elias & Tyler Markel
Head Ushers: Ross Folmsbee & John Loss
Communion Assistants: Dick Crawford & Mark Andrews
Readers: Michele & Neil Stenzel
Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr
Altar Care: Alice Moll & Luann Pyska



THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 11/29/26
9:00 am Christian Education
10:30 am Worship (HC)
11:30 am Choir Rehearsal

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

WEDNESDAY – 12/2/26
5:30 pm Simple Supper
6:30 pm Advent Service

NEXT SUNDAY – 12/6/26
9:00 am Christian Education
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Choir Rehearsal
Church Decorating

Statistics for the week of
November 22, 2026

Worship Service: 65 Attended, 17 Views
Adult Education: 21
Youth Education: 12
Education Staff: 4

Offering: $2,150.84
Mission of the Month: $518.00
Sunday School: $2.00
* 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 Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, and Mark 1:1-8.

DECORATING the sanctuary will be done next Sunday, December 6, after worship. Please plan to stay. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

THIS WEDNESDAY there will be a **SIMPLE SUPPER** offered at 5:30 pm prior to the first Advent worship service. Simple Suppers are also scheduled for 12/9 and 12/16 if volunteers are available. A **SIGN UP SHEET** is available on the glass case if you are willing to help.

TUESDAY is "Giving Tuesday 2026". Thrivent is offering the opportunity to donate to Grace (or any non-profit organization) through their website. The amount you designate to Grace will be boosted (possibly up to doubled) and sent to our church. You do NOT have to be a Thrivent member to donate. Please see today's insert for details.

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. 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".

TURKEYS AND HAMS: We will continue to accept donations of turkeys and hams until December 20. 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 Christmas. Donations can be placed in the freezer in our basement kitchen. If you need help carrying, please ask an usher.

POTTER'S FIELD CHRISTMAS KIDS: Wrapped gifts with the child's name attached should be returned to Virginia no later than Sunday, December 13. 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.

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.

BENEVOLENCE FUND REMINDER: Our church keeps a small fund available to help pay for an immediate need (such as an overdue utility bill or a grocery trip). Requests for assistance should be made to Pastor Bahr. Information shared with him is kept strictly confidential. Donations to this fund can be made at any time using the envelopes labeled "Benevolence Fund" that are found in the chapel and narthex.

CHOIR REHEARSALS for Christmas Eve will begin today in the balcony after worship. We will practice every Sunday until Christmas. New members are welcome.

GRACE LADIES Christmas Party – it's not too late to sign up on glass case in chapel. Our party is Tuesday, December 8th here at church starting at 5:30pm. Dinner catered by ALPS. There will be a couple games, $5.00 gift exchange, and some Christmas caroling. Join us for Christmas fun & fellowship. Details in December Gleanings.

AVAILABLE DONATIONS: Electric wheelchair, 1 standup walker and 2 regular walkers. Anyone who can use please contact Robin Stephenson 716-471-7976.

Advent



About the Cover

Jesus came in the name of the Lord in a way that no one ever has or ever will. Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, came in humility in His incarnation to finish His course to win the forgiveness of sins for all people. He also comes to impart His blessing to us in Holy Baptism, when the triune name is placed on us. On the Last Day, He will come again to gather all who now bear this name by faith into eternal blessing!

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64:1–9

1 Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
5 You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.
8 But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy Gospel: Mark 11:1–10

1 When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples 2 and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. 3 If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" 4 And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. 5 And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" 6 And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. 7 And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. 8 And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. 9 And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

Scripture: ESV®
Cover verse: Mark 11:9
Cover image: © GoodSalt.com
November 29, 2026
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